**NATIONAL GRID COMPANY plc**

**GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL**

**Proposed Changes to Data Exchange under OC2**

## 1. Introduction

1.1.  National Grid is reviewing its arrangements for the receipt and dissemination of data under the various clauses of OC2. National Grid's current systems and database have developed over a number of years and are not easily maintainable and have very limited scope for development or expansion.

1.2.  The introduction of BETTA will result in a significant increase the volume of data, particularly on the generation side, and this will place a further burden on the existing system database.

## 2. Background

2.1.  Generation outage and availability data and DNO outage data is currently received by various methods including fax, post and electronic transfer.

2.2.  For generation data this is entered or transferred into various system and the required reports produced. These are then sent out to users using the same methods by which it is received.

2.3.  With the increased volumes of data required for BETTA, National Grid is proposing to replace its internal OC2 database. Along with this we would like to take advantage of the potential offered by introducing an internet based system to collect and disseminate data.

## 3. Scope

3.1.  An integrated database and internet solution would include the receipt of all generation availability and generation outage data. It would include all requirements to disseminate data back to generators and the requirement to notify Generators and other Network Operators of National Grid Transmission outages that may affect them.

3.2.  Currently, it is not proposed to collect outages on other Network Operator's systems via the Internet.

3.3.  For the maximum benefit to be gained by all Grid Code participants this will become National Grid's preferred method of receiving data although fax will be retained as an alternative.

## 4. Proposal

4.1.  Attached, as appendix 1, is a note that has been sent to all Users that submit data under the requirements of OC2. Comments received have been favourable. In summary, the proposed system would allow generators to log on to the database and either make direct submissions on line or upload data from a user system, in a defined format, into the NGC database.

4.2.    Benefits are likely to include:

- Ability to view previous submissions, amend these and make a new submission.

- Downloading of data in csv format or similar.

- The latest OC2 reports would always be available, potentially with "live data" for some reports.

4.3.    It is currently proposed to introduce the database and internet interface in November 2004 with trialing in September and October. It is believed the system will be easy to use and self-explanatory with on line help and any training requirement would be minimal. National Grid will produce guidance information for users to support the new system similar to that provided for EDT and EDL.

## 5.  Impact on the Grid Code

5.1.    The Grid Code already allows for the electronic submission of data and the return of reports via an electronic system and the new system will not change the content of data exchanged. Therefore, National Grid believes there is no change to the obligations in OC2, although the guidance document would become an 'associated document'. In addition, the technical interface specification would come under the provisions provided in CC6.5.8 regarding changes.

5.2.    However, the DRC schedules relating to OC2 currently reflect existing processes so these may need updating to reflect the proposed arrangements. Proposed changes will be submitted at a future GCRP.

## 6.  The Way Forward

6.1.    As mentioned above, National Grid has issued a note outlining our proposals to all users affected by a change to OC2 interface arrangements. Responses received to date from generators have been favourable.

6.2.    Any issues raised by Users will be considered as National Grid considers the design for the system.

6.3.    National Grid will continue to keep Users up to date and seek views on areas as they develop. The key area will be the format

## 7.  Recommendation

7.1.    The Grid Code Review Panel is invited to:
- Support National Grid's outline proposals.
- Assist with implementation by providing feedback and comments on information.
- To comment on the interface requirements when proposed.
- Propose to National Grid any other features that they believe would benefit the Users.

National Grid Company plc

**BETTA - OC2 Data Exchange Processes**

**OC2 Briefing Note**

## Introduction

When BETTA is introduced and a single GBSO is appointed there will be a significant increase in the amount of data to be exchanged under the Grid Code OC2 process. (It is assumed that there will not be significant changes to the Grid Code when the GB Grid Code is introduced). Currently there are approximately 250 BMU's and BETTA will substantially increase this number. This increase on the current numbers requires major changes to the National Grid's underlying software systems.

Under Current processes generation outage and availability data is received by a number of different means including fax and electronic data transfer.

National Grid is required to make users aware of various outputs of the OC2 process, which includes national and zonal margins, and transmission outages that may affect Users. These notifications are generally sent by e-mail, fax, electronic transfer or by post. We are now working on a solution to streamline these activities and improve the efficiency of the process.

## Initial Proposal

National Grid are proposing to introduce an internet based solution to manage the OC2 data exchange process. A database will be maintained with the latest OC2 information on margins, generation availability, generation outages and transmission outage data. Users will have secure access to the database using accounts and passwords ensuring only OC2 data relevant to that User can be viewed.
The system will provide Users with the following benefits and facilities:

- Ability to view previously submitted data.
- Ability to load or download data in a csv or similar format.
- Efficient process
- Ability to view OC2 reports.
- Easy amendment of existing data to create new OC2 submissions.

## Proposal

Our thoughts on how the processes would be achieved are as follows:

**Submission of Generation Availability data**

Either
- Select which OC2 submission that is required with the ability to view previously submitted records. Update records and/or add new records. Check the submission is correct and submit to the GBSO. If there is no change the only entry will be to add the new data for the period (eg day 14 of a 2-14 day submission) and submit the data. or
- User maintains his own record of availability and produces a file (csv or similar) that can be uploaded into the database, checked by the User if necessary and then submitted to the GBSO. It will also be possible to download a copy of the existing records/previous submission for import into a user system.
The system will check the submissions and changes will be accepted by the GBSO and stored.

**Submission of Genset Outage information**

In a similar way to availability there will be the ability to view previous submissions. It is anticipated that each outage will be allocated a unique number and there will also be the ability to add comments and a users reference number to each outage entry. Again two ways of making a submission:

- Select submission required and view previous records. Update, delete or add new generation outages and submit to the GBSO. If no change is required then it will just be a case of making a 'no change submission'.
- User will maintain his own database of outages with the ability to upload his own data (csv or similar) to the database. Note the User system may need to tie in with the unique number held in the GBSO database for changes that are made to existing outages. It will be possible to download a copy of the existing records/ previous submission for import into a user system.

**Viewing of Aggregated Availability Information**

The GBSO will carry out the process necessary to produce the customer specific National and Zonal margin information and make the relevant reports available to each user via the Internet. Information sent to ELEXON and BMRA web sites will continue to be produced, but on a GB basis.

**Viewing of Transmission System Outages**

Each user will have access to reports on the system, which will fulfil the requirement of the GBSO to notify Users of outages that affect them or changes to those outages. Users will be able to print the reports and/or download in to a csv type format for use in User systems.

**Management of User Outages affecting the GBSO**

The current proposals do not include the process of users notifying National Grid of Transmission and Distribution outages that may affect the GBSO. This will be considered at a later stage.

**Security**

It is anticipated that each Generation User will be allocated two different access levels. One with the rights to update and submit data and the other to view only. For DNO's there will be one access level which will be view only. Initially it is anticipated that there will be between 2 and 5 users for each company. There will be a requirement for each user to be identified with a contact e-mail address and phone number.

**Access & Support**

It is proposed that each company will nominate one person who will maintain a list of their own users and will act as a focal point for updates or changes to their list of users. National Grid will make available our help desk and will handle requests for new users as well as dealing with technical problems. The new OC2 system will be self-explanatory with menu driven options and help screens.
Although National Grid's IS system will be robust should users be unable to submit data due to internet problems then alternative methods are likely to be faxes.

## Transition

It is anticipated that the system will be available for testing by some users in September 04 with implementation in England and Wales in November 04. Specifications for file uploads and downloads should be available from January 04

## Next Steps

National Grid is aware of the impact on customers and would welcome the views of those companies involved in the OC2 process on these proposals. Please send initial comments to Ian Gilbert by 17th October 2003.

**National Grid Contacts**

For further information please contact:

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