

Code Administrator Meeting Summary

GC0117: Improving transparency and consistency of access arrangements across GB by the creation of a pan-GB commonality of PGM requirements

Date: 28 September 2021

Contact Details

Chair: Nisar Ahmed, National Grid ESO Nisar.Ahmed@nationalgrideso.com / 0777 3043068
Proposer: Garth Graham

Key areas of discussion

The Workgroup discussions are summarised according to agenda items:

Alternative Proposal from Alan Creighton

Advantages:

- It is a simple solution which seeks to maintain the existing arrangement in England & Wales.
- The alternative is a straightforward change; it addresses the core of the defect of the Proposal by providing harmonised levels
- It holistically aligns with the Open Network' suggestions in relation to role of the DNOs

Disadvantages:

- Addresses the defects but should not be adopted as it creates potential issues such as Scotland having to change their thresholds
- The current thresholds in England and Wales do not recognise the changing requirements of the system and the increasing number of smaller parties connecting.

Majority (9) of the Workgroup voted in support of the alternative to formally become WAGCM1. In summary, it was agreed that both the original and the alternative presents the Authority valuable options to choose from. Some Workgroup members stated that the alternative proposal addresses the defect better than the current thresholds, which creates a regional difference between England and Wales and Scotland but, may not work for the future of the network.

Action Log review

The Workgroup talked through each action in the order it had been logged. The Workgroup agreed to close actions **1, 5, 7, 9, 11** and **12** and some new actions were added:

Action 1: “Power Generating” to be changed to “Power Stations” as it appears in the Grid Code.

New Action: Code Admin to update title on website.

Action 2: A modification is required for BSC to address the definition of “small”.

New Action: Contractual arrangements to be made with sufficient time for CUSC – Code Admin to discuss this with CUSC Panel. Definition and exhibits to be considered in terms of “small, medium, large”.

Action 3: All Workgroup Members to review Request For Information for visibility of distributed generation connected to Great Britain DNO networks and circulate any useful information found. This can be accessed via this link: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/call-evidence-visibility-distributed-generation-connected-gb-distribution-networks>

It was noted that Ofgem have not responded to consultation hence it will be kept open until further notice.

New Action: Workgroup Members that are able to collect useful information should prepare a presentation to discuss with the rest of the Workgroup in the next workgroup meeting. MK will seek information from DNO colleagues

Action 4: MK to have discussions with Open Networks around their strategy and thinking (DSO vs DNO)

Action 5: LT advised that not all CUSC roles need to provide financial responsibility / credit check. CLOSED

Action 6: Code Admin to check with Paul Mullen (from CUSC Panel) and Angela Quinn ESO Legal Team (from Legal team) whether there is there a connection condition in line with **CUSC 651** and those who are exempt from generation licenses – and to determine the implications for CUSC.

Action 7: Check that the Initial Assessment was presented in the minutes from the GCRP meeting – it was agreed for this action to be closed. CLOSED.

Action 8: Responses have been low for the BM participation questionnaire. Some Workgroup Members stated that they had not received it and suspected that some other industry members may not have received it as well hence, it was decided that this action should be kept open.

New Action – LT and AJ will chase this up and re-circulate questionnaire to industry

Action 9: This action was closed due to completeness. CLOSED

Action 10: The deadline for this modification was extended to 27 September. The timeline will be reviewed in December 2021 and will require the Grid Code Panel approval. Some Workgroup Members expressed that this is a long gap for a simple modification.

A Workgroup Member suggested including this item in the Workgroup discussion and to the Open Networks to gather views on whether there will be an effect on retrospectivity. It seems the DNOs do not have sufficient information on Generators connected to their networks

New Action – MK to confirm if the ENA have a consolidated connected embedded generation data

Action 11: This action was agreed to close due to completeness. CLOSED

Survey Feedback

There was limited interest in the survey and some late responses - six responses received as at the date of the workgroup meeting. Due to this, it was decided to leave the survey open and to resend communications via DNO mailing lists to reach all connected generators.

A discussion was held on the survey feedback received:

- Reducing threshold to “above 10MW = Large” may create additional fees for some and removes Medium definition.
- The ESO have plans to upskill resources to meet increase in future connections applications; TOs and DNOs will need to do the same
- Change could increase the time needed to get a connection offer or que position.
- Consider when all generation is controlled by active management.
- For the benefit of customers, the cheapest option should be adopted.

Threshold preference

- The two most suitable options for further review are “above 10MW” and “above 100MW” threshold, “above 50MW” would not be significantly different.
- Resource allocation concerns with above 10MW threshold, although it will yield some benefits for example, reduce balancing costs.

Terms of Reference review

The Workgroup reviewed the Terms of Reference to ensure the discussion and proposals fulfilled the Panel’s request. Minor amendments were discussed which were captured in the document for review and issued to the Panel for approval.

Next Steps

- Consider adding the following to October workgroup agenda:
 - Draft Workgroup Consultation questions
 - Discussions around legal text wordings
- Workgroup to review open actions

Participants

Attendees	Initial	Company	Position
Nisar Ahmed	NA	Code Administrator National Grid ESO	Chair
Banke John-Okwesa	BJO	National Grid ESO	Technical Secretary
Garth Graham	GG	SSE Generation	Proposer
Alan Creighton	AC	Northern Powergrid	Workgroup Member
Richard Wilson	RW	UK Power Networks	Workgroup Member
Tony Johnson	TJ	National Grid ESO	Presenter
Louise Trodden	LT	National Grid ESO	Presenter
Mike Kay	MK	P2 Analysis	Workgroup Member
Paul Youngman	PY	Drax	Workgroup Member
Tim Ellingham	TE	RWE	Workgroup Member
Calum Watt	CW	SSEN Transmission	Workgroup Member
Graeme Vincent	GV	SP Energy Networks	Workgroup Member
Jeremey Caplin	JC	Elexon	Workgroup Member

For further information, please contact the Code Administrator.