

Public

STC Panel

Wednesday 29 January 2025

Online Meeting via Teams

Public

WELCOME

Approval of Panel Minutes

Approval of Panel Minutes from the Meeting held on 11 December
and Special Panel 20 December 2024

Action Log

Ongoing Actions

Date raised	Ref	Action	Current Position	Due by	Status
December 2024	Minute 6888	PM0145 Share list if NESO colleagues involved in proposal discussions, share list of STC Procedures affected and legal text to be used.	Update: Details have been shared. Proposer has shared names and STC Procedures	Jan 2025	Open
December 2024	Minute 6893	PM0133 Proposer to decide if the proposal is to be STC/STCP and update legal text.	Update: Proposer to re-present proposal at a later meeting	NA	Open
December 2024	Minute 6903	Process for Navigating materiality for Panel Members Flow diagram to be shared in January Panel slides for members' reference.	Update: Shared in January 2025 STC Panel Slides	Jan 2025	Closed

Authority Decisions and Update (as of 29 January 2025)

Decisions Received since last Panel Meeting

Modification	Decisions	Implementation Date
CM095 Implementing Connections Reform	On the 20 January 2025, the Authority sent back the modification	Q2 2025

Decisions Pending

Modification	Final Modification Report Received	Expected Decision
CM086 - Introducing competitively Appointed Transmission Owners & Transmission Service Providers	11 March 2024	31 January 2025 was previously 30 September 2024
CM087 - Introducing Connections Process to facilitate Competitively Appointed Transmission Owners	11 March 2024	31 January 2025 was previously 30 September 2024
CM098 - Updating STC Arrangements to replacing the Electricity Arbitration Association with the London Court of International Arbitration	7 August 2024	12 February 2025 was previously 06 December 2024

Received Final Modification Reports since last Panel Meeting

Modification	Final Modification Report Received	Expected Decision Date
CM095 Implementing Connections Reform	20 December 2024	Q1 2025

The Authority's publication on decisions can be found on their website below:

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/code-modificationmodification-proposals-ofgem-decision-expected-publication-dates-timetable>

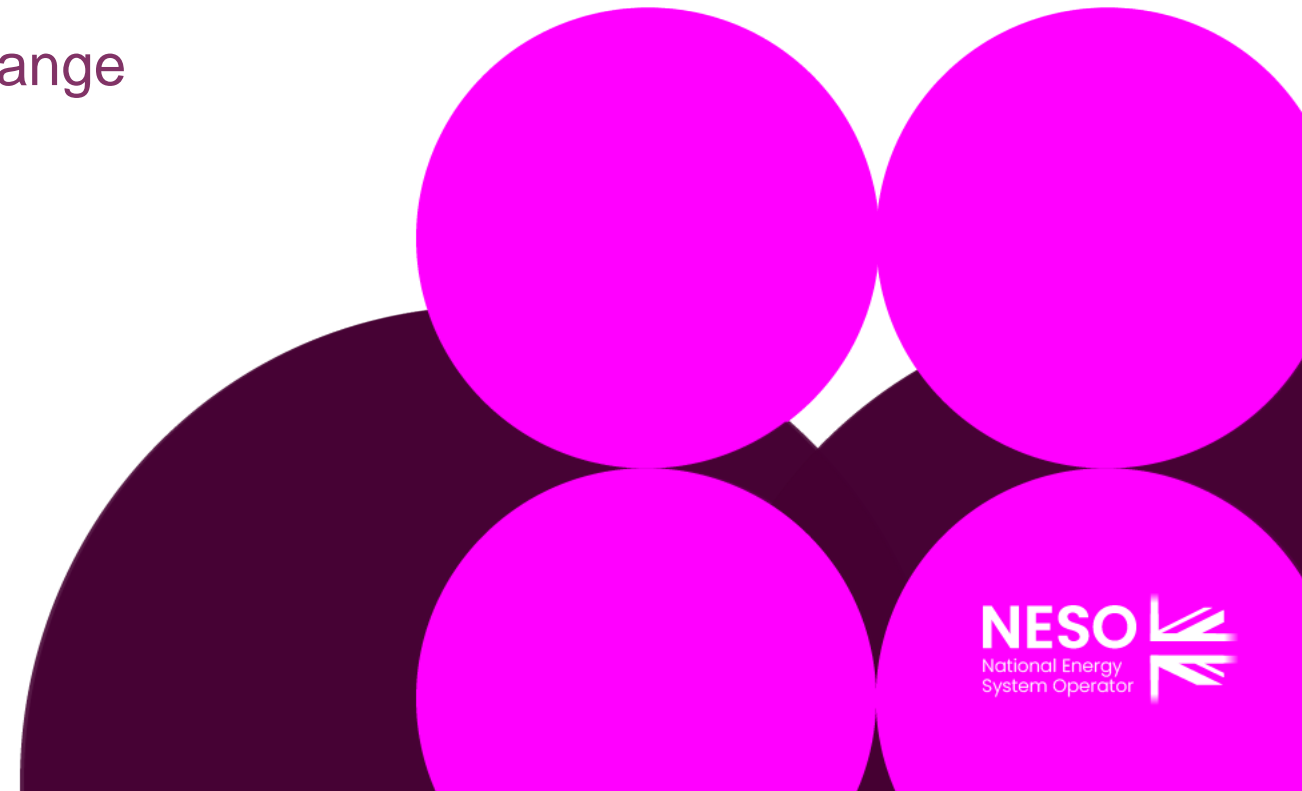
New Modifications

- PM0141 – Incorporating a revised outage change code list in STCP11-2 Appendix 5
- PM0144 - Digital Communication System Integration

New STC Procedure

PM0141: Incorporating a revised outage change code list in STCP 11-2 Appendix 5

Kat Higby (Panel Chair)



PM0141 - Incorporating a revised outage change code list in STCP 11-2 Appendix 5 (Update)

- The proposal was previously presented in September STC Panel, and several amendments were required.
- These have now been addressed; therefore, the Proposer is re-presenting PM0141 for approval.

STCP Governance

If a change is developed which has the potential to materially amend an existing STCP the proposer is obligated to seek Panel's views on materiality before proceeding.

When considering the proposed changes to the STCPs, the 1st ask on voting members is whether you agree that the change is material.

- If not, then approved/rejected as has been done in the past;
- If material, then the proposer of the change would need to seek Ofgem's written approval to proceed, and to clarify who should approve the change.

Ofgem can then decide either:

- It is acceptable for the Panel to approve/reject the STCP changes, as has been done in the past; or
- They will make the decision themselves.

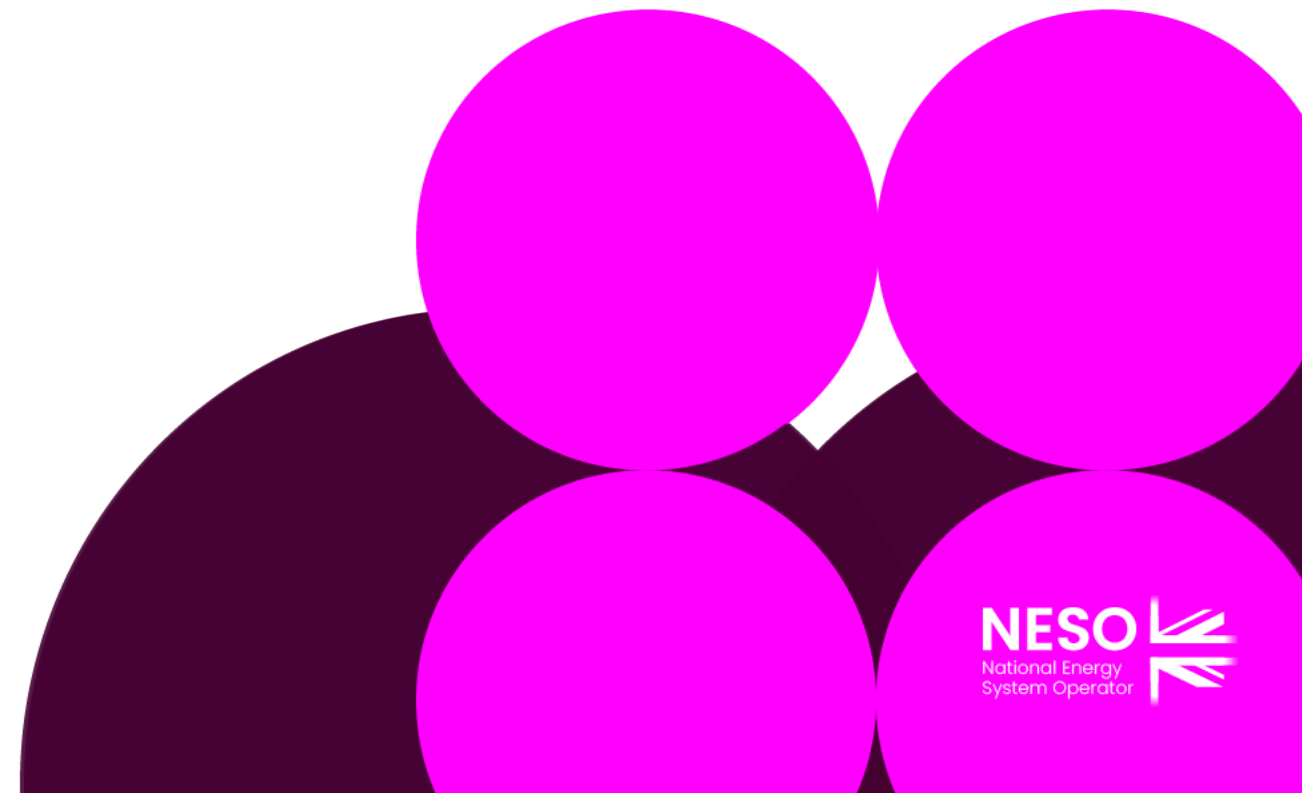
PM0141 Asks of Panel

- **AGREE** that the materiality of the STCP change
- **AGREE** the implementation next steps
- **NOTE** that Implementation Date will be 12/02/2025 if Panel agree to implement this change and Panel identify no material impacts

New STC Procedure

PM0144: Digital Communication System
Integration

Kat Higby (Panel Chair)



PM0144/0145

- Combination of two separate mods.
- PM0144 was the Fax Replacement mod, whilst PM0145 was focused on replacing emails.
- As they both used the same new definitions, it was decided they were similar enough to combine.

Current Status (Fax)

- GC0175 and CMP443 have been brought to their respective panels already.
- Both are agreed to go through as Standard Governance straight to Code Admin Consultation.
- Both CAC responses have been submitted.

What is the issue?

- NESO currently use fax machines within the Electricity National Control Centre to send and receive data from TOs.
- Fax machines are aged technology which results in replacement parts difficult to resource and makes management of paper output for reporting and audit purposes time consuming.
- Feedback from Industry has suggested that a new method of communication between Users and NESO is required to replace the existing fax machine process.

Why change?

- The Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) that fax machines use, is [due to be switched off by the start of 2027](#) which will result in all non-voice services that use this network ceasing.
- In readiness for the PSTN switch off, an alternative method of communication between relevant Users and NESO will need to be established to ensure current interactions can continue.
- The new solution needs to be:
 - Easily adopted by TOs.
 - Secure.
 - Meet the needs of the TOs and NESO.
 - Deployed with minimal complexity / risk

Access and Use

- Users will register details on first use to create an account.
 - First Name, Last Name, Email ID.
 - Company Trading Name. Company Trading ID.
 - Contact number.
- Subsequent access will require identification and authentication.
- NESO control room users will be able to view and respond to all incoming requests.
- Users will complete a web form with the same data that is currently faxed.
 - Each paper fax has a corresponding web form.
 - Data are entered using a combination of drop downs, tick boxes and free text.
 - Validation will be performed on several fields to help prevent errors.

Overview of the proposer's solution

Principles of new solution

- New definitions of “Designated Information Exchange System” and “Electronic Communication Platform” will be introduced to allow for a phased approach across from the fax machine to the new platform for Users.
- The solution will also utilise the opportunity to replace references to fax within the STCPs that are not related to Control Room activities and have now been superseded by other forms of communication.
- Reduce dependencies on other projects wherever possible.
- Security by design.
- Re-use / leverage existing platforms and technologies where appropriate .
- Adaptable for future developments e.g. the Open Balancing Platform (OBP).
- Provide all parties with the delivery / receipt assurance required.

Screenshots (subject to change)

Trading Party Name

Search & Select Trading Parties

Squeaky Clean Energy Trading

CEZ A.S

MWH Energy B.V.

Aarhus Energy A/S

Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm

Centrica Energy Limited

Adela Energy Ltd

AEC Enterprises Limited

Advanced Electricity Network

Indian Queens Power Ltd

Afton Wind Farm Limited

Inbound Submissions

Outbound Submissions

Dashboard

System Warnings

Market Notifications

SIRs

Inbound

Outbound

System Warnings

Select from drop down

Bulletins

Demand Control Imminent

High Risk Of Demand Reduction

High Risk Of Demand Reduction Non-Embedded..

Inadequate System Margin

Risk Of System Disturbance

CTN 1
Control Room Admin

CTN 1
Control Room Admin

System Warnings

Demand Control Imminent

GB Transmission system warning

Risk of System Disturbance

A GB Transmission system warning is issues for the period

From _____(Hrs) to _____(Hrs) on _____(Day) _____/_____/_____(Date)

There is a risk of widespread serious disturbance to the whole or part of the GB Transmission System.

Nature of Disturbance/Area of Risk

Each user is requested to warn its operational staff and to maintain its Plant and /or Apparatus in the condition it is best able to withstand the anticipated disturbance.

No further action is required until instruction is given by NGESO.

The situation will be reviewed again by NGESO at _____ hours and an update issued.

Notification issued at _____ Hrs on _____/_____/_____

(Signed) _____NGESO Electricity National Control Center.

(Print Name) _____

Note: This warning will remain in force for the specified period until updated or cancelled by NGESO

Send

DESIGNATED EXCHANGE SYSTEM

Manage Users

Home

Settings

CTN 1
Control Room Admin

Inbound Submissions

Outbound Submissions

Dashboard

System Warnings

Market Notifications

SIRs

Dashboard

Inbound

Outbound

Name of the submission	Registered Party	Type of Submissions	Submitted by	Received At	Acknowledgement status	Acknowledgement by ESO
NG computer IT system Failure	GB Energy Supply Limited	Data	garyjohn@nationalgrid.com	20 June 2024 - 10:30	Acknowledged	jenny@britishgas.com
NG Computer It system Failure	Squeaky Clean Energy Trading	SIR	julianisa@nationalgrid.com	20 June 2024 - 10:30	Pending	clarie@britishgas.com
Light Load Periods - Tech Restrictions exce..	CEZ A.S	System Warning	kaytacia@nationalgrid.com	20 June 2024 - 10:30	Acknowledged	johnrptn@britishgas.com
Ancillary services Daily return-OEM Header..	MWH Energy B.V.	Data	zoamaria@nationalgrid.com	20 June 2024 - 10:30	Acknowledged	ftan@britishgas.com
Ancillary services Daily Return-OTM Header	Aarhus Energy A/S	SIR	hariat@nationalgrid.com	20 June 2024 - 10:30	Acknowledged	paulajohn@britishgas.com
Lead Party Manifest Error claim	Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm	System Warning	garyjohn@nationalgrid.com	20 June 2024 - 10:30	Pending	clarie@britishgas.com
NETSO Manifest O						
Operation event P						
Power System Op						
N-3 Interripping						
Lead Party Manife						

DESIGNATED EXCHANGE SYSTEM

Manage Users

Home

Settings

Jenny Paul
External Admin

Manage Users

Create Users

Show 10 entries

Search

First Name	Last Name	User Email	Contact Details	User Role	Status	Company Name	Company ID	Actions
John	Paula	paulajohn@britishgas.com	07799 321036	External Admin (Read & Write)	Active	British Gas	BGXD492CD	Edit Delete
CTN 2	---	ctn2@nationalgrid.com	07799 321036	External Role (Read Only)	Active	British Gas	BGXD492CD	Edit Delete
Steven	Doherty	steven.doherty@sse.com	07799 321036	External Admin (Read & Write)	Active	British Gas	BGXD492CD	Edit Delete
Malcolm	Barnacle	malcolm.barnacle@sse.com	07799 321036	External Role (Read Only)	Active	British Gas	BGXD492CD	Edit Delete
Bhillman	S	bhillman@spenergynetworks.co.uk	07799 321036	External Admin (Read & Write)	Active	British Gas	BGXD492CD	Edit Delete
Preprodbr	Ynd	preprodbr_ynd@nationalgridplc.com	07799 321036	External Role (Read Only)	Active	British Gas	BGXD492CD	Edit Delete
Jenny								
Andrew								
Bhillman								

DESIGNATED EXCHANGE SYSTEM

Manage Users

Home

Settings

Jenny Paul
External Admin

Manage Users

Create Users

Show 10 entries

Search

Create User

First Name* : John

Last Name : Paula

User Email* : paulajohn@britishgas.com

Contact Details* : 07799 321036

User Role* : External Admin (Read & Write)

Status* : Active

Company Name* : British Gas

Company ID* : BGXD492CD

Cancel

Submit

Security & Availability

- **Encryption**
 - All data will be encrypted in transit and at rest.
- **User Authentication**
 - All users will be required to login to the platform using a named user account .
- **System Availability**
 - The platform will be designed to be highly available, running across multiple-regions and availability zones.

Risk Mitigation

- Reducing risk by decoupling from other programmes:
 - This phase builds the DIES portal without any integration into other platforms such as OBP.
 - We are not dependent on other programmes delivery timescales.
 - Enables a quicker delivery and fast decommissioning of faxes.
- Data Validation
 - The risk of erroneous data is mitigated by the NESO Control room performing a review and approval function prior to the data being submitted into NESOs systems
- Impact on Users
 - We will adopt a phased approach, deploying the least critical 'fax' messages first to validate the platform and gather user feedback to deliver iterative enhancements when required.

Reliability

- Current Fax Machines use BT PSTN phone network:
 - Reliant on availability of BT exchange – no power at the exchange, no fax.
 - Localised failures of BT exchanges could impact individual BMUs.
 - Faxes are fallible – they are not 100% available.
- Solution is based on cloud-computing (Azure):
 - Aim is to exceed the 99.95% availability figure for BM.
 - Extensive high availability and recovery options are available.
- Dependency on reliable internet connectivity
 - Access is through a web page, so a reliable internet connection is essential (to be provided by the market participant) .

Phased Launch and Proposed Code Change Governance Route

- The proposed Legal Text will ensure that fax machines can continue to be used from implementation of the changes into the code in order for Users to be phased across to the new platform over a period that will be agreed between NESO and the User. **A housekeeping modification will be raised once all Users have been moved across to the new platform to remove and remaining references to “Fax” or “Facsimile”**

Justification for Implementation Approach

- Feedback from Industry has shown that Users are keen to move away from fax machines which is aged technology.
- No new additional obligations are being created, with the proposed changes introducing a different communication method for fulfilling current actions that take place via fax.
- The phased launch described above will ensure Users only fully move away from faxes once they are comfortable with the proposed new platform.

Current Status (Email)

- Previously spoken about at December's panel.
- Will use same Definitions and language as the Fax Replacement changes, with minor changes to account for email.

What is the issue?

- Currently digital communications between TOs and NESO are limited to letters, faxes and emails only.
- Technology has advanced and other forms of efficient & secure digital communication systems are now available.

Why change?

Including other appropriate forms of digital communication will allow better communication and data sharing between organisations and ensure sensitive information is appropriately protected. It also allows us to use the best modern technology currently available. Examples of the data types include but are not limited to:

- Competency checks
- Offer Acceptances
- Counter signatures
- Single line diagrams (SLDs)
- TOCOs
- SBNs
- DRC data

What is the proposer's solution?

- All references of 'email' communication on the STCP should be amended to 'Designated Information Exchange System'.
- **Electronic Communication Platform** has had its definition altered to include “or a mutually approved third party provider” and “All parties will endeavour to follow best industry standards with regard to security.”

Overview of STCP Changes

Type of Change	Details
New definitions that will need to be added to each relevant STCP	<p>"Designated Information Exchange System" - A facsimile machine or, as agreed between each User with respect to their Control Centre, Trading Point or Control Point and The Company, an Electronic Communication Platform, that facilitates the exchange of information between a User and The Company.</p> <p>"Electronic Communication Platform" – an information exchange platform established, provided, and maintained by The Company, Transmission Owner or a mutually approved third party provider that facilitates the exchange of information between a User and The Company. All parties will endeavour to follow best industry standards with regard to security.</p>
Replacement of the words "Fax" or "Facsimile"	<p>Using the two definitions that are above, any time a fax machine is referred to in the STCPs, it has been replaced. The STCPs that have had this change applied to are 1-1, 3-1, 4-4, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 13-1, 19-3, and 19-5.</p> <p>The implementation approach will involve a changeover period. After every TO has changed over, references to fax machines in forms and examples will need to be removed.</p>
Replacement of the word "Email"	<p>Broadly the same as above, except with emails. The STCPs that have had this change applied to are 1-1, , 13-1, 14-1, 16-1 , 17-1 18-1 ,18-2, 18-3, 18-4, 19-2, 19-3, and 19-6. The intention is to broaden the definition of Electronic Communication Platform from the fax replacement mod so that any mutually approved secure platform can be used to exchange the required information.</p>

Thank You

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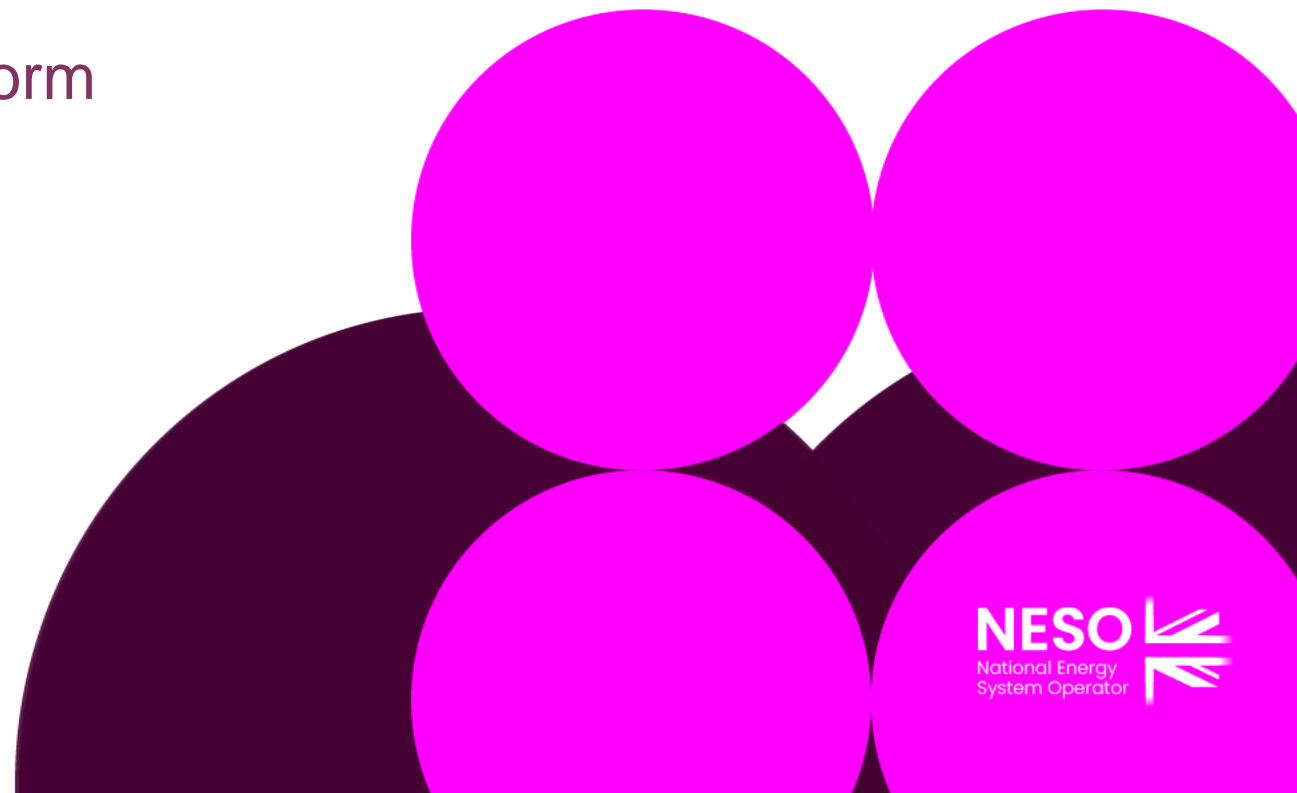
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Draft Final Modification Report

CM095: Implementing Connections Reform

Kat Higby (Panel Chair)



Solutions

Proposer's solution:

To facilitate Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC) modification CMP434, this proposal outlines the following:

- To define the obligations and timing changes between the National Energy System Operator (NESO) and TOs in the STC) so that NESO can facilitate the combined Gate 1 and Gate 2 process in the required timescales for in scope projects (Component A).
- To propose a Connections Network Design Methodology (Component B).
- Introducing project specific and non-project specific processes through which NESO can reserve connection (or interface) points and/or capacity in the combined Gate 1 and Gate 2 process (Component C).

Summary of alternative solution:

ASM1: Obligation to Codify the Methodologies and Guidance Documents under Connection Reform

This option is in line with the Original proposal, however, also places an obligation on NESO to conduct a review of methodologies developed alongside CM095, and the TOs to provide any information to NESO to support in this review. The review will be presented to the STC Modification Panel to seek guidance on whether NESO should raise a code modification to incorporate relevant methodologies into the STC, taking into account any improvements identified following the review. This option should only be implemented if CMP434 WACM6 is implemented. The implementation of this Alternative STC Modification (ASM) is in line with the Original proposal.

Code Administrator Consultation Responses

Summary of Code Administrator Consultation Responses:

Code Administrator Consultation was run from 22 January 2025 to 24 January 2025 and received 4 non-confidential responses [and 0 confidential responses]. Key points were:

- All four respondents believed that the Original would better facilitate objective B.
- Two respondents believed that ASM1 would better facilitate objective B, however one respondent noted a possible negative impact on objective B from ASM1.
- All four respondents preferred the Original solution.
- No respondents opted to change their assessment against objectives (in comparison to the first Code Administrator Consultation) due to the amended/additional objectives.
- No legal text issues identified

CM095 Asks of Panel

- **VOTE** whether or not to recommend implementation
- **NOTE** next steps

CM095 Next Steps

Milestone	Date
Final Modification Report issued to Panel to check votes recorded correctly	29 January 2025 1pm-3pm
Submission of Final Modification Report to Ofgem	29 January 2025 by 5pm
Ofgem decision date	Q1 2025
Implementation Date	Q2 2025

Updates on other industry codes

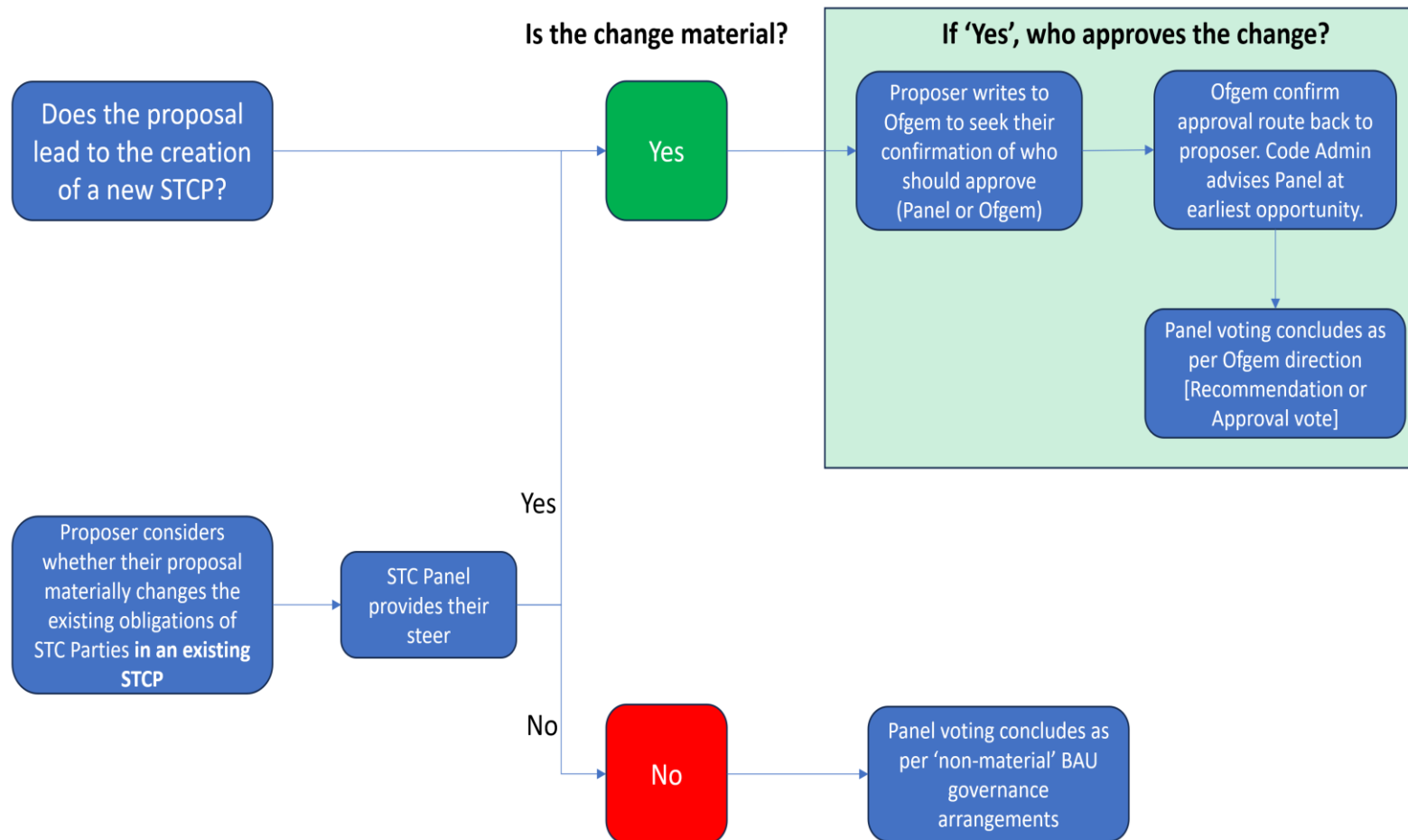
13 December 2024 CUSC [Panel Papers and Headline Report](#)

12 December 2024 Grid Code Review [Panel Papers and Headline Report](#)

13 November 2024 SQSS [Panel Papers and Headline Report](#)

11 December 2024 STC [Panel Papers and Headline Report](#)

Any other business STCP Process



Activities ahead of the next Panel Meeting

Grid Code Development Forum	05 February 2025
Modification Proposal Deadline for February Panel	11 February 2025
Papers Day	18 February 2025
Panel Meeting	26 February 2025 Teams

Close

Kat Higby

Chair, STC Panel