

## Document Ref: STCP 8-3 Operational tests and System Tests

### STCP Procedure Document Authorisation

Company	Name of Representative	Signed off (date)
NGT		
SP		
SSE		

### STC Procedure Change Control History

Issue 1            16/3/5

### Outstanding issues to be resolved pre company sign-off

### Outstanding issues to be resolved post company sign-off

1. Dispute resolution process – further details if needed

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Scope

1.1.1 This procedure applies to the arrangements and processes across the NGC-TO interface for System Tests or operational tests including Black Start Tests and Power Island tests. This procedure does not include tests associated with commissioning activities, which are the subject of STCP 19-4 Commissioning and Decommissioning.

1.1.2 System Tests or operational tests may involve single items of Plant and Apparatus through to whole sections of the GB Transmission System.

1.1.3 System Tests or operational tests may be proposed by NGC or the TO.

1.1.4 This procedure describes the data exchange requirements between NGC and the TOs to facilitate planning and implementation of System Tests or operational tests.

1.1.5 This procedure applies to NGC and each TO where, for the purpose of this document, the TOs are:

- SPT; and
- SHETL.

### 1.2 Objectives

1.2.1 This procedure specifies the following:

- the responsibilities of NGC and the TO in relation to Tests, including Black Start and Power Island tests;
- the requirements for exchange of information across the NGC -TO interface in relation to these Tests; and
- the means of communication to be used across the NGC -TO interface.

1.2.2 This procedure is designed to enable the Parties to discharge their responsibilities under the STC and to ensure that responsibilities are clear.

## 2 Key Definitions

### 2.1 For the purposes of STCP 8-3:

2.1.1 **Tests Proposer** means the Party proposing Tests.

2.1.2 **Tests Proposal** means an outline provided in writing of the actions proposed to be carried out as part of Tests involving Plant and Apparatus forming part of the Transmission System.

## 3 Process

### 3.1 General

3.1.1 All Tests shall be planned to ensure all Plant and Apparatus remains within the applicable capability limits specified by the asset owner and carried out such that there is minimal impact on the GB Transmission System. All Outage requests for Tests shall be progressed in accordance with STCP 11-1 Outage Planning.

3.1.2 Black Start Tests may involve synchronisation of generation to the GB Transmission System or connection of Demand remote from the Black Start Station.

3.1.3 Operation of some Plant and Apparatus may be temporarily transferred to the TO by formal agreement between NGC and the TO as part of the Tests programme.

3.1.4 NGC shall be responsible for obtaining the agreement with a User for Tests to proceed. If NGC gives permission for the TO to act as the point of contact, the TO shall contact and advise the User that the TO has become the point of contact and that Tests shall commence shortly.

3.1.5 The category of Tests (either minor or major) shall be agreed by the Parties involved as part of operational liaison. Major Tests are those considered sufficiently complex by a party to require a detailed Tests programme to be submitted in accordance with Section 3 below. Tests categorised as minor shall not require a detailed Tests programme to be submitted. Tests may include switching Plant out of service using Protection Apparatus.

## **3.2 Tests Procedure Preparation**

### **Tests Proposal**

3.2.1 If the Tests Proposer is a TO, then the following provisions shall apply:

3.2.1.1 The TO shall be responsible for providing the Tests Proposal to NGC in accordance with this procedure.

3.2.1.2 The TO shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, submit a Tests Proposal to NGC. Where practicable, this Tests Proposal shall be submitted to NGC a minimum of 13 weeks prior to the date of the Tests. The TO shall endeavour to ensure sufficient detail is included in the Tests Proposal to allow the affected parties to assess the impact of the Tests on the GB Transmission System and User Systems.

3.2.1.3 The TO shall be responsible for change control of the Tests Proposal and shall issue a revised Tests Proposal to NGC, as soon as reasonably practicable. NGC shall be responsible for liaising with an affected User or affected TO accordingly.

3.2.1.4 NGC shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, provide to each affected User or other affected TO a copy of the Tests Proposal and all updates thereof.

3.2.1.5 NGC and the TO shall assess the implications and agree the category of the Tests as soon as reasonably practicable. NGC shall liaise with each affected User and/or affected TO and seek their agreement to the Tests Proposal and collate and co-ordinate their responses to the TO.

3.2.1.6 If the Tests Proposal is not acceptable to NGC, an affected User or affected TO, NGC shall refuse the Tests Proposal and shall immediately inform the TO. That TO may choose to revise and re-submit the Tests Proposal in accordance with this procedure or raise a dispute.

3.2.2 If the Tests Proposer is NGC, then the following provisions shall apply:

3.2.2.1 NGC shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, submit a Tests Proposal to each affected TO and/ or affected User in accordance with this procedure. Where practicable, this Tests Proposal shall be submitted to the TO a minimum of 13 weeks prior to the date of the Tests. NGC shall endeavour to ensure sufficient detail is included in the Tests Proposal to allow the parties to assess the impact of the Tests Proposal on the TO assets and User Systems.

3.2.2.2 NGC shall be responsible for change control of the Tests Proposal and shall issue to each affected TO and/or affected User, as soon as reasonably practicable, a copy of the Tests Proposal and all updates thereof. NGC shall be responsible for liaising with each affected User or affected TO.

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3.2.2.3 NGC and each affected TO shall assess the implications and agree the category of the Tests as soon as reasonably practicable. NGC shall liaise with each affected User and/or affected TO and seek their agreement to the Tests Proposal.

3.2.2.4 If the Tests Proposal is not acceptable to an affected User or affected TO, NGC may choose to revise and re-submit the Tests Proposal to each affected TO and/or affected User in accordance with this procedure or raise a dispute.

### **Detailed Tests Programme**

3.2.3 If the Tests Proposer is a TO, then the following provisions shall apply:

3.2.3.1 As soon as practical after agreement to the Tests Proposal, the TO shall provide an Outage request to NGC detailing the Plant and Apparatus involved in accordance with STCP 11-1 Outage Planning and STCP 11-2 Outage Data Exchange.

3.2.3.2 The TO will provide, as soon as reasonably practicable, a draft Tests programme, taking account of any asset related issues, to a level of detail including, but not limited to, the content shown in Appendix A.

3.2.3.3 The TO shall be responsible for change control of the draft Tests programme and shall issue, as soon as reasonably practicable, revised draft Tests programmes, where appropriate, to NGC. NGC shall be responsible for liaising with the TO, any affected User and/or affected TO.

3.2.3.4 NGC shall provide to each affected User and/or affected TO a copy of the Tests Proposal and all updates thereof.

3.2.3.5 NGC shall liaise on the implications of the Tests programme with each affected User and/or affected TO and seek their agreement to the Tests programme. NGC shall collate and co-ordinate the responses to the TO.

3.2.3.6 NGC and the TO shall each assess the implications on the Tests programme:

- NGC shall assess the GB Transmission System implications;
- the TO shall assess the implications of the Tests programme on that TO assets and advise NGC of any asset related issues;
- NGC and the TO shall agree any changes required to the Tests programme; and
- NGC will liaise with each affected User and/or affected TO to confirm their agreement to the Tests programme changes.

3.2.3.7 When all issues raised have been addressed to the reasonable satisfaction of all parties and the draft Tests programme agreed by all parties, the agreed Tests programme shall be issued by the TO to NGC. This shall normally be at least 15 working days prior to the commencement date of Tests unless otherwise agreed.

3.2.3.8 NGC shall provide as soon as reasonably practicable to each affected User and/or affected TO a copy of the agreed Tests programme and all updates thereof.

3.2.3.9 In the event that NGC is informed that a party has identified a need for essential changes to the agreed Tests programme, NGC shall inform the relevant TO as soon as reasonably practicable. That TO shall be responsible for change control and, as soon as reasonably practicable, issue an amended Tests programme to NGC. Any essential changes made must be agreed and acknowledged by NGC. NGC shall be responsible for liaising with each affected User and/or affected TO to obtain their agreement to the Tests programme changes.

3.2.3.10 In the event that there is a dispute regarding the acceptability or otherwise of a Tests programme or associated Outage the Tests shall not take place until the dispute has been resolved.

3.2.4 If the Tests Proposer is NGC, then the following provisions shall apply:

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3.2.4.1 On agreement of the Tests Proposal, NGC shall agree an Outage request with each affected TO for the Plant and Apparatus involved in the Tests. Each TO shall then submit any required Outage requests as soon as practicable, and in accordance STCP 11-1 Outage Planning and STCP 11-2 Outage Data Exchange.

3.2.4.2 NGC will provide to each affected TO, as soon as reasonably practicable, a draft Tests programme to a level of detail, including but not limited to the content shown in Appendix A.

3.2.4.3 NGC shall be responsible for change control of the draft Tests programme and shall provide to each affected TO and each affected User, as soon as reasonably practicable, a copy of the Tests programme and all updates thereof.

3.2.4.4 NGC shall liaise on the implications of the Tests programme with each affected User and/or affected TO and seek their agreement to the Tests programme.

3.2.4.5 NGC and each affected TO shall assess the implications of the Tests programme. NGC shall assess the GB Transmission System implications and convey the implications to all affected parties. Each TO shall assess the implications of the Tests programme on that TO's assets and advise NGC of any asset-related issues. NGC and the TO shall agree any changes required to the Tests programme. NGC will liaise with each affected User and/or affected TO and confirm their agreement to the Tests programme changes.

3.2.4.6 When all issues raised have been addressed to the reasonable satisfaction of all parties, and the draft Tests programme agreed by all parties, the agreed Tests programme shall be issued by NGC to each affected TO and/or affected User. This shall normally be at least 15 working days prior to the commencement date of Tests, unless otherwise agreed.

3.2.4.7 In the event that NGC is informed that a party has identified a need for essential changes to the agreed Tests programme, NGC shall be responsible for change control and issue of the amended Tests programme. Any essential changes made must be agreed and acknowledged by NGC and each affected TO, as soon as reasonably practicable. NGC shall be responsible for liaising with each affected User and/or affected TO to obtain their agreement to the Tests programme changes.

3.2.4.8 In the event that there is a dispute regarding the acceptability or otherwise of a Tests programme or associated Outage the Tests shall not take place until the dispute has been resolved.

### **Planning Process Associated with Tests Requirements**

3.2.5 If the Tests Proposer is a TO, then the following provisions shall apply:

3.2.5.1 Plant or Apparatus switched out of service by operation of Protection Apparatus in preparation for maintenance work shall be treated as an Outage request under STCP 11-1 Outage Planning. The Outage booking shall include the comment 'Switch out by protection'.

3.2.5.2 NGC shall assess the GB Transmission System implications of the Tests (including the proposed time, date and extent of the Tests Proposal) and convey the implications to all affected parties. NGC shall liaise with and co-ordinate the responses to the TO from each affected User and affected TO. The TO shall assess the asset implications of the Tests and both the TO and NGC shall agree the acceptability or otherwise of the Tests as part of normal operational liaison.

3.2.5.3 NGC and each affected TO shall use reasonable endeavours to ensure that sufficient information is exchanged and facilities are provided where reasonably requested in order to support the planning and implementation of the Tests, and ensure that System conditions for the period of the Tests can be sufficiently modelled and monitored. NGC shall be responsible for obtaining information reasonably requested by the TO from a User.

3.2.5.4 Prior to commencement of the Tests, the viability of the Tests' requirements shall be regularly reviewed by NGC and the TO and the Tests may be subject to a delay at any time. Parties shall each use reasonable endeavours to ensure that any such delay is kept to a minimum. Where Tests are delayed the process to agree alternative Tests arrangements shall follow the process outlined in this procedure. NGC shall be responsible for keeping the TO informed of any delays associated with or advised by other parties.

3.2.5.5 The TO shall confirm the asset Operational Capability Limits and notify NGC of any Services Reduction Risks on assets associated with the proposed Tests.

3.2.6 If the Tests Proposer is NGC, then the following provisions shall apply:

3.2.6.1 NGC shall assess the GB Transmission System implications of the Tests (including the proposed time, date and extent of the Tests) and convey the implications to all affected parties. NGC shall liaise with and co-ordinate the response from each affected User and affected TO. Each affected TO shall assess the asset implications of the Tests and both the TO and NGC shall agree the acceptability or otherwise of the Tests as part of normal operational liaison.

3.2.6.2 NGC, and each affected TO shall use reasonable endeavours to ensure sufficient information is exchanged and facilities are provided, where reasonably requested, in order to support the planning and implementation of the Tests and to ensure that System conditions for the period of the Tests can be sufficiently modelled and monitored. NGC shall be responsible for obtaining information reasonably requested by the TO from a User.

3.2.6.3 Prior to commencement of the Tests, the viability of the Tests' requirements shall be regularly reviewed by NGC and the TO. This may result in Tests being delayed. Parties shall each use reasonable endeavours to ensure that any such delay is kept to a minimum. Where Tests are delayed the process to agree an alternative Tests programme must follow the process outlined in this procedure. NGC shall be responsible for keeping the TO informed of any delays associated with other parties.

The TO shall confirm the asset Operational Capability Limits and notify NGC of any Services Reduction Risks on assets associated with the proposed Tests.

### **3.3 Operational Process**

3.3.1 NGC shall be responsible for operational liaison and obtaining agreement from an affected User or affected TO for Tests to proceed:

3.3.1.1 Information exchange with the TO shall take place in accordance with the requirements of STCP 11-1 Outage Planning.

3.3.1.2 NGC shall inform a User whenever operation is to be transferred to the TO as part of a Tests programme.

3.3.2 NGC shall co-ordinate the Tests. Where operation of Plant and Apparatus is transferred to the TO as part of the agreed Tests programme NGC shall inform each affected User and/or each affected TO prior to the transfer of operation.

3.3.3 In the Control Phase the Tests shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of STCP 1-1 Operational Switching and the Tests programme. NGC shall inform each affected User and/ or each affected TO at the start of Tests.

3.3.4 When Tests have commenced, any change in System, site or Test conditions that could affect or invalidate the Tests or have an Operational Effect must be communicated to other parties as soon as reasonably practicable. The Tests shall be suspended until all parties involved have assessed the implications of the change in System, site or Tests conditions. Where operation of Plant and Apparatus had been transferred to the TO this shall be transferred back to NGC. NGC shall co-ordinate any communications with each affected User or affected TO on agreement

reached to complete, delay or cancel the Tests programme and inform of the transfer of operation of Plant and Apparatus back to NGC.

3.3.5 Tests may be suspended or cancelled by any party during periods of predicted or actual local adverse weather conditions. The TO shall be made aware by NGC, as soon as reasonably practicable, of requests by an affected User or affected TO for suspension or cancellation of Tests.

3.3.6 In the event of a failure of communications between the TO and NGC or the Tests site during Tests then the Tests programme shall be suspended on completion of the agreed instruction until satisfactory communications are restored and agreement is reached to continue with the Tests programme.

3.3.7 When Tests are complete or operation of Plant and Apparatus is transferred back to NGC due to a suspension or cancellation of Tests NGC shall inform any affected User or affected TO, as soon as reasonably practicable.

## **4 Other Considerations**

4.1.1 Tests shall normally only be carried out by NGC or a TO on Plant and Apparatus in operational service when the results of off-load Tests would not be sufficiently rigorous in the reasonable opinion of either Party to confirm the continued satisfactory performance of the Plant or Apparatus involved.

4.1.2 NGC and the relevant TO shall give consideration to relevant existing operating restrictions or notified Services Reductions or Services Reduction Risks when evaluating a Tests Proposal or Tests programme.

4.1.3 No Tests shall take place that could result in operation of an Operational Intertripping scheme unless this is the stated purpose of the Tests and agreement has been reached with all affected parties.

4.1.4 Where testing of an Operational Intertripping scheme is not the stated purpose of testing then no Tests shall take place involving a circuit associated with an Operational Intertripping scheme unless the Operational Intertripping scheme is not required in service in the opinion of NGC for the duration of the Tests. The Scheme must be deselected from service by a means agreed with all affected parties.

## **5 Disputes**

5.1.1 In the event that there is a dispute regarding the acceptability or otherwise of a Tests proposal or associated Outage the Tests shall not take place until the dispute has been resolved.

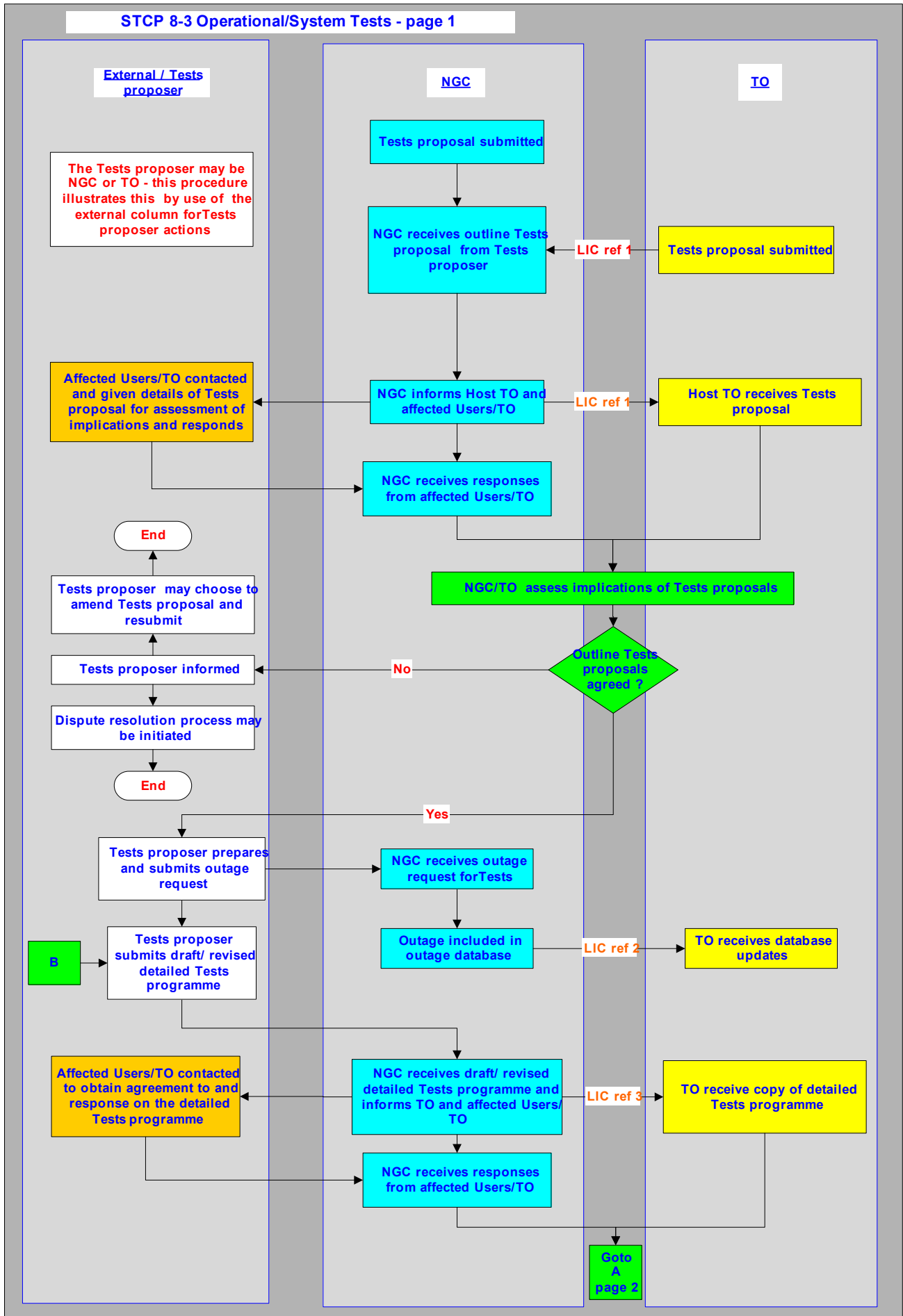
5.1.2 Any affected party may initiate the dispute process in the event that an agreement cannot be reached.

## **Appendix A: Tests Programme**

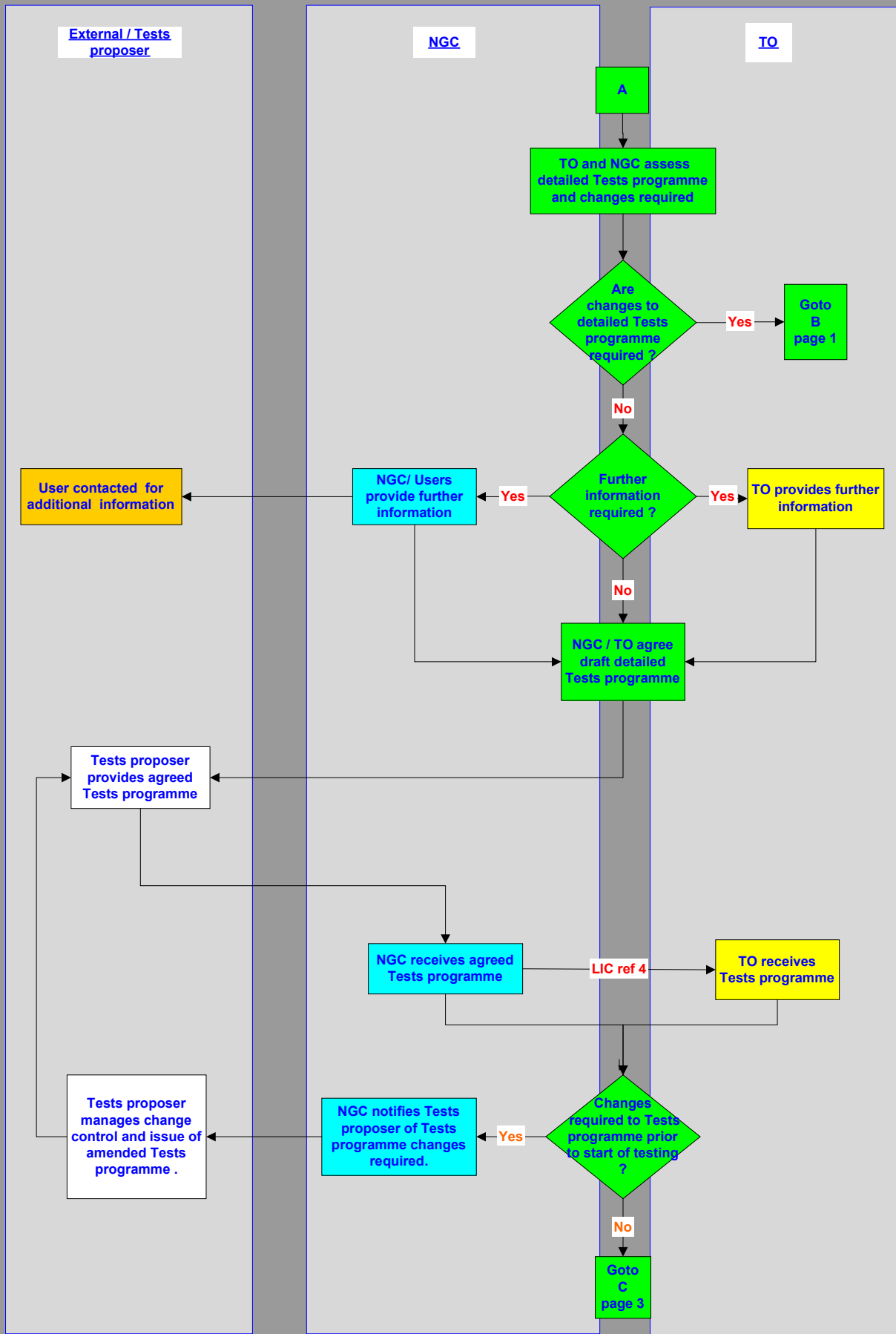
- A1 A detailed Tests programme for major testing shall:
- A.1.1 have a unique identifier allocated by the Tests Proposer and indicate the current version and issue number;
  - A.1.2 define the means of communication and location of all parties involved in the Tests;
  - A.1.3 follow an agreed change control process for changes to the Tests programme;
  - A.1.4 specify any associated documentation and diagrams forming part of the Tests programme and ensure these shall be accessible to all recipients of the Tests programme;
  - A.1.5 identify the Plant and Apparatus subject to the Tests and any other Plant and Apparatus that could be affected;
  - A.1.6 identify any Operational Effects or potential Operational Effects associated with the Tests;
  - A.1.7 identify any Services Reductions or Services Reduction Risks associated with the Tests;
  - A.1.8 outline the initial conditions of the Plant and Apparatus subject to the Tests;
  - A.1.9 detail any temporary protection settings or Protection Apparatus required for the purposes of the Tests together with the settings applied; and,
  - A.1.10 provide a detailed Tests schedule with location, action, any expected result and/or Operational Effect identified for each item of the Tests programme.
- A2 For complex Tests breakpoints should be identified where the Tests programme can be suspended and restarted without undue risk and with minimum disruption.

## **Appendix B: Flow Diagrams**

Note that the Process Diagrams shown in this Appendix B are for information only. In the event of any contradiction between the process represented in this Appendix and the process described elsewhere in this STCP, then the text elsewhere in this STCP shall prevail.



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## Appendix C – Definitions & Abbreviations

### C.1 Abbreviations

NGC	National Grid Company
SHETL	Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Ltd
SPT	Scottish Power Transmission
STC	System Operator –Transmission Owner Code
STCP	System Operator –Transmission Owner Code Procedure
TO	Transmission Owner

### C.2 Terms defined in the STC:

Apparatus  
Black Start  
GB Transmission System  
Islanding  
Operational Effect  
Outage Plan  
Plant  
Services Reduction  
Services Reduction Risk  
System  
Tests  
User

### C.3 Terms defined in the Grid Code:

Demand  
Black Start Tests  
Black Start Stations  
Operational Effect  
Operational Intertripping  
Protection Apparatus  
System Tests

### C.4 Terms defined in other STCPs

NGC Outage Database