

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

Meeting 1 – Friday 16th September 2005

Summary

This meeting was the first 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 or eliminating those that are caused by:

- The varying definitions of Small, Medium and Large Power Stations in Scotland and England & Wales;
- The varying threshold for the submission of demand PNs in Scotland and England & Wales.

The group also agreed that it would examine those instances of hard-coded thresholds within the Grid Code – e.g. the 30MW threshold below which certain classes of generators are exempted from complying with the Connection Conditions.

The meeting primarily focussed on the areas that would need to be examined in order to identify where changes were required. Actions were then placed upon each of National Grid and the Scottish TOs to examine the relevant areas and to report back to the Review Group at its next meeting on 1st November 2005.

Areas for Consideration:

- Technical/Operational reasons for the current thresholds
- Differences (if any) in the Operational treatment of Large and Medium Power Stations
- Interactions with CAP097 and LEEMPS
- Should any changes be applied retrospectively?
- Impact on Planning and the GB Queue
- Costs to Generators of compliance

Methods of Analysing

- Creation of Scenarios for evaluation
 - Harmonise England & Wales definitions across GB
 - Harmonise just across Scottish TO areas
 - Whether any changes are required to England & Wales definitions
 - Elimination of Medium Power Stations in Scotland

Scenarios to be examined:

Scenario 1: Harmonise GB at existing England & Wales thresholds

Scenario 2: Harmonise Scotland at existing SHETL thresholds

Scenario 3: Harmonise Scotland at existing SPT thresholds

Scenario 4a: Harmonise Scotland at Small < 30MW, Large ≥ 30MW

Scenario 4b: As scenario 4a but consideration if Medium band can be incorporated above 30MW.

Scenario 5a: Harmonise Scotland at Small < 50MW, Large ≥ 50MW

Scenario 5b: As scenario 5a but consideration if Medium band can be incorporated above 50MW.

Actions

- In relation to the seven scenarios 1 – 5b, all Transmission Network Operators to:
 - Examine the historical reasons behind the thresholds in their own particular Transmission Area and their current relevance
 - Examine the Small, Medium and Large Power Station thresholds that would allow Transmission Licence compliance in **planning** timescales (both now and in the future) and appropriate justification behind these needs
 - Examine the Small, Medium and Large Power Station thresholds that would allow Transmission Licence compliance in **operational** timescales (both now and in the future) and appropriate justification behind these needs
 - Examine the Small, Medium and Large Power Station thresholds and their relevance to the provision of data to the Transmission Network Operator under the Grid Code.
 - Examine the impact of the Small, Medium and Large Power Station thresholds upon other Grid Code compliance issues.
 - Identify the numbers of generators that would be affected by any change to the definitions – split between those that already exist and those that are planned
 - Highlight any potential impact upon other Codes of a change to the definitions

- National Grid (alongside the above actions)
 - Examine the impact of any change upon the LEEMPS proposals
 - Examine the impact of any change upon the CAP097 proposals
 - Identify the historic reasons behind the thresholds for submission of Demand PNs under BC1.4.2 (a)
 - Identify the appropriate threshold for the submission of Demand PNs with justification

- Generators to examine
 - The key needs/obligations of generators in relation to the definitions of Small Medium and Large
 - Costs to generators of obligations