

Minutes	
Meeting name	Electricity Balancing System Group
Meeting number	16
Date of meeting	01 August 2013
Time	10:00 - 15:00
Location	CR9, National Grid Warwick

Attendees		
Name	Initials	Company
Alex Haffner	AH	National Grid (Chair)
Christopher Proudfoot	CP	Centrica
Graham Bunt	GB	EDF Energy (dial in)
Guy Phillips	GP	E.ON
Joe Warren	JW	Open Energi
John Norbury	JN	RWE
Lisa Waters	LW	Waters Wye (dial in)
Nick Sargent	NS	National Grid (Technical Secretary)
Robert Paterson	RP	National Grid
Sally Lewis	SL	National Grid
Simon Peter Reid	SR	Scottish Power (dial in)

Apologies		
Name	Initials	Company
Campbell McDonald	CMD	SSE
Damien McCluskey	DM	National Grid
Dan Webb	DW	Seabank
John Lucas	JL	Elexon
Mari Toda	MT	EDF Energy
Peter Knight	PK	Centrica
Scott Keen	SK	InterGen

Introduction

AH welcomed the attendees and introduced the agenda. No additional items were requested.

1 Safety Brief

The safety brief was introduced to the team and proposed as an addition to the agenda for future meetings.

CP suggested that the teleconference facilities in National Grid's meeting rooms could be improved as it is very difficult to hear the meeting when dialling-in.

ACTION: improvements to dial in facilities to be looked at for future meetings (AH, NS)

2 Approval of Minutes from the last meeting

No comments received. Minutes approved.

3 Review of Actions

11/05: Review of Project Plan

Ongoing action to be discussed further under agenda item 5.

Open.

11/11: Max Generation data

To be arranged when other EBS issues have been cleared off.

Open, low priority.

13/06: Industry newsletter

GB suggested that an action should be raised for a regular delivery of the newsletter?

RP – Jane Oates has detailed a timeline for newsletters going forward.

Closed.

13/10: Key milestones from the IT subgroup

Circulated within the newsletter under 13/06.

High level project plan to be reviewed and loaded on EBS WebPages prior to future meetings (RP).

The plan should also be emailed to the Ops Forum distribution list (LW).

ACTION: RP to review the high level project plan prior to each EBS meeting, providing a project update and adding commentary on whether anything has changed, and email plan or link to Ops Forum, EBSG, and EBS IT distribution lists.

Closed

13/12: Options for declaring Frequency Response Unavailability

John Norbury's requested changes were included in the document but the computing solution is still in progress (RP).

Open

13/18: Dynamic Parameters Consultation

Discussed under agenda item 6.

Closed

13/19: Project Plan distribution

The Ops Forum distribution list was used by RP to forward the link to the Project Plan on 30 July.

Closed

13/22: Industry Newsletter

Revised plan published under 13/19.

Closed

13/23: Industry Newsletter

An action for the publication of the newsletter should be held as a standing item (GB).

See comment above regarding Jane Oates (RP).

Program slippage highlighted the need to keep users informed of changes (JN).

Updated the project plan and program status can be updated pre meeting but the back page of the newsletter could only be updated as necessary, rather than monthly, as this won't change so readily (RP).

The industry only sees trickle changes and is not given the wider picture.

Newsletter to be published following Sally's consultation with a high level guide included (RP).

Newsletter well received (SP, LW, GB).

What is the difference between go live and cut over? (JN).

Terminology used by different users (RP).

ACTION: raise a standing agenda item for regular communication updates (NS).

Closed

13/24: Reactive and Frequency Response Fax Form Information

Discussed under agenda item 6.

Closed

13/25: New Industry Interfaces Plan

A BSC modification was raised by RP and published by Elexon on 24 July.

Closed

13/26: New Industry Interfaces Plan

Ongoing

Open

13/27: New Industry Interfaces Plan

The New Industry Interfaces Testing and Transition Plan was published on the EBS IT webpage on 15 July.

Closed

13/28: New Industry Interfaces Plan

Discussed between RP and JL.

Closed

13/29: Dynamic Parameters Consultation

Discussed under agenda item 6.

Closed

13/30: Dynamic Parameters Consultation

Discussed under agenda item 6.

Closed

13/31: Dynamic Parameters Consultation

Discussed under agenda item 6. Work in progress.

Open

13/32: Dynamic Parameters Consultation

Discussed under agenda item 6. Work in progress.

Open

4 TSL Update

RP gave an update on TSL.

Ofgem published a decision on 19 June supporting Option B: to remove TSL from the Grid Code. The Implementation date for this decision is 19 August.

National Grid has written to “energy side” National Grid control engineers to inform them of the Ofgem decision. This is in the process of being sent out.

The guidance document on managing unit starts was uploaded to the Grid Code, Associated documents web page on 01 August.

W/c 05 August, a copy of the Ofgem decision and guidance document will be sent to the Operations Forum distribution list.

On 19 August, a new Grid Code document will be published with previous note regarding TSL being removed.

The guidance document advises users what parameters to use now.

5 Project Plans

RP led on the project plan discussion.

Replan undertaken due to issues with early deliverables.

Includes a longer period of parallel running to give more confidence in the behaviour of the system.

Timescales as per the newsletter.

Go live Q3 2014. Prior to that a considerable amount of testing activity will take place.

Clarification is required over the difference between cut-over and interfaces being made available to market participants (GP).

The plan was always to go live using existing interfaces. About 6 months after go-live, new interfaces will start to become available to market participants and there will be a time for market participants to make the change with up to 5 years to migrate to new interfaces (RP).

Market users will not be able to use new interfaces until 2015 at earliest? (GP).

That is correct (RP)

From 2015 onwards it will be down to individual market participants project programs to install the new interfaces? (GP). Yes (RP).

Will existing EDL/EDT still work as it does currently? (CP).

Will need to be redirected to new addresses (RP).

Why is there an overlap between type testing and market participant testing? (SR).

There may be some overlap because there are different suppliers who may complete their type testing at different times (RP).

Is cut-over likely to come forward? (CP). No (RP).

New Interfaces Implementation Plan

What are the pinch points? (SR)

New interfaces do not affect cut-over (RP) however priority was given to the BSC modification over the Grid Code changes due to having a tighter process.

Much of this plan will be discussed later in the meeting.

Elexon was having trouble getting a quorum of attendees for the P297 workgroup to discuss the above modification. RP asked attendees if they could ask their colleagues to consider attending.

LW advised she will attend. Others will consider.

RP explained line items with reference to the project plan.

Ofgem decision on both BSC and Grid Code modifications expected at the same time.

There are merits of including a longer range plan of pipeline changes (JN).

Some of the longer term changes are shown on the newsletter (RP).

Line 31 – does this refer to roll-out within National Grid or with market participants? It could be clearer (GB).

This is the start of the roll-out and it will be made clearer (RP).

Will the next newsletter detail that EDL*/EDT* will provide for multiple run up rates? (JN). Material coding information to be included for users.

ACTION: RP will mention multiple run up/run down rates etc. in the newsletter that explains and encourages responses to the Grid Code Consultation.

Can reference be made as to when the new EBS website will be made available? (GB)

Availability is mentioned within the newsletter under reference to EDT* (RP).

SR – regarding Dynamic Parameters, some will be submitted in 2015, some will be optional, is this correct?

For run up/run down rates, it's a max of 10 so you can submit 1 if required.

For time varying SEL/SIL, those market participants on current EDL will submit a static SEL/SIL and the system will understand that. There will be a capability on the new interfaces that will allow the SEL/SIL to be submitted as static values.

Will there be dynamic parameters that we will have to submit from the outset but we can't under the existing interfaces? (SR). No (RP).

LW and GB (both dial in) gave apologies for having to leave the meeting at this point for other commitments.

6 Dynamic Parameters Consultation

Data Validation and Consistency Rules

RP presented his proposals for the changes.

Main change is to have two sections throughout for new vs. existing interfaces to assist with reader clarity.

Keeping them separate is more manageable (JN, CP).

The group agreed with the approach.

Grid Code consultation will be required for these changes.

Will the Dynamic Parameters consultation be held up by the changes required for the DVC&D Rules? (JN). There may be a slight delay but it will be better to have just the one consultation for changes (RP).

Glossary & Definitions

SL presented an update to the document.

Legal review took longer than expected and resulted in some text changes. The Legal review had concerns about moving the Dynamic Parameters from BC1 to BC2.

There were no changes to the definitions following the Legal review.

RP gave background to the development of the definitions. Discussion centred around the use of the term “web services” (JN, CP, RP).

It’s not clear as to which of the definitions (old or new) we are referring to (GP).

It’s not clear which systems new users would install and as such, a cut-off date should be included somewhere to make it clear (JN).

Discussion took place around alternative definition solutions to keep the definitions simple yet still identify new and legacy interfaces.

GP agreed with JN that definitions should be kept simple and clear. In reality though, these definitions are trying to address a 5 year transition period when two systems are running in parallel. Cut-off dates should however be included (GP).

ACTION SL/RP: Consider including information in the Grid Code (probably the Connection Conditions) regarding when market participants should expect to stop or start using the different interfaces.

RP suggested replacing the terms legacy and web-services etc. with meaningful references to commonly used terms like EDL and EDT e.g. Automatic Logging Device (EDL) or Automatic Logging Device (EDL*).

Are these terms referenced within the CUSC and as such, what is the impact of changing these definitions? If they are, identifying the differences with “version 1”, “version 2” of EDL/EDT would appear more acceptable (GP).

ACTION: Check to see if EDL/EDT terminology is used within other Codes (SL).

Post Meeting Note: A review of the CUSC identified EDL being mentioned in Section 6, pages 58-60 but no mention of EDT. The pages that mention EDL refer back to the Grid Code CC6.5 and as such, do not prevent National Grid from using the term EDL in the Grid Code.

In due course, an update to the CUSC may be required to mention the new technology interfaces of EDL*/EDT*, or to remove references to technology, referring the reader to the Grid Code for those aspects.

CP asked where power park modules stood when considering Simultaneous Tap Changes? This is something that may develop in time but is not of high importance at the moment (RP).

BC1

National Grid Legal wanted to know the benefits of moving the definitions from BC1 to BC2 when BC1 is pre-gate closure and BC2 is post-gate closure (SL).

The vast majority of Dynamic Parameters are effective on receipt so BC2 makes more sense (RP).

It seems sensible to fit these parameters in BC2 (CP, JN).

JN questioned the MEL/MIL availability data, submitted under BC1, requested for the next operational day. Can you explain National Grid's expectation of this, what is the relevance?

MEL/MIL data submitted by EDT is used to construct a single MEL/MIL profile using the latest submissions, whether they are sent by EDL or EDT. There is not a separate day-ahead set of day ahead MEL/MIL, unlike the current situation for dynamic parameters. National Grid needs accurate MEL/MIL data at day ahead in order to help it to take secure, economic and efficient actions (RP).

ACTION: To review the wording under BC1.4.2 regarding the requirement for the provision of MEL/MIL data for the next operational day (SL, RP, & JN).

BC2

Deviation From Zero

Wording made more specific following an action from the last meeting. Attendees would like to review separately.

Tap Change

Rewording considered and discussed.

ACTION: RP to remove absolute tap (tap number) instructions from BC2

Consultation Questions

Target timescale for publishing the consultation is around mid to late September, but more definitive dates will be included in the revised new interfaces plan (RP).

Questions were presented to the attendees but due to time constraints, full review of the questions will be undertaken separately by attendees and responses collated via email.

GP proposed that obtaining a summary from each workgroup member detailing their positions on the consultation changes would be of benefit.

CP and GP gave apologies for leaving the meeting at this point due to other meeting commitments.

Fax Forms

In the consultation document, context should be given to why National Grid is still using faxes prior to asking for views on the fax forms (RP).

7 Next Meeting Date

Thursday 03 October. Location to be confirmed.

ACTION: To advise absent attendees of proposed next meeting date (NS)

8 AOB

LW advised that at the recent Ofgem Future Trading Arrangements (FTA) meeting, it was noted that if there were changes to the trading regime National Grid would also see a changing role. The EBSG should be mindful of further changes to IT as the FTA work may start to alter the new systems at a time when many parties have finally transferred to them.

9 Actions and Next Steps

Safety Brief

Improvements to dial in facilities to be looked at for future meetings (AH, NS).

Action 13/10: Key Milestones from the IT subgroup

RP to review the high level project plan prior to each EBS meeting, providing a project update and adding commentary on whether anything has changed, and email plan or link to Ops Forum, EBSG, and EBS IT distribution lists.

Action 13/23: Industry Newsletter

NS to raise a standing agenda item for regular communication updates.

Project Plan

ACTION: RP will mention multiple run up/run down rates etc. in the newsletter that explains and encourages responses to the Grid Code Consultation

Dynamic Parameters Consultation

SL/RP: Consider including information in the Grid Code (probably the Connection Conditions) regarding when market participants should expect to stop or start using the different interfaces.

SL to check for EDL/EDT terminology within other Codes.

SL, RP, and JN to review the wording under BC1.4.2 regarding the requirement for the provision of MEL/MIL data for the next operational day.

RP to remove absolute tap (tap number) instructions from BC2.