GB Grid Codes for Wind Energy

September & October Monthly Report

Econnect Project No: 1294

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1 Scope

Econnect is carrying out work for the British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) funded under a contract agreement DG/DTI/00035/00/00 between the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the BWEA.

A key deliverable of this contract is a monthly report to the BWEA members on key Grid Code issues and developments. The second of these monthly reports is presented in Appendix A in a format suitable for dissemination by the BWEA to its members.

2 Appendix A - GB Grid Code Representation for Wind Energy Monthly Report for September /October 2004

2.1 GB Grid Code Implementation

The GB Grid Code (Issue 3) came into effect on 1st September 2004 at the beginning of the BETTA transition period that will extend until the BETTA go-live date of 1st April 2005. Most of the provisions in the GB Grid Code that relate to Scotland are 'switched off' until the go-live date, as the Scottish Grid code remains in effect until that time, however Ofgem retain the right to activate any of these provisions as they see fit during the transition period.

There have been two minor changes to the GB Grid Code since 1st September.

a) Grid Code Issue 3 Revision 1 Effective from the 4th October 2004

Revision 1 is modified as a result of Consultation F/04 (Development of Maximum Generation Service). Basically the change is that this service will now be utilised in accordance with the terms of the Connection Use of System Code (CUSC) rather than the Maximum Generation Service Agreement.

b) Grid Code Issue 3 Revision 2 Effective from the 11th October 2004

Revision 2 is modified as a result of Consultations A/04 (Changes to Data Validation, Consistency, and Defaulting Rules) and G/04 (Changes to Operating Codes 1 & 2). Both are minor changes and do not appear to have any implications for wind.

2.2 GB Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP) Representation

The first meeting of the GB GCRP was held on 23rd September and was attended by Guy Nicholson. Grid Code changes for wind were discussed at the meeting and are reported below.

2.3 GB Grid Code changes for wind (Consultation H/04)

As reported in August, BWEA and several others responded to this consultation and some of the suggestions were accepted by National Grid Transco (NGT). NGT submitted a Report to the Authority (version 1.0) on 27th August 2004. On the 24th September it was noted that some of the text in the Consultation H/04 has been omitted from the report and these have now been added in Version 1.1, however none of these omitted pages had been subject to any comments. In addition NGT are comparing the changes outlined in H/04 to the current GB text in Issue 3 for submission to Ofgem.

At present Ofgem is undertaking a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) on the changes proposed by NGT. This RIA is the first of its kind for major Grid Code changes. It is expected to be completed shortly (end of October) and issued for consultation by Ofgem.

The BWEA intends to canvass its members in making a response to this Ofgem consultation.

By the time Ofgem has considered these responses and made its decision it will be the end of December or possibly early 2005.

2.4 Scottish Grid Code changes for wind (SA/2004)

A similar process is taking place in Scotland with Ofgem undertaking a Regulatory Impact Assessment on the changes that were sent to Ofgem on the 2nd September 2004. Ofgem will then undertake a consultation that is expected will be issued at the end of October.

The BWEA intends to canvass its members in making a response to this Ofgem consultation.

The Scottish Grid Code may therefore be amended for wind for the period January to March 2005 before the GB Grid Code supersedes it.

2.5 50-100MW licence exempted generators

Generators from 50-100MW (known as Medium Power Stations in England and Wales) can seek an exemption from a generation licence, which would be granted by the DTI. This exemption means that the generator avoids: the requirements to join the Balancing and Settlement Code, signing up to the CUSC, or complying with the Grid Code, if the generator is embedded. However, to date the DTI have given NGT a free reign to impose conditions on the generator through a Bilateral Agreement. NGT are choosing to impose a number of Grid Code requirements through the Bilateral Agreement.

The BWEA (assisted by generator representatives on the Grid Code and Distribution Code Review Panels) is seeking to make this process transparent so that it is clear which requirements these generators must meet and hence provide a level playing field, as the Bilateral Agreements are not public domain documents.

The Licensed Exempted Embedded Medium Power Stations Working Group (LEEMPSWG) is discussing how agreed Grid Code requirements can be applied to generators who are connected to the Distribution Networks via appropriate requirements in the Distribution Code.

What these agreed requirements are, will be the subject of further work once the Grid Code requirements for wind have been finalised.

2.5.1 <50MW Medium Power stations in Scotland

In Scotland the Grid Code definitions of Medium and Large power stations are different to England and Wales.

Location	England and Wales	SP / South Scotland	S&SE /Hydro Area
Definition			
Large Power Station	>100MW	>30MW	>5MW
Medium Power Station	>50MW<100MW	N/a	N/a
Small Power Station	<50MW	N/a	N/a

Table 1 Definition in Scotland vs. England and Wales

Therefore how the GB Grid Code requirements will apply to embedded generators of 5-100MW in Scotland is currently unclear.

2.6 Overseas News

2.6.1 Germany (EON Netz)

Eon have published their 2004 wind report. Available at www.eon-netz.com.

2.6.2 Ireland (ESB)

ESB have had an effective moratorium on Grid Connection Applications for wind for nearly a year, since ESB National Grid stated that Grid Code changes for wind were required. Now these are in place there is a large backlog of connection applications. ESB National Grid (transmission) and ESB Networks (distribution) are now proposing to process connection applications in groups based on the location of the projects. This is purported to avoid interactive offers, and produce more optimum grid reinforcements, though we will have to see how successful this approach will be.