

Great Britain Security and Quality of Supply Standard (GB SQSS) Review for onshore intermittent generation

Industry Workshop
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Abstract

The GB SQSS is the deterministic standard for transmission planning that is currently being used by the GB transmission licensees¹. The standard was established for a system dominated by conventional generation and has no doubt served its purpose over the years.

Pursuant to our aspirations of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation, the amount of renewable generation connected to the grid is increasing. Wind generation is particularly increasing at a marked rate owing to the maturity of the technology. Other renewable generation technologies are expected to increase as they become economically viable at large scale. Renewable generation sources are invariably intermittent, making their characteristics significantly different from those of conventional generation. Due to the variability of these sources, their ability to contribute during times of peak demand is significantly lower compared to their conventional counterparts. Given this and the fact that the penetration of renewable generation is set to increase to significant levels, the suitability of the current deterministic standard for transmission planning has come under scrutiny. This has prompted the review of the GB SQSS to ensure that it continues to deliver an optimum level of transmission investment as the generation background changes.

The GB SQSS Review Group was formed by the three GB transmission licensees, charged with ensuring that the GB SQSS is kept up-to-date with changes in the electricity supply industry and technological advances. The review group considers requests to review the GB SQSS and facilitates industry consultations on proposed changes or amendments to the GB SQSS. The group is also responsible for recommending those changes or amendments to Ofgem² for approval. The Review Group is currently dealing with the request to review the GB SQSS in light of increasing penetration of onshore intermittent generation (particularly wind generation). To this effect, a working group was established to undertake the consultation process on the review.

The working group has organised an industry workshop to be held in two locations at different dates (shown above) to allow as much industry participation as possible. The workshops will seek to engage industry in the review process by highlighting the application of the current version of the security standard, the challenges we face, results from work already undertaken and the work in progress and understanding industry views on the issues at hand. All this work will feed into a public consultation scheduled for later this year.

¹ GB transmission licensees are National Grid Electricity Transmission (England and Wales), Scottish Power Transmission (Southern Scotland) and Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (northern Scotland).

² Ofgem is the Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority in the UK