

Summary of Meeting and Actions

Meeting Name	E3C Small Embedded Generation Frequency Obligations Working Group
Meeting No.	4
Date of Meeting	Thursday 4 th June 2009
Time	9:45am – 1:30pm
Venue	Conference Room 9, National Grid House, Warwick

This note outlines the key action points from the fourth meeting of the E3C Small Embedded Generation Frequency Obligations Working Group.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Keith Hodson (CN), Claire Maxim (E.ON UK), Barbara Vest (AEP) and Bridget Morgan (Ofgem).

Ham Hamzah (RWE) joined by conference call.

2) Previous Meetings

The minutes for meeting 3, held on the 24th April 2009, were reviewed and approved by the Working Group.

3) Progress Against Actions and Working Group Discussions

The group discussions in meeting 4 revealed that there was a lack of communication between the DNO and the NGET in terms of frequency settings of their connected plant and the generation data for System Operational Planning.

In order to facilitate the efficient running of the system it became apparent that it would be useful to understand whether different plants were operating at different frequency settings. The group acknowledged that some plants are set to the G59/1 recommended levels but some are set at more sensitive settings. This phenomenon was reflected at the recent 27 May 2008 incident. The more sensitive settings could be the result of genuine technical capability of plant or the historic perception of the plant capability.

In addition to this, the group believes that larger generating plant may be more robust than their smaller counterpart. The uncertainties of plant settings makes it difficult for the GBSO to manage the system to maintain the standard of security and quality of supply and meet the economic purchase obligations.

William Hung talked through the presentation which was presented to the manufactures on the 28 May 2009. He reported that Dan Randles was also there to present the background to the proposed Distribution Code and G59/1 changes. The recommended settings are generally in line with those in the Grid Code. From the discussions and presentations given by each of the manufacturers and consultants, there was a general consensus that there are no major issues with the proposed settings. Their subsequent completed feedback forms (ie frequency operating range capability of their different plant types) confirmed this position. He thanks AEP members' support on this investigation.

The group agreed that there were different interpretations of the G59 setting and concluded it would be beneficial for improving clarity of protection setting requirements. It was identified that the group needed to distinguish the difference between protection setting and performance setting. Mark Perry is to summarise the difference between the two items

[Action MP]

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From the recent GCRP High Frequency Risk investigation with DNOs, it was confirmed that the volume of generation outside the scope of the Grid Code is over 6GW. With the current recommended setting of 50.5 Hz, any momentarily high frequency events reaching 50.5 Hz could result in the significant loss of embedded generation. The loss of half of this volume would be sufficient to cause a rapid system frequency fall leading to automatic demand disconnection.

Given the above concern, the paper presented at the last GCRP meeting on 21/5/09 recommended further data clarifications from DNOs to establish the volume of embedded generation in the 5MW and above (with Technology specified), 1 to below 5 MW and below 1 MW categories. This information will allow NGET to assess if the risk could be reduced to a manageable level by changing settings on and above certain size plant. Requests were sent to DNOs on this basis.

Alan Creighton suggested the data is better to be submitted in a consistent format to make the process more efficient. It was agreed at the meeting that Alan's format will be adopted and William will forward this to DNO companies for data collection.

[Action WH]

6) Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group would be provisionally scheduled for 9th July 2009.

The provisional dates for the Working Group meetings are:

- 3rd September 2009
- 19th October 2009

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Appendix 1 – Working Group Attendance

Members Present:

Mark Perry	MP	Working Group Chairperson
William Hung	WH	National Grid
Raj Nagarajan	RN	National Grid
Kabir Ali	KA	National Grid
Alan Creighton	AC	CE Electric UK
Hamish Dallachy	HD	Scottish Power
Dan Randles	DR	Electricity North West
Paul Newton	PN	E.ON
Andy Hood	AH	Western Power Networks
Ham Hamzah (by phone)	HH	RWE

Apologies:

Keith Hodson	KH	Central Networks
Claire Maxim	CM	E.ON UK
Barbara Vest	BV	AEP
Bridget Morgan	BM	Ofgem