

STC Safety Standing Group

Draft Terms of Reference – version 2, based upon NGET and SPT drafts

INTRODUCTION

1. The STC Committee at its meeting on *[insert date]* agreed to the creation of a safety sub-committee – the STC Safety Standing Group (the SSG). The SSG is set up to further the relevant safety obligations imposed on the parties through the STC. This paper sets out the agreed terms of reference for the SSG.

BACKGROUND

2. The parties all operate under various statutory and licence obligations in safety. In particular, the licence provides that one of the objectives of the STC is the:
“protection of the security and quality of supply and safe operation of the GB transmission system insofar as it relates to interactions between transmission licensees”
In accordance with this objective, certain provisions of the STC mutually bind the parties in respect of the safe operation of the GB Transmission System.

In particular, the STC places reciprocal obligations on the parties to comply with the following sections of the Grid Code:

- OC7.6 Operation Switching
- Any Local Switching Procedure agreed pursuant to that section
- Operating Code No 8, Appendix 2 (OC8B)
- Appendix 1 of the Connection Conditions

Although the TOs are not party to the CUSC, and not thereby contractually bound into the Grid Code via the CUSC, the STC obliges the TOs to comply with these sections of the Grid Code.

The STC gives assurance to the TOs both that:

- NGC shall abide by the these same sections of the Grid Code, and
- that NGC shall procure Users shall comply with these sections of the Grid Code.

It should also be noted that safety co-ordination in England and Wales between NGC and Users is governed by the similar, but subtly different code OC8A.

3. These sections of the Grid Code facilitate the safe operation of the GB Transmission System through providing a basis for:
 - Operational Switching, and
 - Safety Co-ordination

OBJECTIVES

4. The objectives of the SSG would therefore be:
- To provide a forum to share best practice and current thinking in relation to the operational safety and safety co-ordination matters contemplated by the above sections of the Grid Code, and the relevant sections of the STC below.
 - To keep the above sections of the Grid Code under review to facilitate joint working arrangements between NGET and the STC Committee [*Grid Code GC4.6*]
 - Subject to any overriding Licence or statutory obligations on the parties, it is envisaged that the parties should always endeavour to discuss any proposals for amendments to these above sections of the Grid Code before any party submits them for consideration by the Grid Code Review Panel
 - To minimise any divergence between OC8A and OC8B
 - To keep relevant sections of the STC and STCPs under review, including
 - STC C Part One, 5.4
 - STC G2.2
 - STC D Part Two, 11
 - STCP 1
 - STCP 9-1
 - STCP 9-2
 - and any relevant changes or additions to the STC or STCPs.
 - To make relevant recommendations to the parties

MEMBERSHIP

5. The STC Safety Standing Group (SSG) shall comprise at least three members plus a secretary. One member from:

National Grid Electricity Transmission Ltd (NGET)
Scottish Hydro-Electric Transmission Ltd (SHETL)
SP Transmission Ltd (SPT)

Parties may provide additional representation to meetings as they deem necessary. The chairman shall be provided by each party in turn, rotating annually and shall nominate a secretary from his party.

Choices here...pick one (or two, I am not fussy!)

- (a) The chairman shall be an STC Committee member
- (b) The chairman of the SSG shall ensure that a member of the SSG is available to attend every STC Committee meeting at which the SSG provides a report to the STC Committee, and at every STC Committee meeting for which the STC requires a report from the SSG.
- (c) Or some variant thereof – we are agreed we need linkage.

The initial chairman of the SSG shall be [step forward ..], and shall [More details about who to be initial chairman and rotation ..] *choices annual from now on, to change with STC chair, to be same party as STC chair ...*

MEETINGS

6. The SSG shall, unless determined otherwise by the STC Committee, schedule meetings at its own discretion. However, it is initially suggested that meetings be held [monthly | bi-monthly], no less that 12 Business Days before an STC Committee meeting.

RELATIONSHIP WITH STC COMMITTEE

7. The SSG shall provide a [short written | verbal] report to the STC Committee following every meeting of the SSG, and at least [monthly | bi-monthly]. The chairman of the SSG shall ensure that a member of the SSG is available at such meetings of the STC Committee to present the report on behalf of all the SSG members.
8. The report to the STC should include as appropriate:
 - an outline of the work carried out by the SSG
 - proposals and recommendations to the STC Committee
 - broad details of the SSG's proposed work programme