

SONI Limited

WFPS Ramp Rate

Grid Code Amendments Consultation Paper

8th November 2011

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following the discussions held at the Grid Code Review Panels on 23rd February 2011 and 6th June 2011 in Belfast and on 13th October 2011 in Dublin, SONI has prepared drafts of certain sections of the SONI Grid Code with proposed amendments to cover the issues raised regarding WFPS Ramp Rate.
- 1.2 The proposed amended texts of the Grid Code, with both clean and redlined versions of each relevant section showing all the changes made to the existing version of the Grid Code, can be found in the “Grid Code Drafts” section of SONI’s website. This consultation paper sets out a high-level summary of the proposed changes to the SONI Grid Code and SONI seeks comments from Users on any aspect of the proposed amendments.
- 1.3 Section 2 of this paper provides background information and a general overview of the proposed changes. Section 3 provides a detailed overview of the proposed changes. As explained in Section 4, the deadline for submission of comments is close of business on Tuesday 6th December 2011.

2. Background and overview

- 2.1 All Controllable or Dispatchable WFPS must be able to vary their output in accordance with any issued Active Power Set-points that they receive from the TSO. However, if a Controllable or Dispatchable WFPS receives a low Active Power Set-point, it may not be able to achieve this without switching out of individual Generating Units. In such cases, if the Controllable or Dispatchable WFPS then receives a higher Active Power Set-point, the ability of the Controllable or Dispatchable WFPS may be restricted by the start-up times of the shut-down Generating Units. As a result, the Controllable or Dispatchable WFPS will not be able to reach its required ramp rate as set out in the WFPS Setting Schedule. Currently, each individual Controllable or Dispatchable WFPS must apply for derogation from this particular clause.
- 2.2 The proposed modifications to the Grid Code seek to resolve this issue by requiring all Controllable or Dispatchable WFPS to nominate a Ramp Rate Applicable Point as part of their Grid Code Tests. This nominated Ramp Rate Applicable Point will then be verified during the Grid Code Tests. It is intended that the proposed modifications have retrospective effect for all Controllable and Dispatchable WFPS after 1st April 2005, as per the provisions of CC.S2.1.1(c) and CC.S2.2.1(c).

3. Section by section Review

3.1 Glossary

A new definition for **WFPS Ramp Rate Applicable Point** has been included, which is the Minimum MW Output a Controllable or Dispatchable WFPS can maintain on a continuous basis, without the need to switch out any Generating Units.

3.2 Connection Conditions

Two amendments are required to the Connection Conditions:

- New provisions at CC.S2.1.3.7(e)(iii) and CC.S2.2.3.4(e)(iii) have been added which confirms that when the Controllable or Dispatchable WFPS is operating at Active Power levels below its WFPS Ramp Rate Applicable Point, the rate of change of output to achieve the Set-point shall be at or below the ramp rate setting as set out in the WFPS Setting Schedule or as agreed with the TSO.

3.3 Scheduling and Dispatch Code

Minor changes are required to Appendix A of the Scheduling and Dispatch Code to include WFPS Ramp Rate Applicable Point as a technical parameter for Controllable or Dispatchable WFPS.

4. **Next Steps**

4.1 The consultation period has been set for 4 weeks. Users are invited to send their comments to SONI **by close of business on Tuesday 6th December 2011**. In the meantime, should any Users have any queries or require a meeting with SONI, they should contact Karen Creighton at SONI (Email: Karen.Creighton@soni.ltd.uk, Phone: 028 9070 7488).

4.2 Following receipt of comments from those whom it has consulted by this Consultation Paper and the expiration of the period for making comments, SONI will, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Condition 16 of its Licence, send to the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (the "Authority"):

4.2.1 a report on the outcome of its review;

4.2.2 the proposed revisions to the Grid Code which SONI (having regard to the outcome of such review) reasonably thinks fit for the achievement of the objectives of the Grid Code referred to in paragraph 1(b) and (c) of Condition 16 of the SONI Licence; and

4.2.3 any written representations or objections from electricity undertakings or the Republic of Ireland System Operator (including any proposals by such persons for revisions to the Grid Code not accepted by SONI in the course of the review) arising during the consultation process and subsequently maintained.

4.3 Following the end of the consultation period and the discussions to be held with the Authority, revisions to the Grid Code will be finalised and published on the SONI website once approval has been received from the Authority.

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