ESO

Meeting summary

Grid Code Development Forum – 3 May 2023

Date:	03/05/2023	Location:	MS Teams
Start:	09:00	End:	10:50

Participants

Attendee	Company	Attendee	Company
Jamie Webb	National Grid ESO (Chair)	Alan Creighton	Northern Powergrid
David Halford	National Grid ESO (Tech Sec)	Mike Kay	P2 Analysis
Jim Hunt	National Grid ESO (Presenter)	Nicola Barberis Negra	Orsted
Frank Kasibante	National Grid ESO (Presenter)	Salehi Parsa	Axpo Solar
Usman Farooq	National Grid ESO (Presenter)	Nosa Oronsaye	EDF Renewables
John Zammit-Haber	National Grid ESO (Presenter)	Stephen McKellar	Scottish Renewables
Andrew Colley	SSE (Presenter)	Nicola Barberis Negra	Orsted
Bernie Dolan	National Grid ESO	Sean Gauton	Uniper Energy
Catia Ariana Carvalho Gomes	National Grid ESO	Oluwabukola Daniel	EDF Renewables
Elana Byrne	National Grid ESO	Ross Strachan	Scottish Power
Milly Lewis	National Grid ESO	Dayna Rodger	ESB
Stephen Baker	National Grid ESO	Gavin Baillie	SSE
Deborah Spencer	National Grid ESO	Michael Burke	SSE
Steve Quinn	National Grid ESO	Ruth Kemsley	EDF Renewables
Jonathan Whitaker	National Grid ESO	Isaac Gutierrez	Scottish Power
Andrew Mcleod	Northern Powergrid	Chanura Wijeratne	RES
Paul Youngman	Drax	Harry Burns	EDF Renewables
Faiva Wadawasina	Renantis		

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Agenda and slides

A link to the Agenda and Presentations from the May GCDF can be found here

GCDF

Please note: These notes are produced as an accompaniment to the slide pack presented and provide highlights only of discussion themes and possible next steps.

Meeting Opening – Jamie Webb (GCDF Chair) & David Halford (GCDF Tech Sec), NGESO

The meeting was opened, and it was noted that it would be recorded for it to be uploaded onto the ESO website with the meeting summary notes. An overview of the agenda items that were to be discussed was covered.

Control Room Fax Machine Replacement – Jim Hunt, ESO

An update was shared on the alternative technologies which are being explored to allow for better communication & data transfer with External Parties and allow Fax Machines to be removed.

Discussion themes / Feedback

An attendee mentioned that a similar exercise had taken place as part of Gas Emergency notifications ("Axe the Fax Project") which now has a stable platform and is no longer reliant on Fax Machines.

It was confirmed that the ESO had been in contact with the team that implemented this project in order to ensure any learnings are captured and taken on board as part of the ESO project.

It was asked what the expected level of redundancy would be for any new system that would replace the use of Fax Machines?

We are aiming for in excess of 99.95%, which is what the control room currently runs to. We believe that we can achieve 99.99% and we don't see any reason why we should not be able to achieve that.

How easy will it be for users to be able to migrate to any new system, and for new users that are due to connect in the next few years, should they be doing anything now to get them ready for this change?

Although no final solution has been chosen at this stage, we are mindful that we need to make the change to any new platform as straightforward as possible and assess any potential investment that could be required. Our thinking around the use of an API based platform is because this should be fairly adaptable and easier to adopt. One of the core principles of this project is that we look to minimise the impact of users wherever possible.

It was asked how this will be implemented into the relevant codes e.g., will any new requirements be established, codified, with a specific lead time in terms of implementation?

The project team is currently in the process of discussions with the Technical Code Change Team in relation to the raising of the required modifications. The aim will be to introduce a change that is flexible enough so the current and any new processes could be run in parallel for a period of time.

It was noted that the project should be thinking about how users interact with the codes, especially new users. Any proposed changes need to show clearly what the obligations are on users.

We acknowledge that we need to make any changes as easy to understand as possible and this is in the forefront of our thinking.

It was noted that the ESO are holding regular engagement with Industry as part of the wider Balancing Programme that this project fits into and we encourage participation to help shape any potential solutions. More information on the programme can be found here.

GC0103: The introduction of harmonised Applicable Electrical Standards in GB to ensure compliance with the EU Connection Codes – Andrew Colley, SSE Generation

With Workgroups due to re-commence for this Grid Code Modification, a representative of the original proposer provided the attendees with a refresh of the aims of the proposal and invited representatives to join the upcoming Workgroups.

Discussion themes / Feedback

It was noted that this is a different modification to the current "GC0117" Grid Code modification which is looking at the harmonisation of "Small", "Medium", and "Large" Power Stations

It was commented that as part of this modification, Competitive Appointed Transmission Operators (CATOs), need to be considered if we are looking to harmonise Electrical Standards across GB.

It was acknowledged that CATOs would need to be included in respect of any harmonisation.

It was noted that ESO are currently in the process of identifying the differences between the current Electrical Standards which can be used as part of the modification Workgroups

It was confirmed that the Code Administrator Team will be issuing a request for Workgroup members on the 4th May.

Digitalised Whole System Technical Code – ASR Workstream – Frank Kasibante, ESO

An update was shared on the current progress of the Alignment, Simplification and Rationalisation (ASR) Workstream which forms part of the Digitalised Whole System Technical Code (DWSTC) Project.

Discussion themes / Feedback

It was asked whether the Operating Code No.2 (OC2), section of the Grid Code which has been re-written as part of the ASR Workstream, will be shared wider with Industry participants before the official code modification has been raised as this might help to address any questions/queries prior to the formal Workgroups?

This will be discussed with the Workstream Team and considered prior to raising the formal modification.

There was some discussion around whether simplification can be achieved using a "principle based" approach, as the current Grid Code tends to include more detail to ensure watertight legality and by adding this detail by its nature means more complexity is added. It was also noted that the Grid Code is essentially now split between pre and post 2016 connections, and although there was very valid reason to implement the changes this way at the time, for large changes of this nature going forward, we should always look at the simplest ways of achieving this.

It was asked whether the knowledge that had been gained from the project would be shared with Ofgem as they look to produce a further impact assessment in relation to the potential consumer costs for code reform?

On the basis that OC2 covers only around 2% of the Grid Code content, it has shown the amount of Industry participation and resource that would be required to take the approach that has been used for OC2 to the reminder of the Codes. These findings will be reported back to Ofgem as part of Energy Codes Reform workstream.

Proposed Urgent Grid Code Modification – Electricity Shortfall Prioritisation – Usman Farooq & John Zammit-Haber, ESO

A presentation was shared to present an urgent Grid Code Modification that the ESO are seeking to raise to Operating Code No.6 in relation to Electricity Shortfall Prioritisation and further non-urgent modifications that could follow as a result of further changes that are being proposed.

Discussion themes / Feedback

In relation to the Electricity Shortfall Prioritisation review, which party will actually be completing the review?

The review will be completed by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in partnership with Ofgem, the Distribution Network Operators and the ESO.

It was asked if there had been any published martial in relation to the review?

It was confirmed that there was no shared published material available at this time.

It was asked whether the Electricity Supply Emergency Code (ESEC) Load Blocks are what is printed on consumer bills and included in the Fuel Security Code documentation that is available on Department for Energy Security and Net Zero website?

ESEC Load Blocks are what should be printed on consumer bills, but it was acknowledged that it will need to be checked that these are the same blocks published on the Departments website. Various tools in relation to Demand Control have been developed in isolation in order to meet particular technical requirements so these Load Blocks can be different in order to meet these different requirements. One of the aspects of the review is to whether these can be aligned to a single set of Load Blocks bearing in mind that there would be technical and operational implications in order to do this.

It was noted that should these Load Blocks change, we need to be mindful that there may need to be updates made to communications that could have implications on consumers.

It was asked whether as a result of this review, there will be both urgent and non-urgent Modifications that will be raised?

We will prioritise any proposed changes that we are looking to be in place for this winter as an urgent modification with further non-urgent modifications to then follow as we look to scope out what these modifications will consist of.

It was asked if we believe that any changes to the Distribution Code will be required as a result of these proposed modifications?

There is a possibility that changes to the Distribution Code will be required.

It was asked what the definition of "Critical" and "Essential" will be proposed as part of OC6 e.g., is a hospital classed as critical, a steelwork classed as essential etc?

This will form part of the review but there is the "Essential Services" list that came out of the 9th August 2019 power outage review and also a Critical List that sits with the Department along with the Protected Sites List (PSL) as part of ESEC, with the review looking into these lists and how they aligned with the various Demand Control tools that are available.

Is the purpose of the modification to adopt the same criteria across all current lists or is it to continue with having different criteria?

Currently under OC6, it is written in a way that the DNOs cannot protect, unduly prefer, or discriminate particular sites which means that OC6 has to be distributed across all Grid Supply Points in a uniformed way but does not allow you to protect, discriminate or prefer any particular site which is different to ESEC where you have a clear protection criterion. The ESO have been asked to look at how we can protect particular sites which is still to be defined, under OC6, which would mean going into this winter, should we need to enact OC6 that we would have a clear list of protected sites.

From a technical point of view, would you be looking to align this with protection settings and what would the workflow look like, as for example low frequency demand is a protection setting that would trip? How would the system be balanced with some loads remaining connected which are critical, but how can you guarantee that the demand cannot be more than the supply?

Low Frequency Demand Disconnection (LFDD) is predefined with nine stages of LFDD across each DNO where relays are ready disconnect demand should it be required. OC6 and ESEC operate differently with OC6 having predefined blocks with the DNOs having four, 5% blocks spread across their GSPs as uniformly as possible with the ESO having the ability to instruct up to 20% of demand reduction within 5 minutes of the instruction. ESEC is a similar process with the majority of disconnections at the 11KV level which enables more granularity and allows particular customers to be protected.

AOB

Attendees were reminded that the meeting recording and summary notes will be published on the GCDF webpage.

The Chair thanked the attendees and presenters for their contributions and closed the meeting.

The next GCDF will be held on the 7th June 2023 with the 31st May being the deadline for agenda items and presentations.

Action Item Log

Action items: In progress and completed since last meeting

ID	Agenda Item	Description	Owner	Notes	Target Date	Status