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MP085B ‘Synchronisation of Smart Meter voltage measurement periods (meters currently installed)’

April 2024 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

SEC Party Category	Working Group Members	Representing
Large Suppliers	Sharon Armitage (SA)	EON
	Alex Hurcombe (AH)	EDF
	Amy Cox (EDF)	EDF
	Joey Manners (JM)	Octopus Energy
	Ralph Baxter (RB)	Octopus Energy
	Mahfuzar Rahman (MR)	Scottish Power
	Kevin Clark (KC)	Utilita
Small Suppliers	Sam Ward (SW)	Good Energy
	Aiden Way (AW)	Rebel Energy
Other SEC Parties	Patricia Massey (PM)	BEAMA
	Carl Whitehouse (CW)	Calisen Metering
	Stuart Blair (SB)	Northern Powergrid Metering
	Michael Snowden (MS)	Secure Meters
	David Lane (DL)	SMS Plc
	Mitch Kerry (MK)	Trilliant Networks Operations Ltd
Network Parties	Emily Waters (EW)	BUUK
	Alan Creighton (AC)	Northern Powergrid
	Shuba Khatun (SK)	SSEN

Other Participants		
DCC		
Bradley Baker (BB)	David Rollason (DR)	Gary Stuart (GSt)
David Walsh (DW)		
SECAS		
Alison Beard (AB) <i>Working Group Chair</i>	Rachel Black (RBI) <i>Meeting Secretary</i>	Ben Giblin (BG) <i>Lead Analyst</i>
Elizabeth Woods (EW)	Georgie Severin (GSe)	Simon Grimwood (SG)

Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the issue identified, impact and proposed solution.

Issue

- When the Technical Specifications were drafted, they did not specify when average RMS voltage readings should take place. As a result, some ESMES have been produced to collect readings on the hour and half hour, however others do not collect data at these time periods.

Impact

- DNO's have obligations to ensure that the voltage supplied to Consumer premises is always between defined limits. Because ESMES do not always collect average RMS voltage readings at the same time, DNOs must download the data in high granularity and re-calculate it to align to the hour and half hour.

Proposed Solution

- To populate the Maintenance Validity Period (MVP) end dates for all ESMETS versions prior to v5.2 as 2 November 2028.

Working Group Discussion

SECAS (BG) provided an overview of the modification and a review of the responses to the Refinement Consultation.

Legal Text Clarification

A Working Group member (MR) noted that the Technical Specification Applicability Tables (TSAT) denotes start and end dates for the Installation Validity Period, Maintenance Validity Period and Applicability Period. They questioned why the documentation for this modification only discusses providing an end date to the Maintenance Validity Period. SECAS (BG) acknowledged this comment, noting that the Installation Validity Period had not been altered to allow time for Devices to be installed. (BG) added that the Applicability Period End Date had not been populated as the modification does not seek to end date GBCS versions. End dating the Applicability Period End Date would introduce a deadline for GBCS versions which are used with other technical specifications, which is not the purpose of this modification.

Choice of 2 November 2028

The Proposer (AC) explained that 2 November 2028 has been selected as the end date for the Maintenance Validity Period after a recommendation from the TABASC as this will provide Manufacturers and Suppliers time to develop and implement new firmware.

A Working Group member (KC) questioned why the date of 2 November 2028 had been selected as the modification has not been approved by Change Board. (JM) added that it could be beneficial to

review the proposed end date once the modification has been approved to ensure it is still appropriate. SECAS (AB) acknowledged these comments but stated that as part of the SEC modification process a date is required for the Change Board to vote on whether the Proposed Solution is appropriate. The Proposer (AC) recognised these concerns and added that once further investigation has taken place regarding the business case for the modification then they will be in a better position to understand whether the Proposed Solution is appropriate.

Further investigation

A Working Group member (MR) noted that not all Manufacturers are producing Devices to align to ESMETS v5.0 and that further information was needed as part of the modification. SECAS (BG) agreed that further investigation was needed to determine the business case for the modification. (BG) added that SECAS is working to find out how many ESMES are impacted by the issue and would need to be replaced, estimate the costs associated with implementing firmware upgrades and investigate benefits from running a reduced number of ESMETS versions.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS (BG) to investigate how many Devices are impacted by the issue.
- SECAS (BG) to investigate the costs of implementing MP085B-specific firmware upgrades.
- SECAS (BG) to investigate the benefits of running a reduced number of ESMETS versions.