STCP Modification Proposal Form

PM0125: STCP01-1 Amendment to Allow Electronic Switching Instruction

Overview: With the licencing of Mersey Reactive Power Ltd (MRPL) as a TO, it has become apparent that a method of electronic switching instruction for voltage control actions to be undertaken by TOs is required. This is not currently accommodated in STCP01-1 which deals with Operational Switching.

Modification process & timetable

1. **Initial STCP Proposal**
   25 May 2022
2. **Approved STCP Proposal**
   25 May 2022
3. **Implementation**
   01 June 2022

Status summary: The Proposer has raised a modification and is seeking a decision from the Panel on the governance route to be taken.

This modification is expected to have a: Low impact

Potentially any Users participating in a Pathfinder project; TOs and the ESO

Governance route	The Panel will make the decision on whether the modification should be implemented.	
Who can I talk to about the change?	**Proposer:** Rob Wilson robert.wilson2@nationalgrideso.com 07799656402	**Code Administrator Contact:** Sally Musaka Sally.Musaka@nationalgrideso.com 07790 778 560

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What is the issue?

Peakgen, or Mersey Reactive Power Limited (MRPL), own a shunt reactor which is on land adjacent to and is connected to Frodsham 400kV substation. The purpose of this shunt reactor is to help to maintain system voltage within acceptable limits.

In January 2022 Ofgem published their decision to proceed with a licence grant process for an Electricity Transmission Licence to Mersey Reactive Power Limited for the operation of a shunt reactor[1]. This came at the end of a process of consultation with considerable debate over whether being licenced as a TO, and so being subject to the STC, was preferable to having a connection agreement and through this being subject to the CUSC and Grid Code.

It has become apparent in discussion with MRPL that it is desirable and more efficient for voltage control switching instructions issued by the ESO Control Room to be made and acknowledged electronically. If MRPL had been in receipt of a connection agreement then this would have been possible under existing CUSC and Grid Code arrangements, however under the STC switching arrangements between the ESO and TOs are agreed and made in accordance with procedure STCP01-1 'Operational Switching'.

As written this allows switching by only:

- a Switching Method utilising a TSC [Transmission Switching Certificate]; or
- a Switching Method utilising a verbal Switching Method

Why change?

As set out above, a clear process to allow electronic switching instructions to be made to TOs for voltage control purposes is required.

What is the proposer's solution?

It is proposed to amend STCP01-1 'Operational Switching' to allow an additional electronic Switching Method to be used specifically for voltage control purposes to be agreed between the ESO and TO licenced parties. This will provide for an economic and efficient solution.

Legal text

Legal text is attached.

In summary, changes are proposed to allow voltage control switching instructions to be made by electronic communication.

The main sections amended are:

3.2 'Use of a Switching Method';

3.3 'Establishing a Switching Method'; and

3.8 'Voltage Control'.

[1] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/decision-proceed-licence-grant-process-electricity-transmission-licence-mersey-reactive-power-limited-operation-shunt-reactor

What is the impact of this change?

Proposer's assessment against STC Objectives	
Relevant Objective	**Identified impact**
(a) efficient discharge of the obligations imposed upon transmission licensees by transmission licences and the Act	**Neutral**
(b) development, maintenance and operation of an efficient, economical and coordinated system of electricity transmission	**Positive** By facilitating development and efficient instruction of voltage control services.
(c) facilitating effective competition in the generation and supply of electricity, and (so far as consistent therewith) facilitating such competition in the distribution of electricity	**Neutral** Any impact on competition is 2nd order.
(d) protection of the security and quality of supply and safe operation of the national electricity transmission system insofar as it relates to interactions between transmission licensees	**Positive** By facilitating sensible switching arrangements for voltage control.
(e) promotion of good industry practice and efficiency in the implementation and administration of the arrangements described in the STC	**Positive** By establishing an efficient means of giving voltage control instructions.
(f) facilitation of access to the national electricity transmission system for generation not yet connected to the national electricity transmission system or distribution system;	**Neutral** .
(g) compliance with the Electricity Regulation and any relevant legally binding decision of the European Commission and/or the Agency.	**Neutral**

Proposer's assessment against the STCP change requirements[2]	Proposer's assessment
(a) the amendment or addition does not impair, frustrate or invalidate the provisions of the Code	Requirement met
(b) the amendment or addition does not impose new obligations or liabilities or restrictions of a material nature on Relevant Parties which are not subsidiary to	Requirement met

[2] STCP changes may only be made if they meet the requirements in Section B, 7.3.2

the rights and obligations of the Relevant Parties under the Code	
(c) the amendment or addition is not inconsistent or in conflict with the Code, Transmission Licence Conditions or other relevant statutory requirements	Requirement met
(d) the Relevant Party Representatives deem that the amendment or addition is appropriate to support compliance with the Code	Requirement met

When will this change take place?

Implementation date
MRPL is commissioning hence making this change to allow a clearer process of allowable electronic instruction should be made at the earliest opportunity.

Implementation approach
Needs to be drawn to the attention of all transmission licensees and particularly MRPL.

Interactions

☐Grid Code	☐BSC	☒CUSC	☐SQSS
☐European Network Codes	☐Other modifications	☐Other	

Possible interaction with the CUSC connection process.

Panel Determination

Party	Determination
National Grid (ESO)	To be updated following Panel determination
National Grid (TO)	To be updated following Panel determination
Offshore Transmission Owners (OFTOs)	To be updated following Panel determination
Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (SHET)	To be updated following Panel determination
SP Transmission Limited (SPT)	To be updated following Panel determination

Acronyms, key terms and reference material

Acronym / key term	Meaning
BSC	Balancing and Settlement Code
PM	Procedure Modification
CUSC	Connection and Use of System Code
STC	System Operator Transmission Owner Code
SQSS	Security and Quality of Supply Standards

Reference material

- Ofgem Direction to relieve National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc and National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited of the obligation to comply with Section D Part 2 of the SO-TO Code for Pathfinder connections: Direction to relieve National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc and National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited of the obligation to comply with Section D Part 2 of the SO-TO Code for Pathfinder connections | Ofgem