**Distribution Code Consultation DCRP/MP/23/0X**

Title: Modification to DOC6 to allow protection from disconnection, where technically feasible, for customers when implementing demand disconnection at levels above 20% of total demand.

**Target Audience: All current and prospective users of the distribution system, but especially the operators of sites that are protected under the Electricity Supply Emergency Code.**

**Date Published: [tbc]**

**Deadline for responses: [tbc]**

**Summary:**

The Distribution Operating Code (DOC) allows Distribution Network Operators (DNO) to enact demand control stages which, as currently drafted, do not fully allow for a site to be afforded protection from disconnection should demand control be implemented by the DNO. This may result in supplies to critical infrastructure sites being interrupted under emergency conditions. This modification proposal is to change the Distribution Code so that DNOs are permitted to maintain supplies to critical infrastructure sites, where technically feasible, when they implement demand disconnection stages of more than 20% of the total demand.

This consultation paper is seeking stakeholders’ views on proposed changes to the legal text of the Distribution Code that will extend the exclusion from disconnection, where technically feasible, to those sites in the event of an OC6 instruction by National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) to the DNO to disconnect demand of more than 20% of total demand.

# Background

The Government wants to align demand control requirements following the Government’s Electricity Shortfall Prioritisation Review. The wording in the Grid Code did not allow the exclusion of sites protected under the Electricity Supply Emergency Code (ESEC) from disconnection under OC6 demand control requirements. NGESO raised Grid Code modification GC0161 as an urgent joint Grid Code and Distribution Code modification to address the issue and make provisions for such customers to be protected, where technical feasible.

The Distribution Code Review Panel consulted on the effects of GC0161 in its consultation DCRP/MP/23/03 between 24 July 2023 and 18 August 2023. DCRP/MP/23/03 has resulted in changes to DOC6.1.2, DOC6.1.3 and DOC6.4.3 being proposed to The Authority on 29 August 2023.

Subsequently NGESO has raised the joint Grid Code and Distribution Code modification GC0162 to address some issues of the timing of demand disconnection in the unlikely event that more the 20% of the total demand will need to be disconnected.

When a DNO receives an OC6 instruction from NGESO it must begin to reduce demand in accordance with the Grid Code. This is achieved by the requirements in the Distribution Code which describe how the DNO will manage the disconnection of customer supplies.

# The Defect

GC0162 has highlighted that the existing Distribution Code requirements currently do not envisage the exclusion from disconnection of sites which have protected status in accordance with ESEC where the amount of demand to be disconnected is in excess of 20% of total demand.

This modification proposal is to amend the Distribution Code to extend the exclusion of customers protected from demand disconnection in DOC 6.1.3, where technically feasible, for demand disconnection requirements in excess of 20% of total demand.

This modification builds on the recent modification, consulted on in DCRP/MP/23/03, to exclude protected customers from disconnection for reductions of up to 20% of total demand.

# Proposed Solution

It is proposed to extend the provisions of DOC6.1.3 and DOC6.4.3 to exclude ESEC protected customers from demand reduction in excess of 20%, which is described in DOC6.4.5. This can be achieved by referring to DOC6.4.5 in the text in DOC6.1.3 and DOC6.4.3 which excludes ESEC sites, where technically feasible, from disconnection. The draft legal text is shown in appendix 1.

# Applicable Code Objectives

The applicable Distribution Code Objectives are to:

1. permit the development, maintenance, and operation of an efficient, co-ordinated, and economical system for the distribution of electricity; and
2. facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity; and
3. efficiently discharge the obligations imposed upon distribution licensees by the distribution licences and comply with the Regulation and any relevant legally binding decision of the European Commission and/or the Agency for the Co-operation of Energy Regulators; and
4. promote efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Distribution Code.

# Consultation Questions

## Do you agree with the general intent of the proposed modification? If not, it would be helpful if you could explain your views.

1. Do you agree that the draft legal text set out in appendix 1 is adequate to allow DNOs to exclude ESEC protected customers, where technically feasible, from disconnection in emergencies? Please provide any comments on the drafting of appendix 1.
2. Do you believe that this proposed modification better facilitates the applicable Distribution Code Objectives?

# Next Steps

Responses to this consultation should be sent to the Distribution Code Review Panel Secretary at [dcode@energynetworks.org](mailto:dcode@energynetworks.org) by [xx] on the pro-forma provided expressly for the purpose, or via any other convenient means. Responses after this date may not be considered.

The progress of this modification will depend on responses to this, and the parallel Grid Code Review Panel, consultation. The Grid Code Review Panel and the Distribution Code Review Panel will then decide on the next steps towards implementing this modification.

**7. Consultation Pack Contents**

A copy of the DCRP/MP/23/0X Consultation pack can be found using the link below,

<http://www.dcode.org.uk/consultations/open-consultations/>

The consultation pack includes:

• A copy of the consultation paper;

• A response proforma.

**For more information, please contact:**

[TBA] – Code Administrator - [**dcode@energynetworks.org**](mailto:dcode@energynetworks.org)

Relevant extracts of DOC6.

Red text is the pending modification for DCRP/MP/23/03 (ie GC0161) and purple text is the draft propsal for this DCRP/MP/23/0X (ie GC0162) modification.

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