

DS3 Programme Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 20/05/2014
Time: 10:00 – 15.35
Venue: Radisson Blu, Belfast.
Chair: Andrew Cooke

Attendees: Sam Alexander, Jo Aston, Keith Buckley, Caitriona Diviney, Joe Duddy, Peter Duffy, Andrew McCorriston, Gerry McTiernan, Declan Meally, Colm O'Conaill, Robert O'Rourke, Gráinne O'Shea, Donal Smith, Peter Thomas

TSO Reps: Robbie Aherne, Michael Burke, David Carroll, Andrew Cooke, Mark Gormley, Michael Kilty, Tom McCartan, Martin McCarthy, Jon O'Sullivan, Eoin Sweeney, Simon Tweed, Aoife Weeks

Apologies: Mervyn Adams, Paul Brandon, Denis Cagney, Brian Carroll, Michael Conlon, Joe Durkan, Peter Harte, Paul Hickey, Tanya Hedley, Carsten Junge, Ian Luney, Rebecca Minch, Mark O'Malley, JuanMa Rodriguez García, Joyce Rutherford, Colin Spain, Bill Stevenson, Pamela Walsh, Brendan Woods

DS3 Programme Update

- Robbie Aherne gave a general status update on the DS3 programme and all 11 workstreams.
- The Operational Capability Outlook document, published and circulated to industry on 10/04/2014 was discussed. In particular the revised timeline outlining the likely changes to the SNSP metric out to 2020 were discussed.
- A request was made from the Council Members that, if possible, the TSOs update the Annual Constraints and Curtailment Report factoring in the updated timelines from this Operational Capability Outlook document.
- It was queried whether the increases in the step graph were indicative or based on modelling studies. The TSOs confirmed that these increases are based on detailed analysis however any increases to SNSP will, to an extent be indicative.
- It was noted that in the Grid Code workstream, Windfarm Distribution Code mods approved in Ireland in 2013 have been brought into force by the DSO.
- It was noted that five DSU JGCRP Working Group meetings have been held since November and that six Grid Code modifications will be discussed at the June GCRP meetings.
- An overview of the internal Operational Policy Review (OPR) committee was provided. The OPR Committee consists of four senior Managers from EirGrid Group Operations. The purpose of the OPR Committee is so that outputs from the DS3 Programme are reviewed by these managers and this helps inform changes to control centre operational policy.
- Any changes to operational policy arising from the OPR Committee will be subject to a review period. During this period the policy will be monitored by RT and NT staff and as required, relevant members of the DS3 Programme will provide input.
- It was noted that a number of operational studies have been or are currently being reviewed by the OPR Committee. These studies include:
 - Nodal Voltage Control
 - Metrics challenging the existing SNSP metric used
 - All Island Minimum Generation Study
 - Over Frequency Generation Shedding
 - Secondary Tripping study
 - High Wind Reports

Action Item

1. TSOs to consider re-run of Annual Constraints and Curtailment report factoring in the revised timelines included in the Operational Capability Outlook document **(TSOs)**

Review of Actions from last meeting

- The actions from the last Advisory Council meeting were discussed and closed off.
- An update on the Minimum Generation Studies will be provided via telco by the TSOs to Council Members following its review at the next OPR Committee meeting.
- The TSOs have published 9 out of 11 workstream plans. Draft copies of the two outstanding workstreams were included in the information pack given to Council members. The TSOs have committed to publishing the Frequency Control and RoCoF workstream plans by 05/06/2014 and have requested feedback from all Council members.
- The TSOs were actioned to provide clarity as to the cause of the large wind forecasting errors seen on the 29th December as seen in the 'Recent High Wind Generation' presentation given at the last Advisory council and whether this was as a result of high wind speed shut down. The TSOs confirmed that forecasting takes into account High Wind Speed Shut Down and that the large wind forecasting errors were due to an early ramp in the wind. The wind levels forecasted were correct but the ramp from very low wind to very high wind was about 2 hours earlier than anticipated.
- The TSOs stated that all counter trading is carried out for either priority dispatch facilitation (avoiding curtailment) or to reduce the costs associated with EWIC being the largest single infeed, thus capacity payments do not affect the decision making on counter trading.

Action Item

2. The TSOs are to set up a Teleconference to provide an update on the Minimum Generation Studies to Council Members following its review at the next OPR Committee. **(TSOs)**
3. All Advisory Council members to provide feedback and comments on the two outstanding workstreams (Frequency Control & RoCoF) by Tuesday 27th May. **(All Members)**

Advisory Council Membership

- A refresh of Membership of the DS3 Advisory Council was discussed. It was suggested that since roles may have changed since the inception of the Advisory Council, a refresh would be beneficial to ensure that the relevant subject matter experts are around the table. It was however noted that continuity of membership is important. This was broadly welcomed.
- It was suggested that representatives from Demand Side Management, National Grid UK and HVDC Interconnection would be beneficial additions to the council.

Action Item

4. TSOs to write to Advisory Council members in order to confirm their membership **(TSOs)**

DS3 Risk Update

- An update on the risks identified at the last Advisory Council was provided by the TSOs.
- Andrew Cooke noted that the four main issues were:
 - RoCoF/RoCoF Alternatives
 - System Services
 - TSO-DSO Engagement
 - Significant system incidents (due to high winds)
- It was suggested that it would be beneficial if a risk workshop were held at the next meeting so that Council members could identify and rate the risks in terms of impact and probability of occurrence.

Action Item

5. The TSOs are to facilitate a Risk Workshop at next Advisory Council **(TSOs)**
6. All members to suggest further risks to the DS3 programme which were not presented on (All Members)

Industry Perspective

Caitriona Diviney (IWEA)

- Caitriona Diviney provided an industry perspective from IWEA.
- It was highlighted that IWEA has significant concerns re the delays to increasing SNSP levels.
- Concerns which were presented and discussed include:
 - System Services
 - RoCoF
 - Operational Policies
 - System Tools and Operation
 - Replacement of SNSP metric
 - Constraint and Curtailment Reports

Discussion

- It was acknowledged that DS3 deliverables are key to meeting 2020 targets.
- Timelines for the changes to SNSP were discussed.
- The publication of the quarterly constraint and curtailment reports was acknowledged to provide useful information on the levels of constraint and curtailment across the island.
- Jo Aston stated that the template for these reports has been approved and there is no need to seek approval every quarter.

Action Item

7. IWEA to circulate presentation slides to Advisory Council members **(IWEA)**
8. IWEA to provide update on wind farm build out rate at next Advisory Council **(IWEA)**

Declan Meally (SEAI)

- Declan Meally provided an industry perspective from SEAI.
- Declan provided a preview to an SEAI report, due to be published in the next week, titled '*Quantifying Ireland's Fuel and CO₂ Emissions Savings from renewable Electricity in 2012*'.
- The study used actual data from 2012 to investigate the 'bottom line' impact of renewables. Items which were investigated included:
 - Displacement impact from other studies
 - Fossil Fuels and CO₂ savings
 - Impact of ramping, reduction in efficiency
 - Impact of Ireland – Northern Ireland trading
- A separate document was briefly introduced by Declan. The purpose of the document is to map the procedure for getting the rollout of Smart Grid initiatives. The document is proposed to be published in the coming weeks.

Action Item

9. TSOs to provide clarity on whether LR or MIP is used in RCUC. **(TSOs)**

ROCOF

- Tom McCartan gave an overview of the RoCoF timeline taking into account the decisions published by the CER and URegNI.
- RoCoF standards used in other countries were discussed. Examples included Spain (2Hz/s) and Denmark (2.5Hz/s). The Tasmania approach to RoCoF, which focuses on an initial maximum RoCoF value, was also discussed.
- Robert O'Rourke of CER gave an overview of the recent RAs decision on the proposed RoCoF modification.
- The next steps which are to be taken by the CER were outlined. These include:
 - Engaging with EirGrid on the plans for alternative solution project and the preliminary stages of the Generator Studies Project
 - Appoint an independent expert
 - Engagement with generators
 - Formal notification of project commencement
 - Continue to liaise with UR on RoCoF implementation.
- Jo Aston gave an overview of the UR RoCoF decision. The reasoning behind the differences in the decision compared to the CER decision was explained.

Discussion:

- GOS raised concern around timelines and alternatives and stated that the solution of 'parking' where by a compatible generating unit is dispatched below its minimum generation for a period of time under certain technical constraints had been suggested to the TSOs.
- Robert O'Rourke noted that the CER proposed the TSOs to take the lead on the Alternative Solutions project as they were best placed to judge which solutions were feasible.
- There was a discussion surrounding the next steps to be taken by the CER in order to kick off the generator studies. The CER noted that the next steps to be taken were to clarify the approach with generators, appoint an independent expert and have further engagement with the TSOs and generator in order to consider what category each generator falls into. This would approximately take two months before a formal announcement of the project commencement.

Action Item

10. TSOs to circulate the paper on Tazmania's RoCoF approach to Advisory Council members (TSOs)

System Services:

- Jon O'Sullivan gave an update on System Services from a TSO perspective.
- At the request of the SEM Committee, the TSOs carried out further economic analysis on the proposed new System Services. This "demand side" analysis was completed and the report and results were submitted to the RAs on 07/03/2014. The findings were presented to the SEM Committee at their meeting on 27/03/2014.
- The SEM Committee stated that they will publish the DS3 System Services Consultation Paper by 9th July 2014, following its meeting at the end of June. It is planned that the consultation period will be open until 22nd August and the RAs stated that an open forum with industry will be held mid consultation period. As per the existing Workstream plan, a Decision Paper is still planned to be published by the end of 2014.

Discussion

- The CER stated that the RAs plan on having an industry forum midway through the consultation period.
- Jo Aston re-affirmed URegNI's commitment to meeting the proposed timeline for a decision on System Services.

Enhanced Performance Monitoring and Testing

- David Carroll gave an update on the Enhanced Performance Monitoring and Testing workstream and the scope of the Enhanced Monitoring project was outlined.
- The progress to date was presented to Council Members along with the next steps in the project.
- An Enhanced Performance Monitoring and Testing workshop will take place in Belfast on the 24th June to present proposed business processes.

Discussion

- It was suggested from the council members that Performance Monitoring Testing could be used for Grid Code Testing. The TSOs acknowledged this and stated that this was being investigated.
- It was noted by Council members that Northern Ireland already had testing procedures in place, for example the wind farm settings schedule testing procedures. The TSOs clarified that these would not change but that the two testing codes would broadly align.

Control Centre Tools and Capabilities

- Michael Burke gave an update of the Control Centre Tools and Capabilities workstream. This included the aims of the workstream and the progress to date.
- An overview of the new Wind Dispatch tool was given. It was noted that the tool went live in Dublin on 08/05/2014 and is due to go live in Belfast in early July.

Discussion:

- There was a broad discussion on the new dispatch rules from the recent SEM Decisions.
- There was discussion around the frequency response of wind farms. It was noted by the TSOs that this is being investigated apart of the frequency control workstream.

Voltage and Frequency Study Update

- Simon Tweed gave an update on the voltage and frequency studies being undertaken by EirGrid.
- Simon Tweed also gave an update on TSO-DSO DS3 Engagement.

Discussion

- One outcome of the Nodal Voltage Control study was that the Cauteren Wind Farm cluster had been changed to Unity Power Factor. It was noted that this was seen as an interim solution and that nodal voltage control was still being sought to rectify the longer term problem.
- It was queried by Council members whether the scope, assumptions and methodologies in the Reactive Power Planning Studies could be shared before the final report is published.
- There was discussion around the amount of reactive power from distributed connected wind farms contributing to the transmission system.
- In relation to Over Frequency Generation shedding, Peter Duffy questioned whether over-speed protection of auxiliaries was being investigated. EirGrid noted that commissioning tests did consider this issue but that to date there has been little experience of the impact of high frequency events on generators.

Action Item

11. The TSOs to consider presenting on the Reactive Power Planning Studies at the next Advisory Council meeting. **(TSOs)**

Curtailement and Constrained Reporting

- Michael Kilty gave a presentation on constraint and curtailed reporting.
- Background information and key figures to be published from the Annual Curtailment Report 2013 were presented. This included percentage dispatch down of wind, information on outages, the effect of countertrading on curtailment levels and also the level of constraints by region.
- It was noted that figures used in the presentation were draft figures as the final report had not yet been approved by the regulator.
- The quarterly constraint and curtailed report was also presented which includes a breakdown on individual wind farms' wind constraint and curtailment levels.

Discussion:

- DS acknowledged that the quarterly reports were beneficial but recipients would like them issued earlier. The TSOs stated that the delay in issuing the reports were due to a pending SEMC decision on the templates.
- DS requested that further information be provided in future reports, for example whether a certain voltage issue led to a certain constraint in a specific region.
- The metric behind the reports was discussed and it was noted that the figures in the quarterly curtailment and constraint reports were pulled from the annual all-island report.

Action Item

12. TSOs to provide an update to Council members on wind dispatch tool with regards to Constraint and Curtailment Reports at next Advisory Council. This will include a discussion on reason codes in said tool **(TSOs)**

Power System Incidents

- Jon O'Sullivan gave a presentation looking at two significant system incidents which occurred in the last month.
- The first incident was an under frequency load shedding event due to loss of infeed followed by inadequate delivery of POR and SOR which occurred on the 22nd of April.
- The second incident happened four days later and was a major oscillation following a generator trip.
- The TSOs noted that investigations are ongoing into the cause of these incidents.