

DCUSA SIG Sub-Group for DIF 59 - Meeting 01

18 June at 10:00am: Microsoft Teams

Attendee	Company
Working Group Members	
Gareth Rushton [GR]	Dyball Associates
Alessandra De Zottis [ADZ]	Sempcorp
Richard Brady [RB]	WPD
Emslie Law [EL]	SSE
Rajni Nair [RN]	Citizens Advice
Gemma Slaney [GS]	WPD
Clive Hallam [CH]	DCC
Robert Hutcherson [RH]	BP
Lorna Mallon [LM]	SPEN
Kevin Mukuzvazva [KM]	Fulcrum
Sven Hoffman [SH]	WPD
Andrew Hancock [AH]	Alabama Energy
Terry Carr [TC]	E.ON
Andrew Mead [AM]	Dyce Energy
Chris Welby [CW]	Bristol Energy
Wasim Musa [WM]	Yorkshire Energy
Frank Welsh [FW]	UK Power Distribution
Richard Ellis [RE]	WPD
Alison Beard [AB]	Gemserv
Bob Hopkins [BH]	SSEN
Richard Hartson [RH]	SSEN
Francesca Barrick [FB]	Ofgem
Chris Allanson [CA]	NPg

John Noad [JN]	nPower
Julia Haughey [JH]	EDF Energy
Donald Preston [DP]	SSEN
Andrew Sherry [AS]	ENWL
Eric Taylor [ET]	System Level Solutions
Thomas Marlett [TM]	Constellation Energy
Kevin Woollard [KW]	British Gas
Code Administrator	
Angelo Fitzhenry (AF) (Chair)	ElectraLink
Richard Colwill [RC]	ElectraLink

1. Administration

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting.
- 1.2 The Group reviewed the “Competition Law Guidance”. All members agreed to be bound by the Competition Law Guidance for the duration of the meeting.

2. Review of DIF 59 and Draft Change Proposal

Overview of DIF 59

- 2.1 DIF 59 was initially presented at the DCUSA Standing Issues Group (SIG) on 29 May. At this meeting it was agreed that it would be beneficial to progress to a SIG Sub-Group to develop a Change Proposal (CP). The minutes from the SIG meeting can be found [here](#). At the SIG meeting the Secretariat took an action to produce a first draft CP for review at this meeting and this was circulated with the agenda prior to this meeting. Paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 below provide a brief overview of DIF 59.
- 2.2 Electricity networks in Great Britain were not designed to accommodate the significant additional demand that certain consumer devices (such as electric vehicle (EV) chargers) presents. In some circumstances, Electricity Network Operators will be required to act to find a balance between their obligation to operate cost-effective, safe and reliable electricity networks and the need to support customers who wish to adopt low carbon technologies such as EVs.
- 2.3 Whilst the Electricity Network Operators are aiming to use market-sourced flexibility services to keep the networks within their limits, there is a need for a system to prevent supply interruptions and/or damage to networks in limited circumstances as a short-term, last resort action in emergency scenarios - i.e. the absence or failure of market-based solutions and where failure to act is likely to cause power outages due to overloads.
- 2.4 There is a [SEC Modification proposal SECMP0046](#) progressing the technical aspects of implementing such a system using the Smart Meter infrastructure, yet as this involves turning down demand it will also require a change to DCUSA. It is felt that Schedule 8 would be a logical place to accommodate such amendments and detail the governance arrangements for the process.

Review of Draft Change Proposal

2.5 The Working Group reviewed the draft CP, which was circulated prior to the meeting and an updated tracked version of the CP can be found in Attachment 1. The key points to the discussions can be found below:

- The title of the CP is “The arrangements for Distributors to manage specific consumer connected devices”.
- The intent of the CP has been described as follows “To provide the governance arrangements regarding Distributors ability to manage consumer devices (such as EV chargers) connected to Smart Meter infrastructure to prevent network overloads in emergency scenarios”.
- Impacted DCUSA Parties are DNOs, IDNOs and Suppliers.
- The CP will be issued to the DCUSA Panel on 15th July. It is recommended that the CP is treated as a Part 1 matter and proceeds to a Working Group.
- It was recognised that this solution should only be used by Distributors as a last resort in the event that market mechanisms fail or do not deliver to the extent anticipated. This change proposes a Distributor smart intervention as a last resort, emergency measure, to protect customers security of supply and the network assets. This proposal is not to enable the Distributor to become a flexibility service provider or to subvert market solutions. This point has been made clear in the updated CP found in Attachment 1.
- It was also recognised that customer’s participation in these arrangements would be voluntary and there would be full engagement with the customer throughout the process.
- It was recognised that there needs to be clear and transparent governance arrangements in place establishing when such a solution could be used and ensuring effective communications between Distributors, Suppliers, consumers, and the Authority.
- It is believed that the most appropriate location for this governance would be within Schedule 8 (Demand Control). Specifically, Section 8 of Schedule 8 provides details of Emergency Security Restriction Notices, with paragraph 8.1 stating:

“The Company may at any time issue an Emergency Security Restriction Notice where in the Company’s opinion there is an immediate risk to Security of Supply (For the avoidance of doubt, the issue of an Emergency SRN need not be restricted to Load Managed Areas.)”

It is proposed that Section 8 of Schedule 8 should be further developed by the DCUSA CP Working Group to include the governance arrangements for use of the load managed feature currently being developed under SEC Modification - SECMP0046.

- The DIF 59 Sub-Group recognised that this change is required within DCUSA as part of a wider programme of other Code changes and Government policy decisions. Whilst the provisions can be incorporated in readiness within DCUSA, unless and until all other required Code changes and Government policy decisions are concluded and in place, these provisions, if enacted would have no practical effect. It is important to understand all of the wider industry impacts and establish clear communications to ensure all necessary Code changes and Government policy decisions are addressed in parallel.

- The DIF 59 Sub-Group recommend that this CP is implemented as soon as possible and no later than April 2021 to ensure that it is in place and ready for the implementation of the technical solution under SEC Modification - SECMP0046.

Post meeting note

- 2.6 The Secretariat took an action to update the CP based on the discussions held and an updated CP was circulated to the DIF 59 Working Group on Friday, 18 June. The CP can also be found in Attachment 1.
- 2.7 A meeting has been scheduled for 25 June to review and finalise the CP.

Next Steps

- 2.8 The next step is to finalise the CP and submit to the DCUSA Panel on 8 July. The DCUSA Panel will review the CP on 15 July and if approved an invitation to join the CP Working Group will be sent out on 17 July.

3. Any Other Business

- 3.1 There was no other business and the meeting was closed.

4. Date of Next Meeting:

- 4.1 The next DIF 59 Sub-Group is scheduled for 25 June 2020.

Appendix 1

New and open actions

Action Ref.	Action	Owner	Update
01/01	Secretariat to update draft Change Proposal for and circulate to DIF 59 Sub-Group for review	ElectraLink	Completed