

Summary of Meeting and Actions

Meeting Name	P2/5 Working Group
Meeting No.	1
Date of Meeting	Monday, 5 th December 2005
Time	10:30am – 2pm
Venue	B2-1, National Grid House, Warwick

This note outlines the key action points from the first meeting of the P2/5 Working Group.

1) Background

In Autumn 2004, Ofgem launched a formal investigation into EDF Energy's compliance with their distribution licence and formally sought information from National Grid under the terms of their licence. Ofgem concluded that there had been no licence infringement by either party but had some concerns that there were issues of differing interpretation between NGET and DNOs in the capacity of the interface and hence P2/5 compliance.

The group has been asked to recommend modifications to the Planning Code and the Data Registration Code which will ensure both DNO and National Grid planning obligations are met at the interface by the data exchange requirements within the Grid Code.

The Working Group has been asked to:

- Review the scope of the existing data exchange requirements of the Grid Code for determining the investment needs to meet their planning requirements e.g. assessment against security standards, P2/5 and SQSS
- Consider adequacy of existing requirements of the Grid Code for summer and seasonal peak load levels and the appropriate statistical factors governing the forecasting of these quantities
- Treatment of interconnected GSPs and format of data provision
 - Maintenance demand
 - Maintenance windows
 - Transfer Capacity
- Determine what additional data exchange or process clarification is necessary to the Grid Code

2) Areas of Discussions

The Working Group received a presentation from National Grid. The presentation focused on five main areas:

- Loading Information
- Interconnected Networks
- Maintenance Period Demand
- Demand Transfer Capability
- Data Exchange

In a number of areas it was identified that existing Grid Code definitions could be improved or new definitions introduced which would assist in the clarification of the process and why the information was required.

The Working Group agreed that it would be beneficial for the DNOs to have a clear understanding of why the Week 24 data was required. A better understanding of the need for data would build better commitment to provide quality data. National Grid agreed to provide such guidance / explanatory notes.

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The group agreed to discuss each area in more detail, highlighting areas of concern and possible amendments to the Grid Code and associated documents. The Working Group initially focused on Maintenance Period Demand and Demand Transfer Capability.

It was also noted by the Working Group that National Grid and DNO had to meet different compliance standards in order to fulfil their licence obligations i.e. DNO - P2/5 compliance, National Grid - GB SQSS compliance although both standards originated from the same common Engineering Recommendation P2/5. Despite both standards being broadly similar, it was highlighted that the two compliance standards could be interpreted as placing differing obligations on the licensees associated with thermal capacity (which are not always compatible) and that DNO and National Grid had differing obligations regarding Voltage security at the interface.

3) Maintenance Period and Maintenance Period Demand

For planning purposes National Grid considers the maintenance season to be British Summer Time (BST) (i.e. between April to October) although this period has not been defined in any formal documentation. It is acknowledged that National Grid circuit maintenance may not be possible for the full maintenance season due to demand levels exceeding the firm capacity of the remaining National Grid circuits. In these cases the period for which maintenance may be permitted will need to be identified on a case by case basis.

The Maintenance Period required would normally be that maximum demand level over an 8 week period in which maintenance could be carried out. Maintenance on each National Grid circuit is anticipated on a frequency of once every 3 years and as such the number of circuits at a site would determine the annual maintenance access requirement for planning purposes. For example, for demand groups with four or more National Grid circuits, at least two maintenance periods of 8 week will need to be identified to enable adequate access to the National Grid circuits for maintenance.

Although not formally agreed at the meeting by all parties, National Grid made the following suggestion for the provision of week 24 standard planning data. The DNOs were requested to provide either of the following:-

- 1 % of peak demand that forms the maximum demand level during the maintenance season (BST).
- 2 At the DNOs discretion, and for demand groups consisting of 3 or less National Grid circuits, the DNO may identify a period of not less than 8 weeks in duration together with % of peak demand that forms the maximum demand level during the period.
- 3 At the DNOs discretion, and for demand groups consisting of 4 to 6 National Grid circuits, the DNO may identify two separate periods of not less than 8 weeks in duration together with % of peak demand that forms the maximum demand level during each period.

The DNO would provide the information against one or the other of the above and National Grid would then use this as its "first pass" on capacity assessment. The capacity requirement would then further be discussed as currently under JTPL dialogue to determine appropriate investment timing.

The Working Group agreed that the initial, high level data currently provided as part of their week 24 submission would be sufficient for National Grid's operational and investment plans. However, if National Grid had any queries with the data provided, it would be possible for National Grid, upon written request, to ask for more Detailed Planning Data. If, after the Detailed Planning Data had been submitted, National Grid still had queries, a review meeting would be arranged between the DNO and National Grid to discuss the matter and agree on what additional data would be required.

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The Working Group noted that the Grid Code currently has existing provisions which cover this data exchange mechanism, but does not currently stipulate the provision of maintenance period demand data and that this would need inclusion. However the Working Group acknowledged that the current provision may need to be reviewed/amended and supplementary documentation provided to assist the data submission for the DRC Table 11(b) – Data Registration Code.

The Working Group also noted that a process would have to be agreed which would stipulate what would happen in the case of any invalid data submitted or contradictory data i.e. what would be the default position.

National Grid agreed to work up its proposals and present them back to the next meeting.

4) Demand Transfer Capability

The Working Group noted that DNOs are not required to provide Demand Transfer Capability if there is sufficient capacity at the Connection site.

The SQSS and ER P2/5 allow the use of Demand Transfer at SGTs. Both require the transfer to be practically available. The Working Group noted that DNOs are not required to provide Demand Transfer Capability if there is sufficient capacity at the Connection site.

The Working Group acknowledged the requirement of National Grid to feel confident that the Demand Transfer would be available when stated. It was noted by the Working Group that the DNOs would ensure that the Demand Transfer would be available as specified if their system was functioning under normal operating conditions during the period it was required, allowing for the levels of normal DNO system availability.

It was also noted that National Grid would need to be informed of the following:

1. whether the Demand Transfer would be automatic or manual,
2. what the transfer involved (i.e. moving demand or switching in interconnection),
3. where specific demand was transferred,
4. whether the demand transfer formed part of a sequence of transfers,
5. and any circumstances that precluded its use.

The Working Group agreed that the initial, high level Demand Transfer data currently provided as part of the Standard Planning Data would be sufficient albeit with minor modifications to reflect the above. However, if National Grid had queries with the data provided, it would be possible for National Grid, upon written request, to ask for further information through the Detailed Planning Data. If, after the Detailed Planning Data had been submitted, National Grid still had queries, a review meeting would be arranged between the DNO and National Grid to discuss the matter and agree on what additional data would be required. It was agreed that this data would remain a discretionary area of data submitted; that a DNO could choose not to declare any demand transfer over which it had some uncertainty regarding the validity of that transfer being used to off-set SGT capacity for planning purposes.

The issue of the levels of security required to the site(s) to which demand was transferred was discussed. This the Working Group agreed highlighted the need for a common understanding over the definition of demand groups and the application of the concept of demand groups in both demand security assessment and data provision for that assessment.

5) Actions

National Grid to provide more detailed proposals for the Maintenance Period Demand and Demand Transfer Capacity changes.

Issues regarding Data Exchange and Interconnected Networks are also to be discussed at the next meeting.

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National Grid to provide draft versions of supplementary documentation.

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6) Next Meeting

Monday, 16th January 2006 at National Grid House, Warwick. The meeting will commence at 10:30am.

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Appendix 1 – Working Group Attendance

Members Present:

Mark Duffield	MD	Chairman
Lilian Macleod	LM	Secretary
Ben Marshall	BM	National Grid
Brian Roberts	BR	National Grid
Martin Banton	MB	National Grid
Chandra Trikha	CT	SSE
Dave Carson	DC	Scottish Power
Ian Gray	IG	EDF Networks
Peter Twomey	PT	United Utilities
Gary Loudon	GL	United Utilities
Phil Mann	PM	Western Power Distributions
Alan Creighton	AC	YEDL
Dave Harrison	DH	Central Networks
Bridget Morgan	BM	Ofgem