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Meeting Summary

Grid Code Development Forum – 2 October 2024

Date: 02/10/2024 **Location:** MS Teams

Start: 09:00 **End:** 11:00

Participants

Attendee	Company	Attendee	Company
Claire Newton	NESO (Chair)	Alan Creighton	Northern Powergrid
David Halford	NESO (Tech Sec)	Garth Graham	SSE
Joseph Harwood	NESO (Presenter)	Jennifer Geraghty	SSE
Stuart Brace	NESO (Presenter)	Alastair Frew	Drax
Jim Hunt	NESO (Presenter)	Andrew Larkins	Sygensys
Stuart McLarnon	NESO	Ross Strachan	EDF Renewables
Deborah Spencer	NESO	Eibhlin Norquoy	Community Energy Scotland
Gordon Frazer	NESO	Nigel Platt	Siemens
Frank Kasibante	NESO	Julie Richmond	Scottish Power
Victor Mtembo	NESO	Jarle Nedkvitne	Orsted
Hao Guo	NESO	Lisa Waters	Waters Wye Associates
Naley Alobari	NESO	Harry Burns	EDF Renewables
Rebecca Coan	NESO	Paul Youngman	Drax
Rui Zhang	NESO	Bozhi Cheng	SSE

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Sarah Williams	NESO	Paul Crolla	Muirhall Energy
Hazem Karbouj	NESO	Cahir O'Neill	ESB
Jamie Morgan-Wormald	NESO	Claire Hynes	RWE
Elena Fry	NESO		
Issac Crawford	NESO		
Paul Bainbridge	NESO		

Agenda and slides

A link to the Agenda and Presentations from the October GCDF can be found [here](#)

GCDF

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

Meeting Opening – Claire Newton (GCDF Chair) & David Halford (GCDF Tech Sec), NESO

The meeting was opened, with an overview of the agenda items that will be covered.

Presentation: Proposed Introduction of a Metering Polarity Standard to the Grid Code – Joseph Harwood, NESO

A presentation was shared providing an overview of the current issues NESO is experiencing in relation to Power Flow Metering Polarity with the opportunity to gain feedback on a proposed solution to address these issues prior to any formal code changes being raised.

Discussion themes / Feedback

A forum member commented that they could see the advantage of having an industry standard. It was asked for clarity, does the term “metering” mean metering as an interface with customers as well and is this also an issue?

The presenter confirmed that the metering reference is in relation to analogue meter data, which must be sent to the System Operator through existing obligations. In terms of the direction of travel, it is likely that NESO will have additional functions of aggregating models from DNOs in a whole energy

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infrastructure future, but in the first instance we are referring to the traditional interface between the high voltage system and distribution network.

A forum member asked whether this was the first time that NESO had presented this proposal externally and whether any cost values had been identified in terms of correcting these issues and the potential net saving that could be realised as a result?

The presenter stated that metering consistency and metering polarity had been a substantial issue for NESO for a long period of time, and we had now started to discuss these issues with industry to seek to formalise standards. Constructive discussions had already commenced with the STC Panel. In terms of potential costs and cost savings, our focus has been on security of supply, which is difficult to put a cost on, as traditionally, NESO has been doing all it can to ensure this.

A forum member asked that in terms of the proposal, is this forward looking only or is there an expectation that User would go back to existing equipment over time to ensure they comply with the proposed standard (i.e. a retrospective element)?

The presenter stated that by Users following the proposed standards then the current issues that are being experienced will be reduced. Then as part of any planned maintenance programme, existing issues can be resolved. There are currently no plans to introduce this standard retrospectively, but this is something we would like to explore further with the help from industry.

A forum member asked if the proposed standard would be a single standard across GB?

A NESO representative confirmed that it would be a single standard across GB, with the intention that the Grid Code defines the standard which is then referred to within the STC.

A forum member asked if the standard would apply down to distribution level and do distribution companies already work to this proposed convention? If there is going to be a convention in terms of directional flow, it would be appropriate not only for operational metering but for all recording activities on the grid.

The presenter agreed that this was a very good point. In the first instance we would like to concentrate on operational metering but are mindful that we will need a greater understanding of the UK electricity network as we move to a more diverse carbon future.

A NESO representative confirmed that there is a lack of consistency in terms of standards across transmission and distribution networks, with no reference in the Grid Code, which is what this proposal is seeking to achieve.

A forum member suggested that it would be helpful to reference the standard which is being proposed when the modification is raised in order for impacted parties to assess the potential impact. What standard is the proposal based on (e.g. British standards, international standards)?

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A NESO representative confirmed that when NESO has discussions with new Users, the document referred to as “DH20” is used. However, this is more of a recommendation than a standard, which is why we are looking to raise the proposal in order to introduce this as a standard that industry can follow.

A NESO representative confirmed that prior to raising any formal proposals, we would like to set-up some ad-hoc sessions to discuss this further, as we have found benefits in this approach for previous modifications. Please contact frank.kasibanate@nationalgrideso.com or David.halford@nationalgrideso.com if you would like to be involved in these sessions.

A forum member asked if this activity was connected with the “Operational Metering Working Group”, which is looking at subjects such as update rates for operational metering for distributed energy resources?

A NESO representative confirmed that conversations are taking place with this group.

Presentation: EDT Contingency Process – Update – Stuart Brace, NESO

Following the presentation at the November 2023 GCDF in relation to a trial NESO was undertaking with SSE to establish a contingency process for EDT data submission, an update was shared along with proposed changes to current Electrical Standard Documents and the introduction of a new Contingency Process Document.

Discussion themes / Feedback

A forum member asked what the acronym “SPICE” means?

“SPICE” is an acronym for “Scheduling Process in a Controlled Environment” and is part of the Balancing Mechanism systems used in the NESO Control Room.

A forum member thanked NESO for working alongside SSE to move this process forward.

A forum member asked that in terms of communication via email, will files that are sent be encrypted in any way?

The presenter confirmed that there was no encryption process planned, but there will be a filtering process on the email input system that performs various checks.

The forum member raised concerns in relation to the potential low level of security and whether encrypted shared keys between two parties ahead of time could be considered?

The presenter confirmed that this can be discussed with the NESO security team who have been involved in the proposed contingency process.

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A forum member asked if this process is going to be codified, so that it is clear to Users in terms of the process? They also asked why four hours had been chosen in respect of when the contingency process would automatically end?

The presenter confirmed that documentation is in the process of being written that will confirm the process and will need to formally be submitted through the correct governance process. The four hours' time out process is based on the Service Level Agreement that is currently in place for any EDT issues to be resolved, but the contingency process can be extended if required.

Presentation: Fax Machine Replacement Programme – Update – Jim Hunt / Paul Bainbridge. NESO

An update was shared in relation to the Fax Machine Replacement Project, which is seeking to remove interactions via Fax between Users and the Electricity National Control Centre. Proposed Grid Code changes will be presented at the October Grid Code Review Panel.

Discussion themes / Feedback

A forum member asked if the process relates to both interactions between the User and NESO and vice versa?

The presenter confirmed that the process relates to interactions both ways between the User and NESO.

A forum member asked if this process would also eliminate the requirement for faxes for commercial agreements such as for "Pathfinders"?

The presenter confirmed that in terms of the current proposal, this would relate to fax interactions between Users and the NESO Control Room that are documented in the Grid Code, CUSC and STC only, but the use of faxes elsewhere is something we will take away and investigate further.

A forum member stated that it is important for panel members to fully understand the implementation approach if the "self-governance" route is being request for this proposal.

A number of forum members made suggestions in terms of how new definitions could be worded in order to support the phased implementation approach, which NESO welcomed and will take on board [post-meeting note, a forum member has shared suggested wording for the new definition].

A forum member suggested that once the changes are implemented and the new system is in place, NESO attend further GCDFs to provide an update in relation to the number of Users that have switched across from faxes to the new system and also suggested that the annual emergency exercise event could be utilised to test the system on a larger scale.

The presenter thanked the forum member for these suggestions, which will be considered.

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It was noted that Existing and prospective customers are invited to attend our **Customer Connections Seminar London 2024 on the 5th November**. Join us to learn more about the wider connection's agenda with focus on upcoming reform.

You can register for the Seminar [here](#).

We became NESO on **1 October**. Sign up to our weekly newsletter and select Codes – Grid Code to keep up to date. If you haven't subscribed, you will have stopped hearing from us from **1 October**. Subscribe to our NESO newsletter [here](#).

Attendees were reminded that the GCDF can be used by any industry party to present potential Grid Code changes and future agenda items are welcomed.

The dates for the 2024 GCDF sessions are available 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 6 November 2024 with the 30 October 2024 being the deadline for agenda items and presentations.
