

EBS update – New go-live date of July 2016

National Grid is circulating this note to advise the industry that the Go-Live of the Electricity Balancing System (replacement for the existing Balancing Mechanism System) has had to be delayed to July 2016.

The EBS project has been experiencing significant delay due a small number of complex reasons. The main reasons being associated with i) completing the testing of the code that enables energy balancing despatch to be combined with margin assessment and network constraint management, this has proved more complex to develop than initially assumed by the Supplier; and ii) difficulties in testing some of the complex operating protocols and practices associated with interconnectors and pumped storage. As a result the release of the code from the factory has been more protracted than expected.

In September 2014, 3rd party company Capita were requested to undertake an assurance review of the testing methodology for the remaining testing in the factory by the Supplier and for testing that is due to be carried out by National Grid once code is delivered to site. In light of their recommendations, changes have been made to the testing approach by both the Supplier and National Grid and a re-plan of the whole testing programme to Go-Live has been undertaken. As a result the Go-live date has been revised to July 2016. This new date includes two month of contingency to cover for further unforeseen difficulties.

Impact to Market Participants

In terms of readiness of Market Participants for EBS, we planned to do i) initial EDL/EDT type test; ii) EDL/EDT circuit connectivity; iii) further testing including non-functional tests and end-to-end test to Exelon and interconnectors; and iv) formal certification of supplier system against EBS.

Thus far, Market Participants and National Grid have completed the initial type tests and the EDL circuit connectivity test.

The Market Participants will have the opportunity to carry out EDT circuit connectivity test from March 2015 when the network and infrastructure is available from National Grid. To this extent, we'll need confirmation from the Market Participants that the firewalls changes have been completed.

Along 2015 we expect to perform the Optional and Non-functional tests for EDL and EDT, the End-to-end tests for interconnectors and the BMRA tests with Exelon.

We expect the Certification of participant EDL/EDT systems during Q1 2016 ready for Transition phase.

