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STCP Modification Proposal Form

PM0146: Emergency Control Centre Requirements

Overview: Adjustment to the phrasing around the IT architecture required at the Emergency Control Centre, to include the option to meet the requirements with ‘capabilities’ instead of just ‘systems’.

Modification process & timetable



Status summary: The Proposer has raised a modification and is seeking a decision from the Panel on whether the modification should be implemented.

This modification is expected to have a: Low impact

Transmission Owners, Transmission System Operators

Proposer's assessment of materiality

Not a material change – STC Panel approval

Who can I talk to about the change?

Proposer:

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What is the issue?

STCP 06-4 outlines the process for maintaining the capability to monitor and operate the electricity transmission system during failures or emergencies.

The current requirements stipulates that each party shall have (at a minimum) ‘a duplicated Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for indications and alarms’ at their Emergency Control Centre, implying additional servers, hardware and the SCADA system together at every Control location. The new IT architecture for the Electricity Transmission (ET) SCADA system replacement programme does not directly comply with the STCP but aligns with the intent of the current phrasing and the Emergency Control Centre would have SCADA visualisation (client workstations) with connectivity to a redundant SCADA solution for control, indications and alarms, via two separate remote, highly resilient government accredited data centres.

Why change?

The reason it is proposed to update Clause 3.1.5 of STCP 06-4 is to remove solution constraints specifying how resilience should be delivered at the Emergency Control Centre. The change acknowledges that resilience can be managed differently, not limited to physical duplication within the control centre itself.

What is the proposer’s solution?

It is proposed to amend Clause 3.1.5 of STCP 06-4 ‘Contingency Arrangements’ to include the option to meet the requirements with ‘capabilities’ instead of just ‘systems’, and the option for a SCADA visual to be provided with connectivity to a duplicated SCADA system in two separate remote highly available data centres.

Legal text

In summary, the following changes are proposed to Clause 3.1.5 of STCP 06-4 (new text in blue):

“3.1.5 Each Party shall have available as a minimum requirement the following systems and/or capabilities at their Emergency Control Centre:

- *a duplicated SCADA system for indications and alarms;*
- *a SCADA Visual with access to a redundant SCADA solution for control, indications and alarms;*
- *a real time data transfer facility between the TO and The Company;*

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- *IS systems to support the control room which shall include external e-mail facilities;*
- *paper systems and documentation for the key processes;*
- *a telecommunication system with a minimum of one PSTN ex-directory line and one unique number on a private telephone network; and*
- *a fax machine capable of operating on both a PTN and the PSTN.”*

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 Electricity Act 1989;	Neutral No material impact to obligations
(b) efficient discharge of the obligations imposed upon the licensee by the Electricity System Operator licence, the Energy Act 2023 and Electricity Act 1989;	Neutral No material impact.
(c) development, maintenance, and operation of an efficient, economical, and coordinated system of electricity transmission;	Neutral No material impact.
(d) 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 No material impact.
(e) 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 and the licensee*;	Positive More diverse redundancy arrangement to handle different failure modes
(f) promotion of good industry practice and efficiency in the implementation and administration of the arrangements described in the STC;	Positive Aligns with current best-practice for delivery of resilient IT solutions

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(g) facilitation of access to the National Electricity Transmission System for generation not yet connected to the National Electricity Transmission System or Distribution System; and	Neutral No material impact.
(h) compliance with the Electricity Regulation and any Relevant Legally Binding Decisions of the European Commission and/or the Agency.	Neutral No material impact.

* See *Electricity System Operator Licence*

Proposer's assessment against the STCP change requirements	Proposer's assessment
(a) the amendment or addition falls within the terms and arrangements set out in condition E4 of the ESO Licence Standard Condition B12 of the Transmission Licence; and	Requirement met
(b) the amendment or addition does not impair, frustrate or invalidate the provisions of the Code	Requirement met
(c) 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 the rights and obligations of the Relevant Parties under the Code	Requirement met
(d) the amendment or addition is not inconsistent or in conflict with the Code, ESO Licence or Transmission Licence Conditions or other relevant statutory requirements; and	Requirement met
(e) 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

Earliest date available.

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Implementation approach

Not applicable.

Interactions

- Grid Code BSC CUSC SQSS
 European Network Codes Other modifications

Not applicable.

Panel Determination

Party	Determination
National Energy System Operator (NESO)	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
CUSC	Connection and Use of System Code
ET	Electricity Transmission
PM	Procedure Modification
PTN	Public Telephone Network

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PTSN	Public Switched Telephone Network
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
STC	System Operator Transmission Owner Code
STCP	System Operator Transmission Owner Code Procedure
SQSS	Security and Quality of Supply Standards
TO	Transmission Operator