

Minutes of Distribution Code Review Panel Meeting – 18th Sept 2015

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| <u>Present:</u> | James Brennan (JB) | Chairman |
| | Keith Moore (KM) | Secretary |
| | Tony Hearne (TH) | DSO Representative |
| | Derek Hynes (DH) | DSO Representative |
| | David Cashman (DC) | TSO Representative |
| | Stephen Walsh (SW) | ESB Networks |
| | Michael O'Hara (MOH) | ETCI Representative |
| | Ciaran Donnelly (CD) | Embedded Generators Representative |
| | Catherine Joyce-O'Caollai (CJ) | Major Customers Representative |
| | Ger Beatty (GB) | Synchronous Generators Ireland |
| | Brian Mulvihill (BM) | PES Representative/ Independent Suppliers Representative |
| <u>Phone:</u> | Nigel Morris (NM) | CER Representative |
| <u>Apologies:</u> | Sean Doolin (SD) (Alternate Present) | PES Representative/ Independent Suppliers Representative |

1. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the last DCRP meeting (9th June 2015) were accepted by all. These minutes will be published in the coming weeks.

2. Update on the implementation of approved modifications #22, #23 and #24

KM provided an update:

- Wind Farm customers have been requested to apply for extension to existing temporary derogations expiring at the end of the year or apply for permanent derogation applications to these temp derogations if compliance is not deemed to be possible for the customer.
- Over 150 derogation applications received since beginning of Sept 2015.
- Over half of these derogation applications are permanent derogation applications.
- Assessment by the SOs will be completed over the next few months.

DH advised that he had concerns regarding the issuance of operational certificates (op-certs) with regard to temporary derogations and temporary derogation extensions. DH is seeking clarity and discussion in relation to how to issue op certs with regard to derogations that are temporary. DH also explained that op certs are currently linked to capacity bonds and their release and there are related issues involving categorisation in the market.

NM advised that the linkage between capacity bond and op cert is likely to be broken shortly following CER discussion with DSO and TSO.

3. CER update on Distribution Code Modification Proposal #28 (Distribution Code Modification Implementation Process)

NM provided an update:

Proposed decision is being reconsidered formally by management and an update will be provided by CER at the next DCRP meeting.

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4. Approval of Distribution Code Modifications:

Modification Proposal #35 – Power Factor requirements for Type C / D WFPS connections

Approval is being considered by CER management.

NM stated that the modification is approved in principle and CER will endeavour to formally notify the Secretary of this approval next week.

CD stated that IWEA does not support the modification but agreed that the text of the modification is acceptable. IWEAs primary issue is in relation to potential cost implications on future connections post gate3. IWEA argue that reactive power requirements should be socialised

IWEA believes that shallow connection costs will be impacted.

DC believes IWEA issues are beyond the scope of the panel.

CER understands that mod was agreed by all at the subgroup and it was recommended for approval.

CER proposes to approve but will consider the wider issues that IWEA have.

The Secretary noted that agreement to this modification is contained in the minutes of the subgroup meeting.

CD/IWEA to make a submission to the CER explaining the issues.

5. Proposed Distribution Code Modifications

New

a) Modification Proposal #36 – Power Park Modules

TH proposed formally a modification to the D Code to include for Power Park Modules (PPM).

TH explained that it was first considered to change and extend the WFPS requirements to PV and other Non-Synchronous generation and that the intention was to extend the scope of DCC11 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR WIND GENERATION to include any other form of generation, including PV, which presents to the Distribution System through an inverter. However, there was no easy way to do this so a new section is being proposed for PPM

Requirements under DCC11 are driven largely by the combined effect of large penetration of Non-Synchronous generation on the operation of the Transmission System. To date, this cohort of generation has been comprised almost exclusively of wind generation. It is now apparent that other forms of generation, which have an inverter between the primary source and the Connection Point, present the same technical challenges to System Operation. It is logical therefore that similar, if not the same, technical requirements should apply to them. This approach is also consistent with that which will be taken upon adoption of the European Network Codes, most notably the RfG, wherein the document structure is divided between Synchronous Generators and what are termed Power Park Modules.

TH explained that there is a major urgency behind the need to include a provision for PPM in the code due to the large influx of Solar applications.

DC explained that TSO are currently looking at a similar exercise to update the Grid Code and would have preferred that DSO and TSO complete this exercise of

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updates in parallel to have consistency but agreed and understood the urgency and the need for DSO to move forward with changes and would support this modification.

The panel agreed to approve this modification and a proposal will be made to CER by the Secretary.

SIDE DISCUSSION: Solar Membership

CD asked if there was a solar representative on the panel and if not should there be.

CD offered to explore the option of representing the solar community but this would have to be in agreement with ISEA (Irish Solar Energy Association).

DH mentioned that Lightsource had indicated an interest in becoming a member of the panel.

CD agreed to contact ISEA to discuss.

Panel agreed to consider future membership applications as per the DCRP constitution

b) Modification Proposal #34 – Volt Freq FRT for all generators

- SW presented on the proposed modification for FRT for all generators.
- GB and MOH had a number of questions regarding the kVA threshold, protection setting requirements, RfG Network Code, application to backup generators, and the impact on DSUs.
- DC explained that TSO would require retrospection to be applied if they were to support this modification and advised that some changes to clauses could not be supported in the current proposal.
- CD suggested that an impact assessment should be done to assess the quantum of potentially impacted generators and whether these in turn increase the SNSP. If not, then a blanket derogation should be given to prevent unnecessary workload on all concerned.
- Agreement could not be reached on this proposal.
- DC/SW/TH/GB agreed to meet again to discuss the issues, assess the quantum and agree a proposal for the next DCRP meeting. The discussions will determine whether the existing modification can be modified or whether two separate modification proposals are required in order to address subsection (k) and (l)

6. Any Other Business / Items for discussion at next meeting

TH and DC stated that there is a proposed mod on 'bumpless' transfer which will be formally presented at the next DCRP meeting.

DH presented slides on proposed modifications for the next DCRP to bring sections of the code in line with the SHAWW Act 2005 and relevant European Standards.

These mods relate to:

- Authorised Persons
- Maintenance
- Labelling and Plant Definitions
- Safe Systems of Work

These mods will be proposed to the December meeting

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7. Next Meeting Dates:

- The following dates were proposed for the 2015 meetings of the DCRP:
 - Meeting 4: Tuesday 15th December
- Next meeting invite will be issued in the coming weeks

**Keith Moore,
Secretary**

22nd Sept 2015