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

June 2024 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

SEC Party Category	Working Group Members	Representing
Large Suppliers	Emma Johnson (EJ)	British Gas
	Julie Brown (JB)	British Gas
	Sharon Armitage (SA)	E.ON
	Ian Turner (IT)	E.ON
	Alex Hurcombe (AH)	EDF
	Amy Cox (AC)	EDF
	Joey Manners (JM)	Octopus Energy
	Ralph Baxter (RB)	Octopus Energy
	Kevin Clark (KC)	Utilita
Small Suppliers	Daniel Davies (DD)	ESG Global
Other SEC Parties	Patricia Massey (PM)	BEAMA
	Beth Davey (BD)	Calvin Capital
	Martin Bell (MB)	EUA
	Michael Snowden (MS)	Secure Meters (UK) Limited
	Jeff Studholme (JS)	Smart Meter Assets
Network Parties	Kelly Kinsman (KK)	National Grid
	Shuba Khatun (SK)	SSEN
	Alan Creighton (ACr)	Northern Powergrid

Other Participants		
DCC		
David Walsh (DW)	Bradley Baker (BB)	Rosie Davies (RD)
Gary Stuart (GS)	Robin Seaby (RS)	David Rollason (DR)
Citizens Advice		
Colin Griffiths (CG)		
SECAS		
Kev Duddy (KD) <i>Working Group Chair</i>	Rachel Black (RBI) <i>Meeting Secretary</i>	Ben Giblin (BG) <i>Lead Analyst</i>
Ali Beard (AB)		Georgie Severin (GSe)

Other Participants	
Elizabeth Woods (EW)	Rainer Lischetzki (RL)

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

- DNOs 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

- ESMETS v5.2 introduced the requirement for ESMES to record on the hour and half hour.
- 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 issue, the DCC Impact Assessment and the proposed solution and its applicability.

Replacement of Devices

SECAS (BG) explained that the solution to this modification involves end-dating all versions of ESMETS version 5.2 on 2 November 2028. This will encourage firmware upgrades to the latest firmware and provide the functionality which the Proposer seeks. They added that if an over-the-air (OTA) firmware upgrade was impossible due to a lack of WAN there are several scenarios where the Device does not have to be replaced. They noted that if there is WAN and a firmware upgrade cannot take place, the Device may need to be removed to bring it into compliance with the TSAT.

A Large Supplier member (RB) noted that replacement of Devices once the Maintenance Validity Period had expired did not always occur. They added that there are many reasons why a Device could not be upgraded and needing to replace all Devices which couldn't have an OTA upgrade would cost millions of pounds to Suppliers. A Meter Asset Provider (MAP) member (BT) added that they had

concerns over prematurely removing Devices, estimating that approximately 11% of all Devices did not communicate, so removing all of them would incur huge costs.

The Proposer (ACr) acknowledged these comments and noted it was not their intention to force the removal of assets prematurely, suggesting exemptions could be provided in the TSAT. They added that as a Network Party, it would be useful for them to know the location of the Device on their Network so they would be aware that they were not collecting RMS voltage readings on the hour or half hour from that Device. SECAS (BG) noted that the TSAT is binary and exemptions could not be added.

Benefits to Network Parties

A MAP member (BT) noted that further investigation should take place into the business case for the modification. They highlighted removal costs for Suppliers and suggested that this should be compared against the benefits to Network Parties. The Proposer (ACr) noted that it has been difficult to get costs from Manufacturers, Suppliers and Networks about the impacts of this modification. They provided some of their initial analysis of the issue, suggested that around 38% of all ESMEs could be recording RMS voltage periods at times other than on the hour or half hour. The MAP member (BT) acknowledged this but questioned what percentage of those Devices couldn't communicate and therefore may have to be removed.

Impacts on DCC

A MAP member (JS) questioned whether this change impacted the DCC. They noted that although this appears to be a text-only change to the TSAT, there are a number of costs which were highlighted during the Working Group discussion. SECAS (KD) confirmed this modification is a text only change to the SEC. Another MAP member (BT) believed reporting was needed from the DCC to clarify which ESMEs are not compliant. DCC (DW) confirmed this reporting is currently not available and therefore would add to costs of the modification. SECAS (AB) asked Working Group members if they would support the DCC in producing reporting to support the business case for this modification. Working Group members were not supportive of paying for extra reporting to build the business case for this modification.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS to build the business case with the Proposer before returning to the Working Group.