

Grid Code Working Group: Intermittent Generation Data

Meeting Name	BM Unit Data from Intermittent Generation
Meeting No.	1
Date of Meeting	11 th May 2009
Time	10:00am – 13.00pm
Venue	Becca Conference Room, St Catherine's Lodge, Wokingham

This note outlines the key points from the 1st meeting of the Grid Code Working Group on BM Unit data from Intermittent Generation.

Members Present:

Brian Taylor	BT	Chairman (National Grid)
Thomas Coleman	TC	Technical Secretary (National Grid)
Bridget Morgan	BM	OFGEM
Campbell McDonald	CMD	Scottish and Southern
Christopher Proudfoot	CP	Centrica
Claire Maxim	CM	Eon
Ivan Kileff	IK	National Grid
John Norbury	JN	RWE

Apologies:

None

1. Introductions and Apologies

1. There was a full attendance, therefore no apologies.

2. Draft Notes and Actions of the Meeting

2. Due to this being the first meeting, no information regarding the confirmation of previous minutes is available. The draft notes of the meeting held on Monday 11th May 2009, once agreed, will be published on the National Grid website.

Action: TC

3. Minutes

3. Some members of the panel felt that the operational problems being experienced by NGET due to the difficulties with predicting the output from intermittent generation have not been fully explained by NGET. NGET requires accurate Balancing Mechanism Unit (BMU) data to operate the Balancing Mechanism (BM) and manage transmission constraints economically and efficiently. The System Operator has experienced difficulties in managing parts of the system with high levels of wind generation and instances are expected to increase as the capacity of intermittent generation increases. NGET will provide more detailed information on the effects of intermittency on operating the system at the next meeting. The current obligations to provide BM data were designed around generators with predictable outputs. The Working Group will review these obligations to determine where modifications would better facilitate data from intermittent generation. Procedures also require modifications to include consideration of technical limitations

Action NGET

4. The Group will focus on the technical feasibility of changes. The commercial impact of any changes would have to also be considered by the BSC
5. PN data for demand BMUs is currently submitted to NGET. This inherently includes the output from embedded generation including intermittent generation. Members of the Panel felt that PN data from demand side BMUs should be included in the Terms of Reference, in particular how the data is utilised to operate the system. NGET will provide further information on the utilisation at the next meeting

Action: NGET

6. The meeting discussed the assumptions made by Generators in providing OC2 data and NGET utilising the data. It was recognised that there may be some discrepancies and there may be a need to provide additional data to improve clarity. The Terms of Reference will be extended to include output useable data provide under OC2. NGET will provide feedback to the Group on use of PN data from wind turbines.

Action NGET

7. Due to the uncertainty of the fuel source, NGET recognise that it is difficult to predict with high accuracy, intermittent generator output ahead of real time. Nevertheless, Generators are spending significant time and money on developing techniques for predicting output using wind forecast data. The Group discussed at a high level how the existing BM requirements could be changed to make best use of this information, e.g. use of persistency forecasting after gate closure. As MEL could be changed within Gate, its use as an indication of changes to the IPN post gate closure was discussed. This identified variations in the interpretation of the definition of MEL for intermitted generation. Is it the maximum output for the prevailing wind conditions or the maximum output possible based on turbine availability? It was agreed that the Group would develop proposals for the provision of IPNs and FPNs for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: All

8. A member of the Group asked if Power Park Availability Matrices were being submitted by Generators. NGET acknowledged that these were not being submitted on a regular basis. The main purpose of the matrix is to inform NGET which particular Power park Units are expected to be in service so that any differences in technical characteristics can be taken into consideration. The utilisation of the matrix will be covered by the Working Group as part of the review of data provided under BC1

9. Actions above required by the next meeting, 2nd July 2009.

4. Date of Next Meeting

10. 10:30 – 14:30 Thursday 2nd July 2009, National Grid ENCC, St Catherine's Lodge, Wokingham.

5. Any Other Business

11. None