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MP273 ‘User Demand and Network Traffic Insights’ January 2025 Working Group – Meeting Summary

Attendees

SEC Party Category	Working Group Members	Representing
Large Suppliers	Emma Johnson (EJ)	British Gas
	Amy Cox (AC)	EDF
	Alex Hurcombe (AH)	EDF
	Francesca Scott (FS)	EDF
	Alison Godden (AS)	EON
	Ian Turner (IT)	EON
	Ralph Baxter (RB)	Octopus Energy
	Joey Manners (JM)	Octopus Energy
	Mahfuzar Rahman (MR)	Scottish Power
	Kevin Clark (KC)	Utilita
Small Suppliers	Steve Blackler (SB)	E Gas & Electricity
Other SEC Parties	Martin Bell (MB)	EUA
	Rob Heath (RH)	Calisen
	Daniel Davies (DD)	ESG Global
Network Parties	Kirsty Maddock (KM)	National Grid
	Jamie Lowe (JL)	Northern Power Grid
	Phil Eyre (PE)	Npower

Other Participants		
DCC		
Bradley Baker (BB)	Chris Barlow (CB)	Paul McShane (PM)
Robin Seaby (RS)	David Walsh (DW)	
DESNZ		
Rachel Allen (RA)		
Ofgem		
Ian Chalfon (IC)	Grace Royall (GR)	Cristina Ullastre (CU)
SECAS		
Simon Grimwood (SG) <i>Working Group Chair</i>	Sophia Master (AO) <i>Meeting Secretary</i>	Alison Beard (AB) <i>Change Delivery Manager</i>
Ben Giblin (BG)	Rainer Lischetzki (RL)	Marc Rhodes (MRh)

Other Participants		
<i>Lead Analyst</i>	<i>SECAS Consultant</i>	<i>Lead Analyst</i>
Georgiana Severin (GS) <i>Lead Analyst</i>	Elizabeth Woods (EW) <i>Lead Analyst</i>	

Overview

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

Background

- Following the implementation of [MP116 'Service Request Forecasting'](#) the SEC does not currently place any obligation on DCC Users to provide demand assumptions or share details of their future or upcoming traffic demands.
- A DCC User could significantly increase network demand with little or no notification to the DCC risking the performance of the network.

Potential Solution

- Following feedback received in Sub-Committees and the Refinement Consultation, the DCC have made significant changes to the Proposal for MP273:
- The submission thresholds have been redefined in terms of impact on total DCC traffic rather than a % increase in a particular User's traffic:
- Submission is only required if a User is expected to have a >5% impact on total DCC traffic, or a >10% impact on the total traffic of a particular DCC Communication Service Provider (CSP) (e.g. Arqiva, VMO2, etc).
- The DCC will provide visibility of the latest 10% and 5% thresholds on a quarterly basis (presented to OPSG) and will also, on request, provide Users with their latest traffic figures so they can assess the impact of any proposed changes relative to the thresholds.
- Other proposed changes to the proposal are as follows:
- Remove the Excel sheet for further detail – instead, the next step following a notification of a significant demand change would be a bilateral discussion with the particular User (e.g. at a Service Review)
- Adding a requirement for New Users to provide a 24 month traffic forecast as part of the process of joining the DCC network.
- Adding a requirement for demand insights to be included as an item on the Agenda for Service Reviews at least once per month (or quarter, TBC).

Working Group Discussion

A Working Group member (EJ) enquired whether the revised traffic thresholds related to an increase by 5 or 10% or whether it related to if your total traffic volume already made up 5 or 10% of total DCC traffic. A DCC representative (PM) confirmed that it only applied to if you planned to increase total traffic levels by 5 or 10%.

A Working Group member (KC) questioned the problem that was attempting to be resolved and what sort of anticipated changes a single User could make that would exceed these traffic levels that are not industry wide or already involving the DCC. A DCC representative (PM) explained that this approach is to protect the whole DCC ecosystem as there is always a chance that a User may have a new development which would result in a large increase in DCC traffic, and this approach is protecting the network. A Working Group member (DD) questioned the benefit as MP116 had removed forecasting which provided a detailed 8-month view, however the process was resource intensive and unpopular but deemed not enough information for the DCC. Further adding, that with this proposal having a reduced scope it was hard to see what it would change. A DCC representative (PM) stated that the DCC is now able to do more detailed forecasting internally and that this change was seeking to provide visibility of the very big changes.

A Working Group member (DD) agreed that new Users should give an indication of their intended traffic but questioned whether they would be aware of traffic requirements 24 months in advance. A SECAS representative (AB) asked whether Users needed to provide 24 months of forecasts or whether this could be done quarterly for 24 months. A DCC representative (PM) stated that the 24-month timeline could be broken down where a more detailed forecast is required for the first 12 months. A SECAS representative (AB) asked the group if anyone had any alternative suggestions that they thought would work better. A Working Group member (DD) stated that 24 months is hard to predict and they didn't want it to become a barrier to New Users joining the DCC network. The group member went on to state that once a User has joined, they will fall under the other proposed traffic thresholds. From a DCC perspective you don't know the impact a new User coming in is going to have so you need to have an idea, but not sure that anything over 12 months will provide much that is accurate. A Working Group member (KC) stated presumably new Users would also have status reviews and it has already been proposed that traffic forecasts will be added to status review agendas so any updates to the initial 12 month forecast could be picked up there. A DCC representative (PM) agreed that was something that could be looked at where new Users would provide an initial 12 month forecast which would then be discussed in service reviews.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS will Request the Change Sub-Committee to approve the Modification Report 18 February 2025.