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SEC Change Board Meeting 99

26 February 2025, 10:00 – 11:10

Teleconference

SECCB_99_2602 – Draft Minutes

Attendees:

Representing	Change Board Members	Organisation
Change Board Chair	Ali Beard	Change Board Chair
Large Suppliers	Emma Johnson (EJ)	British Gas
	Alex Hurcombe (AH)	EDF
	Sharon Armitage (SA)	E.ON
	Joey Manners (JM)	Octopus Energy
	Emslie Law (EL)	OVO
	David Rodger (DR)	Scottish Power
	Kevin Clark (KC)	Utilita
Small Suppliers	Carolyn Burns (CB)	ESG Global
	Gareth Evans (GE)	Waters Wye
Network Parties	Rachael Prosser (RP)	National Grid Electricity Distribution
	Ben Elmy (BE)	UK Power Networks
Other SEC Parties	Ian Lovatt (IL)	Chameleon
	Nick Winfield (NW)	Landis+Gyr
	James Murphy (JM)	Stark

Other Participants

DCC		
David Walsh (DW)		Bradley Baker (BB)
Ofgem		
Ian Chalfon (IC)		Cristina Ullastre (CU)
SECCo		
Beth Procter (BP)		
SECAS		
Sophia Master (SM) <i>(Meeting Secretary)</i>	Ben Giblin (BG)	Liz Woods (EW)
Simon Grimwood (SG)	Georgiana Severin (GS)	Marc Rhodes (MR)

Apologies:

Representing	Change Board Members	Organisation
Large Suppliers	Keith Thomson (KT)	Scottish Power
Network Parties	Tom Stuart (TS)	WW Utilities
Consumers	Caroline Farquhar (CF)	Citizens Advice

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the Change Board meeting and welcomed the new members.

2. Performance Assurance Board

Beth Procter (BP), SECCo Senior Performance Assurance Manager, provided an update on the invitation for PAB member nominees. BP advised the Change Board members that recruitment for committee members for the Performance Assurance Board (PAB) has started, with a closing date set for Tuesday 4 March. The PAB are looking for representatives from Large and Small Suppliers, Network Parties, Other SEC Parties, DCC and Consumer Representatives. The first PAB meeting will be held on 9 April 2025, with the aim of approving the PAB Terms of Reference, including extending the membership term from 12 months up to 24 months. BP advised that the PAB would need to be set up before any procurement efforts can be begin. The PAB is expected to hold its first meeting in April and will be looking to start the procurement process at some time in May 2025. BP advised the Performance Assurance framework aims to be set up with the Service Provider in early 2026.

A Change Board member (EJ) queried what would happen if a PAB member could not make the first PAB meeting. BP advised there will be one to one catch ups with all the PAB Members prior to the first meeting. If a member is unable to attend the meeting, they can let BP know in advance and BP will make sure to discuss anything the member may miss during the meeting. Any decisions will not

be managed during the one to ones. However, BP will keep the members informed and updated about the meeting.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Meeting Secretary (SM) informed the Change Board that no comments had been received on the previous meeting minutes. The Change Board **APPROVED** the minutes as final.

4. Change Board Votes

MP252 'Amending the process for Communications Hub returns'

The Change Board were invited to perform the final vote on [MP252 'Amending the process for Communications Hub returns'](#).

A member (EJ) expressed concern about the high cost of the change is high especially since there was only one response to the Modification Report Consultation. The Chair (AB) advised that consultations issued by SECAS relating to what could be seen as controversial change proposals typically tend to receive more responses from SEC Parties as opposed to consultations issued for less contentious change proposals. AB advised that SECAS can only assume that if there are no responses, members may not particularly object to it but also may not particularly support it. A member (JM) queried if the lack of responses is due to being third party installers shouldering the burden of this issue, and that they are struggling to get Communications Hubs out of their supply chain and back into DCC. This may be because the Hubs have not been decommissioned, or no faults has been found. The member (JM) believes it would be valuable to implement this change. A member (SA) advised there were more responses on the Refinement Consultation to this Modification compared to that of the Modification Report Consultation. The member (SA) advised that Parties would not respond unless they had a significant point they wanted to raise.

A member (EJ) queried if there are clear benefits that outweigh these costs. The Chair (AB) confirmed this is correct. The Chair (AB) advised that DCC System changes in the November SEC Release are generally agreed 12 months prior to the Release, however this Modification was sufficiently required by the industry that the DCC are able to accommodate it should it be approved. A member (SA) queried if there would be further costs in subsequent years. The DCC (DW) advised that the costs contain the first year running costs, and then further running costs would be wrapped up into BAU after the first year.

The Change Board agreed to proceed to vote. The voting outcome is shown below:

Party Category	Approve	Reject	Abstain	Conclusion
Large Suppliers	7	0	0	Approved
Small Suppliers	2	0	0	Approved
Network Parties	2	0	0	Approved
Other SEC Parties	3	0	0	Approved

Party Category	Approve	Reject	Abstain	Conclusion
Overall conclusion:				Approved

The Change Board unanimously believed that MP252 will better facilitate SEC Objectives (a)¹ and (b)² for the reasons given in the Modification Report Consultation responses.

The Change Board:

- **AGREED** this Modification Proposal should proceed to vote
- **APPROVED** this Modification Proposal under Self-Governance
- **PROVIDED** rationale for this decision relating to the General SEC Objectives

There will now be 10 Working Days for any SEC Party who wishes to refer the Change Board's decision to the Panel. This referral period will close at **5pm on Wednesday 12 March 2025**. If no referrals are received; the decision will be final.

MP277 'Virtual Gateway Connection'

The Change Board were invited to perform the final vote on [MP277 'Virtual Gateway Connection'](#).

A member (GE) queried why the TABASC does not support the Modification. SECAS (SG) advised that during the TABASC conversations, the incoming Data Service Provider (DSP) advised they will be offering virtual Gateway Connection functionality as part of the new DSP. During the TABASC meetings, the new Service Provider indicated that it could provide the functionality in November 2025. This would mean that if this Modification were to be approved and implemented there would be approximately only nine months of benefit realised before the new Service Provider would offer it as part of the DSP. SECAS (SG) advised the November 2025 date has not been confirmed, however, this is the generally accepted period of time that people believe the new DSP would deliver virtual Gateway Connections. The TABASC does not feel there is a sufficient business case to approve the Modification for such a relatively short space of time.

A member (GE) queried if this Modification was not approved, would the virtual solution be offered without any changes to the SEC, or is a change required to allow the virtual solution to exist. SECAS (SG) advised that regardless of whether the functionality was implemented through a SEC modification or by the incoming DSP, legal text changes would be required to the SEC in order to allow for that functionality to exist. A member (CB) queried if the other Sub-Committees were provided with the same information as the TABASC in December 2024. SECAS (SG) advised that the proposed DSP functionality was presented to the TABASC forum specifically. The Chair (AB) queried whether the other Sub-Committees were consulted before the TABASC meeting and if this has been taken back to the other Sub-committees since. SECAS (SG) confirmed that this information was

¹ Facilitate the efficient provision, installation, and operation, as well as interoperability, of Smart Metering Systems at Energy Consumers' premises within Great Britain

² Enable the DCC to comply at all times with the objectives of the DCC licence and to discharge the other obligations imposed upon it by the DCC licence.

provided to the Security Sub-Committee (SSC) after the December 2024 TABASC meeting, however the TAG and OPSG presentations took place prior to the TABASC meeting.

A member (SA) requested clarity around if the new incoming DSP would offer the solution which is due to be implemented in November 2025 as no cost, as part of its contract. The DCC (DW) advised he is unable to comment on the running costs as this information is not available as of yet. A member (JM) pointed out that the costs are inclusive of new DSP, and this is part of the DSP Programme. This modification would be an additional cost above and beyond the cost that is already being considered and part of the new DSP Programme. A member (EL) queried if the members approve the Modification and it gets implemented, will the cost for this Modification be removed from the DSP re-procurement. SECAS (SG) confirmed the cost would not be removed.

A member (EJ) commented that they did not see the benefits of this change, as Users would only be receiving around nine months of benefits. The Chair (AB) ask the DCC how soon after the Modification is implemented will people be able to start using their Virtual Gateway. The DCC (DW) confirmed they quoted one and half months before the solution is ready for people to start using it. A member (EJ) advised that people with existing connections are not in a situation where they can change it overnight. It will be based on the existing arrangements and when their contracts next come up for review or renewal assessment. A member (EL) queried the reasoning for the urgency of the Modification. The Chair (AB) advised that this Modification has taken slightly longer than anticipated and SECAS were hoping to raise this at a previous Change Board however, there had been some delays. If this Modification was implemented two months ago then the benefits case would have been greater. However, the more time it takes, the more it will erode the benefits case.

The Change Board agreed to proceed to vote. The voting outcome is shown below:

Party Category	Approve	Reject	Abstain	Conclusion
Large Suppliers	0	7	0	Rejected
Small Suppliers	0	2	0	Rejected
Network Parties	2	0	0	Approved
Other SEC Parties	0	2	1	Rejected
Overall conclusion:				Rejected

The majority of the Change Board believed that MP277 will not better facilitate the SEC Objectives as there is a lack of sufficient business benefit.

The Change Board:

- **AGREED** this Modification Proposal should proceed to vote
- **REJECTED** MP277 'Virtual Gateway Connection' under Self Governance.

There will now be 10 Working Days for any SEC Party who wishes to refer the Change Board's decision to the Panel. This referral period will close at **5pm on Wednesday 12 March 2025**. If no referrals are received; the decision will be final.

MP280 'CPA Scheme Transition to SSC'

The Change Board were invited to perform the final vote on [MP280 'CPA Scheme Transition to SSC'](#).

No comments were received from the Change Board.

The Change Board agreed to proceed to vote. The voting outcome is shown below:

Party Category	Approve	Reject	Abstain	Conclusion
Large Suppliers	7	0	0	Approved
Small Suppliers	2	0	0	Approved
Network Parties	1	0	1	Approved
Other SEC Parties	3	0	0	Approved
Overall conclusion:				Approved

The Change Board unanimously believed that MP280 will better facilitate SEC Objectives (g)³ for the reasons given in the Modification Report Consultation responses.

The Change Board:

- **AGREED** this Modification Proposal should proceed to vote
- **APPROVED** this Modification Proposal under Self-Governance
- **PROVIDED** rationale for this decision relating to the General SEC Objectives

There will now be 10 Working Days for any SEC Party who wishes to refer the Change Board's decision to the Panel. This referral period will close at **5pm on Wednesday 12 March 2025**. If no referrals are received; the decision will be final.

5. SEC Modification Timetables

SECAS (BG) provided an update on the timetables for Modification Proposals, providing an updated Prioritisation Matrix and summaries of high and on hold modifications.

The DCC (DW) advised that there will be DCC System Changes for Modification MP268, however these changes will be incorporated into the new DSP.

The DCC (DW) advised that the DSP Procurement will not conclude in April 2025. They noted it is likely that contracts will be signed in April 2025. The Chair (AB) advised that the DCC has informed

³ Facilitate the efficient and transparent administration and implementation of this Code.

SECAS they will be able to begin requesting DCC Assessments in April once the contracts are signed.

The Change Board:

- **NOTED** the updates on the SEC Modification Timetables.

Any other business

Benefits Realisation Project

A member (EJ) informed the members that if they have been approached by Lorna Mallon regarding requests for a call, this project is looking back at the last five releases and a few other Key Modifications, to investigate whether they achieved the benefits which were anticipated. She requested the members to provide any input if they have any precise details to contribute.

Next scheduled meeting date: 26 March 2025