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SECMP0029 ‘Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Testing Amendments’

2nd Working Group

23rd June 2017 11:00 – 12:00

Gemserv, 8 Fenchurch Place, London, EC3M 4AJ

Meeting Headlines

Attendees:

Organisation	Working Group Member
Utilita (Proposer)	Andy Knowles
British Gas	Rochelle Harrison
EDF	Paul Saker
SSE	Emslie Law
E.ON	Tim Newton
Landis + Gyr	Elias Hanna
SSEN	Dominique Tilquin
Western Power Distribution	Gemma Slaney
EON	Stacey Brentnall

Representing	Other participants
SECAS	Talia Addy (Chair)
	Selin Ergiden (SECAS Modification Support)
	Sam Browne (SECAS Modification Support)
	Urszula Thorpe (Technical Support)
DCC	John Matthews (Teleconference)
	Edward Mace
	Amanda Rooney

Modification Proposal overview

SECAS provided an overview of SECMP0029. This modification seeks to require the DCC to keep the disruption to the Services to a minimum during Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery (BCDR) tests and to notify Users of its test plans well ahead of the planned BCDR test.

Current arrangements

The DCC noted that:

- They are required to perform BCDR testing on their systems at least once a year.
- Four systems will be tested (1 DSP, 2 CSPs and SMKI), either at the same time or separately. If the testing occurs separately, the outage time will be 32 hours in total.
- Users will be notified 20 Working Days (WDs) before planned BCDR testing.
- Test will be held on a Friday – from 8pm to 12am.
- There could be more than one outage, and the objective is to perform the tests with minimum disruption.

Working Group (WG) members raised the question whether the DCC consulted with Users upon this procedure, and the DCC confirmed that BCDR testing was consulted on but there is a need for another consultation. SECAS is requested by the WG to clarify the actual current BCDR process is.

The WG considered the issues arising from the BCDR testing procedure and agreed that the outage time is too long.

Working Group consideration of the solution

The Proposer suggested to extend the DCC's notification time of planned BCDR tests from 20 WDs to 60 WDs. The WG agreed on the proposed time. The DCC noted that the notification obligation should not be absolute as it may not always be possible to give that much notice. The WG also requested further information on the BCDR testing procedure – the main concern being the outage time of the test and its relationship with the SEC. The WG also requested details on whether any or all of the tests could be run simultaneously, either straight away or potentially after the first year.

Next steps

ACTION_2306_01 – SECAS to find the original drafting of BCDR testing procedure.

ACTION_2306_02 – SECAS to make the notification obligation qualified.