

SONI Limited
Demand Side Units
Grid Code Amendments Consultation Paper

10 May 2013

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following the Grid Code modification of 02 February 2012, EirGrid have processed two Demand Side Unit applications. Together we have also observed the operation of a Demand Side Unit over a six month period. SONI has reviewed the current Grid Code provisions for Demand Side Units and draft modifications of certain sections are now available for consultation. Much of this modification is housekeeping/tidy-up.
- 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 can be found in the “Information Centre” section of SONI’s website. This consultation paper sets out a high-level summary of the proposed changes to the Grid Code and SONI would welcome comments from Users on any aspect of these amendments.
- 1.3 The deadline for the submission of comments is close of business 7 June 2013.

2. Section by Section Review

2.1 Introduction

A minor amendment is proposed to the Introduction to the Grid Code. References to ‘**Demand Side Unit Aggregators**’ and ‘**Dispatchable Demand Customers**’ have been deleted and replaced with ‘**Demand Side Unit Operators**’.

2.2 Glossary and Definitions

Aggregated Demand Site: the amendment to this definition replaces a reference to ‘**Dispatchable Demand Customer**’ with ‘**Demand Side Unit Operator**’.

Aggregated Maximum Import Capacity: this definition has been deleted.

Aggregator: the amendment to this definition replaces a reference to ‘**Dispatchable Demand Customer**’ with ‘**Demand Side Unit Operator**’.

Demand Side Unit Energy Profile: housekeeping; referencing amended.

Demand Side Unit Export Capacity: this definition has been deleted.

Demand Side Unit Import Capacity: this definition has been deleted.

Demand Side Unit MW Response: this is a new definition which describes the response of a Demand Side Unit to a Dispatch Instruction. It replaces Initial ‘Demand Side Unit Response’.

Demand Side Unit MW Response Time: this is a new definition which describes the time taken by a Demand Side Unit Operator to respond to a Dispatch Instruction.

Demand Side Unit Operator: this is a new definition replacing Dispatchable Demand Customer.

Dispatch: the amendment to this definition replaces a reference to ‘Dispatchable Demand Customer’ with ‘Demand Side Unit Operator’.

Dispatchable Demand Customer: this definition has been deleted and replaced with a new definition for Demand Side Unit Operator.

DNO Connection Agreement: this new definition has been added since this agreement between the DNO and a Demand Side Unit Operator refers to the site specific details of relevant connection arrangements.

DNO Demand Customer: this new definition has been included since Individual Demand Sites connected to the Distribution network will be associated with a DNO Demand Customer who must have a DNO Connection Agreement.

Individual Demand Site: this definition has been amended to remove unnecessary references to ‘Demand Side Unit Export Capacity’ and ‘Demand Side Unit Import Capacity’.

Initial Demand Side Unit Response: has been deleted and superseded with a new definition called Demand Side Unit Response.

Initial Demand Side Unit MW Response Time: has been deleted and superseded with a new definition called Demand Side Unit MW Response Time.

Maximum Ramp Down Rate: housekeeping change, previously Max Ramp Down Rate.

Maximum Ramp Up Rate: housekeeping change, previously Max Ramp Up Rate.

Minimum Off Time: definition amended to clarify the term in respect of Demand Side Units.

2.3 Planning Code

Additional sections have been added which details the planning data requirements from Users who are Demand Side Units Operators.

2.4 Connection Conditions

Additional sections have been included which detail the TSO's requirements for the connection of Demand Side Units. This includes a description of Unit technical performance requirements, Control Facility and Responsible Operator capability, and SCADA standards which must be adhered to.

2.5 Operating Codes

Operating Code 2 covers the obligations on Users and the TSO for outage planning. Most categories of User are required to provide the TSO with information regarding their proposed planned outages. This Code has been amended so that the obligations placed on Demand Side Unit Operators are aligned with those already in place for most other Users, including Generators and Interconnector Owners.

Operating Code 11 has been amended so that it directly refers to Demand Side Units in respect of the TSOs requirements to Monitor (OC11.10) and Test (OC11.11). These amendments will align the obligations on Demand Side Unit Operators with those already in place for most other User categories, including Generators and Interconnector Owners.

A table has also been included which details the tolerances applied to Demand Side Units with respect to their compliance with Dispatch Instructions.

2.6 Scheduling and Dispatch Code

The Scheduling and Dispatch Codes have been amended to remove references to 'Dispatchable Demand Customers' and replace them with 'Demand Side Unit Operators'. New clauses have been added to specifically detail the requirements on Demand Side Unit Operators when changing the Availability of their Demand Side Units. The table detailing the TSO's requirements for Unit technical parameters (SDC1 Appendix A Part 1) has some minor amendments with respect to Demand Side Units.

2.7 Data Registration Code

The Data Registration Code has been amended to replace references to 'Dispatchable Demand Customer' with references to 'Demand Side Unit Operator'.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1** The consultation period will run for 4 weeks and all responses must be received by close of business on 7 June 2013. Should Users have any queries, these should be addressed to Brendan Woods at SONI (Email brendan.woods@soni.ltd.uk or phone 02890707542).

- 3.2 At the end of the consultation period, SONI will review the submissions from Users and, in accordance with Condition 2 of its Licence to Participate in the Transmission of Electricity, will send to the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (the Authority):

A report on the outcome of the consultation and SONI's subsequent review;

The proposed revisions to the Grid Code which SONI, acting reasonably, thinks fit for the objectives of the Grid Code, referenced in Condition 16 of the SONI Licence and;

Any written representations and objections from electricity undertakings or the Republic of Ireland TSO (including any proposals by such parties for the revisions to the SONI Grid Code not accepted by SONI following its review) arising during the consultation process and subsequently maintained.

- 3.3 Following the end of the consultation period and discussions which may be held with the Authority, revisions to the Grid Code will be finalised and published on the SONI website, following formal approval by the Authority.