

DS3 Programme Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 30/05/2012
Time: 10.00 – 13.30
Venue: Hilton Hotel, Belfast.

Chair: Fintan Slye

Attendees: Paul Brandon, Donal Smith, Peter Duffy, Ian Luney, Gráinne O'Shea, Carsten Junge, Una Dixon, Gerry Hodgkinson, Mervyn Adams, Jody O'Boyle, Colin Spain, Catriona Diviney, Peter Thomas, Rónán Ó hÓgartaigh, Joe Duddy, Michael Conlon, Joe Durkan, Doireann Barry, Jonathan O'Sullivan, Dick Lewis, Yvonne Coughlan, Shane Rourke, Tom McCartan, Michael Flynn, Fergal Mc Loughlin, Jean Pierre Miura, Tanya Hedley

Apologies: Mark O'Malley, Pamela Walsh, Juan Ma Rodriguez, Peter Harte

DS3 Programme Update

Yvonne Coughlan provided a general update on the programme to date and the upcoming milestones. It was stated that the developments over the past few months in the RoCoF workstream may have an impact on the DS3 published timelines.¹

Comment:

The programme is broadly progressing to schedule.

System Services Review Update

Summary of Presentation:

Shane Rourke gave an update on the System Services Review and the second System Services consultation. (See presentation - DS3 System Services Review)

- The consultation will focus on technical aspects (financial aspects will be covered in the third consultation)
- The consultation will include a number of new services in addition the existing services along with a proposed approach to remuneration and contractual arrangements.
- There will be an enhanced focus on reliability

There is an Industry forum planned for early July.

Comment: As current ancillary services are contracted for on an annual or 2 year basis it was asked if these contract duration terms were likely to increase in the future. The TSOs stated that this was considered as part of the system services consultation paper. The TSOs are open to informal meetings to discuss specific issues during the consultation period as required.

Action Items: The second system services consultation period should be extended from 6 weeks to 8 weeks. [TSOs]

¹ <http://www.eirgrid.com/operations/ds3/ds3programmeoffice/>

Largest Single Infeed

Summary of Presentation:

Doireann Barry gave a presentation on the loss of the largest single infeed study carried out by the TSOs. (See presentation – Largest Single Infeed)

Comment: It was asked if there has been a largest single out-feed study undertaken. The TSOs stated that a less detailed out-feed study had been performed to assess the impact of the East-West Inter-Connector.

Action Items: Circulate a summary note relating to the study to all. [TSOs]

DSO / TSO update

Summary of Presentation:

Gerry Hodgkinson gave a presentation on the current DSOs approach to Voltage performance and RoCoF. The Universal Wind farm Standards have been broadly agreed between the DSOs and TSOs. The Distribution Codes need to be updated to reflect any changes in standards required. The TSOs and DSOs are in discussion over the control of reactive power output on distribution connected generation.

DSOs use RoCoF or vector shift protection to prevent islanding on their systems due to its simplicity and cost. Investigations into the RoCoF protection settings on the distribution system are expected to be completed by September. An analysis (and plan) for cost and impact to changing settings will be produced by December.

Comment:

It was asked if the DSOs had considered any form of anti Islanding protection other than those based on RoCoF or vector shift.

RoCoF

Summary of Presentation:

Tom McCartan presented on the current status of the RoCoF workstream. The TSOs have been engaging with both generators and the DSOs in relation to the RoCoF capability of their plant and equipment connected to the power system. (See presentation - DS3 Advisory Council RoCoF Work stream)

Generators have indicated analysis will take up to 24 months to complete. All generator owners are concerned that increased levels of RoCoF and increased occurrences of RoCoF may have an impact on generator lifespan and frequency of major overhauls.

The DSOs have indicated that they are currently undertaking separate RoCoF studies to investigate the RoCoF anti-islanding protection settings and capability of their respective networks. These investigations will be complete by December 2012.

The TSOs are also investigating other options available to manage RoCoF including deploying advanced tools in the Control Centres and developing system services to provide inertia.

Assuming more advanced Control Centre tools and plant monitoring can be effectively employed, the TSOs would be proposing a standard for RoCoF of 1Hz/s measured over 500ms. However, until the second North-South tie-line is in place, an interim RoCoF standard between 1.5 and 2Hz/s measured over 500ms will be required for Northern Ireland. These definitions are subject to finalisation of technical analysis which is expected to be done by July. Following this, the detailed proposed definition(s) will be published by the TSOs.

The TSOs stated that as things stand at the moment they will not be able to increase the wind penetration level (SNSP) above 50%. The positions outlined above mean that the timelines published in the DS3 RoCoF workstream may not be met.

The TSOs will publish their RoCoF definition and position in July. Following this, they will work together with the Joint Grid Code Working Group and propose a modification to both Grid Codes at their respective Grid Code Review Panel meetings in September.

Comment:

Some conventional generators expressed the opinion that the TSOs should not proceed with including a RoCoF definition and value in their respective Grid Codes without the agreement of all generators and the DSOs. The TSOs stated that the RoCoF issue has been consulted on widely over the last 6 months and that to increase the levels of wind penetration that the system can securely accommodate, the RoCoF capability must increase. Any plant that cannot comply with the new RoCoF standard can seek derogation from the Grid Codes in the normal fashion.

The question was also asked as to how many high RoCoF events are likely to occur annually on the power system.

Action Items: Circulate the TSOs proposed definition of RoCoF in July. [TSOs]
Circulate information about the likelihood of a high RoCoF event. [TSOs]
Circulate information on historical RoCoF events. [TSOs]
Consider setting up a Grid Code working group on negative reserve (High frequency response) [TSO's]

Voltage Control

Summary of Presentation:

Jonathan O'Sullivan presented the DS3 Voltage Control discussion paper. The presentation highlighted the different requirements that currently exist between the Grid Codes and the Distribution Codes in relation to reactive power capability of plant connected to the respective systems.

Comment:

Wind industry representatives indicated that the reactive power envelope should not extend all the way to 0% active power output as at this level of active power output, the turbine will not be rotating. It was noted that the voltage control paper should include types of plant other than generators.

Action Items: Reactive power envelope to be stated for active power ranges > 0MW output (ie reactive power not expected at 0MW output) [TSOs]
Include types of plant other than generators in the Voltage control paper. [TSOs]

Grid Code

Summary of Presentation:

Dick Lewis presented on the status of the Grid Code work stream. (See presentation - DS3 Advisory Council Grid Code)

A joint Grid Code working group has been established to progress DS3 related Grid Code work. In addition, several DSO/TSO meetings have been held to discuss Grid Code and Distribution Code issues. Grid Code modifications have been submitted and discussed at individual Grid Code review panels. It is intended to proceed in a harmonised manner to ensure consistency of both application and compliance on the all island power system.

Comment: Both DSOs stated that they are reviewing their respective Distribution Codes. ESBN held a Distribution Code review panel meeting in March and NIE will hold a review panel meeting in the next 6 months.

Action Items: Testing approaches and procedures should be developed in parallel with Grid Code changes. [TSOs]

Demonstration Projects

A notice seeking expressions of interest for demonstration projects has been published on the EirGrid website¹.

Action Items: Members of the Advisory council are asked to review or forward to parties that may be interested.

AOB

Action Items: Investigate whether the curtailment report can be published. [TSOs]

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be in Dublin on the 3rd October. Details to be circulated 10 business-days in advance of the meeting.

¹ <http://www.eirgrid.com/operations/demonstrationprojects/>