

## **Terms of Reference for GB Security and Quality of Supply Standard Review Group**

### **Background**

The Transmission Licence and the Electricity Act 1989 require the Licensees to plan and develop their respective transmission systems in accordance with GB Security and Quality of Supply Standard (GB SQSS) and in an efficient, co-ordinated and economic manner.

In order to facilitate these requirements it has been recognised that the GB SQSS may need, from time to time, to be developed and maintained to reflect both changes in the GB Electricity Industry and advances in technology. To enable changes to the GB SQSS to be considered and proposals to be made to the Authority to change the GB SQSS, it has therefore been decided that a group should be established ('the GB SQSS review group') to co-ordinate reviews of the GB SQSS as required.

### **Constitution of the Review Group**

It is proposed that GB SQSS review group comprises of representatives of the three current Transmission Licensees (NGET will provide representation from its planning and operational roles) and OFGEM.

The GB SQSS review group will have the right to invite other representatives (e.g. distribution licensees, developers, equipment manufacturers etc.) to attend meetings should the GB SQSS review group consider that such additional expertise is required.

Each party will be limited to one representative (other than NGET who will be limited to two representatives) with the relevant level of authority. Each representative will be able to invite additional technical advisors. The chair of the review group will be nominate at the first meeting and shall be rotated between the parties on an annual basis. NGET shall also provide the secretariat support for the meetings.

It is envisaged that the group shall meet quarterly, however the frequency of the meeting can be varied with the agreement of all parties. The venue shall be rotated between the parties. Parties may meet in person or via teleconference. Formal notes of the meeting shall be taken and agreed by the parties. Summary notes will be published on the appropriate website.

### **Purpose**

The GB SQSS review group is the co-ordinator, not a decision making body. The purpose of the group is to consider developments to the GB SQSS and propose changes to GB SQSS to the Authority.

### **Scope and Objectives**

The GB SQSS review group will consider all reasonable requests to make changes to the GB SQSS. Request to change the GB SQSS can be made by any of the GB SQSS review group parties. It is assumed that any other stakeholders in the GB SQSS will make any request to change the GB SQSS via the GB SQSS Secretary.

The specific objectives of the GB SQSS review group are as follows:

- a) Consider requests to change the GB SQSS.
- b) Identify and develop a range of alternative options.
- c) Carry out Industry Consultation on proposed changes and alternatives
- d) Formally propose a 'preferred' option to the Authority with all the relevant justification.

In achieving the above objectives, the GB SQSS review group will need to take account of the need (these are listed in no particular weighting or order):

- to optimise the economic operation of the Transmission System;
- to ensure the safe operation of all transmission circuits;
- to clearly and robustly define all aspects of the security rules framework to minimise the risk of misinterpretation when applying rules relevant to planning and operating of transmission networks;
- to ensure no undue discrimination;
- to ensure consistency and compatibility with the market and industry structure,
- to consider the impact on other industry framework documents<sup>1</sup>
- should take due cognisance on the resulting impact on additional capital investment and system operational costs required due to any proposed changes.

## **Participation**

Participants at the review group acknowledge and agree that any draft text disclosed to them is confidential and must not be disclosed to any other person, business or undertaking other than the participants in the group meeting.

While the active participation of participants in any review group is sought with the evaluation of technical rules, all participants acknowledge and agree that the Authority are ultimately responsible for determining the form and content of the security standards relating to transmission networks and any discussion in meetings and views expressed or implied in such discussion or document are entirely without prejudice to and shall not limit the discretion of the Authority with regard to the final form and content of the document.

## **Deliverables**

As and when required the GB SQSS review group will provide to the Authority formal proposals to change the GB SQSS. The formal proposals shall include, but limited to, the following:

- a explanation of the requirement to change the GB SQSS
- a description of each of the different options considered, identifying any issues/risks associated with the application of that option and any impact on other industry framework documents.
- Where appropriate, any responses from Industry Consultations

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<sup>1</sup> Industry Framework Documents include, but not limited to The Grid Code, System Operator – Transmission Owner Code, The Connection and Use of System Code.

- The review groups recommend proposed option(s) identifying the rationale supporting the proposed option(s) and the views of the GBSQSS Review Group members on each of the other options.

### **Accountability**

The individual members of the GB SQSS review group will report back to their respective companies/stakeholders as each member see fit.