

Regional Differences – Small, Medium and Large Power Stations Review Group

Meeting 2 – Tuesday 1st November 2005

Attendees:

Ben Graff	NGT	Simon Cowdroy	ECONNECT
Mark Duffield	NGT	David Nicol	ScottishPower
David Payne	NGT	Grant McBeath	ScottishPower
Brian Taylor	NGT	Campbell MacDonald	SHETL
Bridget Morgan	Ofgem	Neil Sandison	SSE Generation
*John Morris	British Energy		

* By phone.

Apologies:

Charlie Zhang	EDF	Claire Maxim	E.ON
John Norbury	RWE	Malcolm Taylor	AEP
Mike Kay	UU	George Spowart	ScottishPower

Summary

This meeting was the second of the Small, Medium and Large Power Stations Review Group set up by the GCRP to examine the Regional Differences in the current Grid Code with a view to minimising such differences.

At the first meeting the National Grid, RTL's and the Generators had taken away a number of actions to assess the affect on their systems/plant of changing the current definitions of Small/Medium/Large Power Stations.

National Grid tabled a paper containing proposals for harmonisation of arrangements in Scotland:

Small <10MW

Medium 10 – 30MW

Large 30 MW

This view was based on the assumption that the Grid Code LEEMPS proposals were implemented. If LEEMPS proposals were not implemented it would likely be necessary to define Power Stations in Scotland as either Small or Large.

National Grid believes the main issue is the need to despatch Mvar's for voltage control. The despatch of MW's is more difficult where Power Stations have a BELLA. Also should a Medium band be introduced in SHETL under LEEMPS National Grid would not have a direct agreement with such generators and data would be collected through the Distribution Code. National Grid believes that this would reduce the administrative burden on all.

SPT had given consideration to harmonising levels at the E&W limits but this was not an approach that would be pursued. SPT preferred to dispense with a medium range such that Small was <30MW and Large was >30MW. There were currently around 19 embedded power stations with a total of around 400MW in this range which did not cause any system problems. In addition only a further 5 power stations were planned for the future. SPT did not therefore see the need for a medium range. SPT were of the opinion that LEEMPS did not work and therefore any plant for which Grid Code compliance was required should be classified as Large.

SHETL felt that the current limit of <5MW Small and >5MW large should remain. However given the relatively low number of power stations in the 5 – 10MW range SHETL agreed to consider the possibility of raising the limit for Small/Large to 10MW. SPT felt that as the STC does not (in their opinion) allow for exchange of data on Medium Power Stations, one disadvantage of introducing a Medium range was that SPT would lose sight of a significant amount of data which it required to manage the interface between SPT and SHETL. In addition SHETL believed that the introduction of a Medium range would increase the administrative burden especially on the DNO.

Actions for the next meeting.

SHETL - Consider the effect of raising the 5 MW level for Small Power Stations to 10MW.

SPT – Consider whether there is scope for a higher limit than the 30MW Small/Large limit proposed at the meeting. In areas of the Connection Conditions where 30MW is hardwired, consider whether such limits could be raised (eg frequency control).

National Grid

- Summarise Grid Code obligations for Small, Medium and Large Power Stations.
- Consider whether the limits currently hard coded into the Grid Code (e.g. for Frequency Control) could be relaxed.

ECONNECT – Consider the impacts on generators

Other

National Grid noted that the views of generators were important in this debate but unfortunately there were few representatives at the meeting.

Ofgem noted that the objective of the group was to consider where harmonisation could be achieved and the working group was giving this the proper analysis.

An update on the current progress would be provided at the November GCRP but the group was reminded that the Terms of Reference required a final report for the February 2006 GCRP meeting.

Next working group meeting:

Tuesday 6th December 2005, Warwick Area