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Acronyms and Defined Terms SEC Glossary	

SEC Change Update Report – November 2023

1. Purpose

This document provides an update on the progress of Smart Energy Code (SEC) Modifications and Releases and the recent and upcoming decisions of the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) under delegated authority from the Panel.

The Data Communications Company's (DCC's) performance report on Preliminary Assessments and Impact Assessments is included as Appendix A to this report.

2. Recommendations

The Panel is requested to:

- **NOTE** the contents of this report.

Rachel Black

SECAS Team

17 November 2023

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** DCC Assessments Performance Report (**CLEAR**)

1. Overview

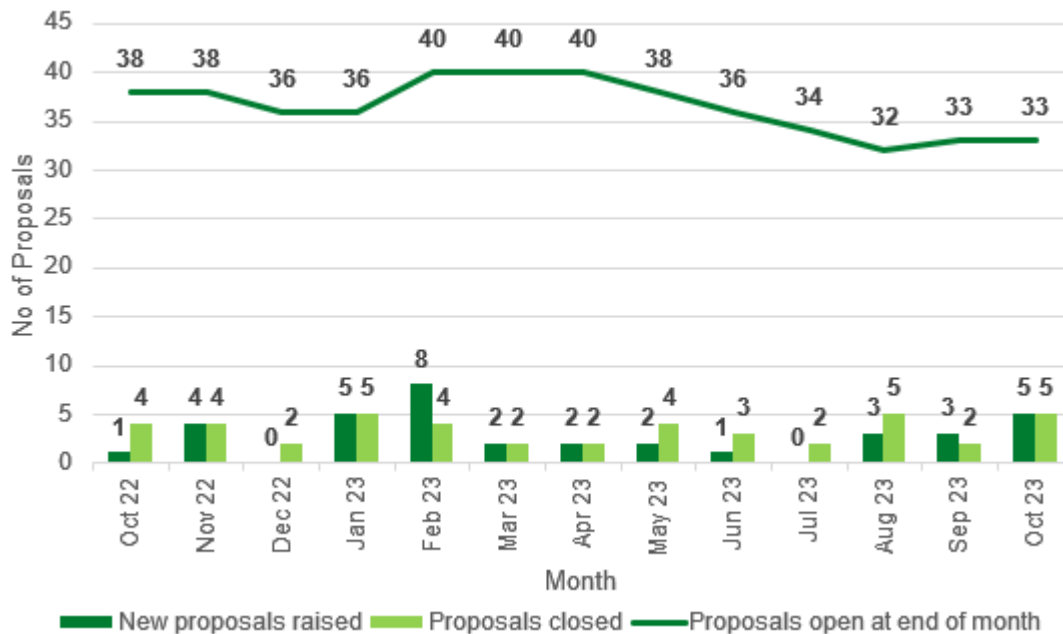
This information is correct as at the end of October 2023.

More detailed information can be found in the [Modification Register](#).

Number of proposals in each stage of the modification framework



Volume of proposals going through the modification framework



2. Modification updates

Modification	Priority	Update
MP242 'Change to Operational Metrics to measure on success'	VERY HIGH	The Refinement Consultation is open until 15 November 2023. SECAS will assess the responses to the consultation before requesting the DCC Impact Assessment from Change Board on 22 November 2023.
MP169 'Managing SEC obligations and	HIGH	SECAS has received the second iteration of the Preliminary Assessment, showing costs of between

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Modification	Priority	Update
the Consumers Right to refuse a smart meter'		£351,000 and £750,000 for Design, Build and Pre-Integration Testing, with costs of £16,684 for an Impact Assessment. The Working Group discussed issues with the SRVs in the scope of the modification, unintended consequences of implementing the modification and the need to engage with Citizens Advice and the Ombudsman. Members did not believe the modification was sufficiently developed to request the Impact Assessment. SECAS is working with the Proposer to resolve these issues before returning to the Working Group.
MP217 'Obtaining Timestamps to allow Target Response Time Measurements'	HIGH	This modification was withdrawn on 30 October 2023.
DP218 'Review of the SEC Charging Methodology'	HIGH	No change on the last update. The DCC has provided the first batch of more granular breakdown of the DCC's cost as requested by the Working Group held in July. The data provided has been circulated for review and feedback. The remaining batch of data requested from the DCC is due at the end of 2023. SECAS will determine when best to hold a Working Group Meeting to agree the next steps.
MP224 'SEC Performance Assurance Framework'	HIGH	SECAS presented this modification to the October Working Group. Members considered that the modification needed more detailed documents rather than agreeing with the intent and then allowing the Performance Assurance Board to develop the details. They requested this work be carried out before proceeding to the Report Phase. SECAS will gain views from the Proposer and Panel to determine the next steps.
MP231 'Firmware Upgrade Pathways'	HIGH	At the September Working Group members were broadly supportive of this modification but raised questions about liability and details regarding non-disclosure agreements. SECAS has discussed these issues with the relevant Manufacturers and will provide revised legal text to address these concerns.
DP232 'ACB Certificates on Install and Commissioning'	HIGH	This modification was withdrawn on 17 October 2023.

3. Points to note

[MP219 'Accessing Consumption Data on behalf of SEC Parties'](#)

On 6 October the Authority sent MP219 back requesting further information to support its decision. SECAS has addressed the concerns and updated the Modification Report. The modification will be presented to the November CSC. The changes to the Privacy Control Framework will be presented to Panel on 28 November and then the Modification Consultation will run for 13 Working Days until 18

December. The modification will then be presented to Change Board. We expect to re-submit the updated Modification Report to the Authority in December, with a decision expected by mid-February.

[MP253 'Traffic Management for Price Control Events - User Actions Required'](#)

Throughout the year, events will regularly occur within the energy industry (namely Price Change events) that require Data Communication Company (DCC) Users to update various aspects of their smart meter portfolio. This will result in a large volume of Service Requests (SR) being sent through the DCC System to Devices. In the past, the DCC have issued User guidance which the Smart Energy Code (SEC) Panel have endorsed and circulated encouraging Parties to be mindful of the requests they send during these periods, to both support the DCC and as to not impact energy consumers where possible. This guidance was not made mandatory, and several Suppliers have noted that they are unable to follow it due to system constraints.

[SECMP0028 'Prioritising System Messages'](#)

SECMP0028 aims to install a prioritisation mechanism within the Southbound pathway (DCC User to Device) of the DCC System. This mechanism will assign pre-defined priority levels of 1-5 to each Service Request sent by a User to the Data Service Provider (DSP). This mechanism will always be active but will be most useful during periods of high-volume traffic, for example Price Change events. A 'fail-safe' will be implemented ensuring that lower priority messages (2-5) are processed earlier should either the system capacity be available, or if the Target Round Trip (TRT) time for each message is due to expire.

The proposed legal text places the prioritisation details within the Traffic Management Mechanism Document'. This is a DCC owned document and its governance is set out in SEC Appendix AB 'Service Request Processing Document'. It states, 'Any changes to this document shall be prepared and consulted upon by the DCC and approved by the Panel.'

4. Change Sub-Committee decisions

Upcoming decisions

The next CSC meeting will be on 21 November 2023.

We expect to ask the CSC to approve the below Modification Reports for progression to the Report Phase:

- [SECMP0028 'Prioritising System Messages'](#)

Priority: Medium

- [MP219 'Accessing Consumption Data on behalf of SEC Parties'](#)

Priority: Medium

We expect to ask the CSC to approve the below Modification Reports for progression to the Refinement Process:

- [DP247 'Future Dating of Service Requests for SMETS1 Devices'](#)

Priority: Medium

Further Draft Proposals may be raised nearer the meeting that could be progressed directly to the Refinement Process or the Report Phase.

5. New Draft Proposals

One new Draft Proposal has been raised since the last update.

- [DP255 'WAN issues during Smart Meter installations'](#)

Currently, the SEC is drafted on the assumption that if the Communications Hub births, all other associated Devices are connected to the SMWAN and can be commissioned. The Proposer has experienced cases where only the Communications Hub connects to the SMWAN and there is insufficient SMWAN for all the other Install and Commission activities to take place. This means that although only the Communications Hub is connected to the SMWAN, the installation is still seen as successful.

Priority: Low

6. DCC Assessments

DCC Impact Assessment requests

The Change Board considered the following Impact Assessment request on 25 October 2023:

- [MP223 'WAN Coverage Reporting'](#) – the Change Board approved this request.

DCC Assessment timescales

This information is correct as at the end of October 2023.

More information is available in the DCC's update in Appendix A.

DCC Assessment timescales		
Assessment	Total	Average duration
Preliminary Assessments open	0	N/A
Preliminary Assessments completed in the last 12 months	12	40 WD
Impact Assessments open	0	N/A
Impact Assessments completed in the last 12 months	6	85 WD

DCC Preliminary Assessments

DCC Preliminary Assessments completed in the last 12 months			
Modification	Returned	Target duration	Actual duration
MP207	30 Nov 22	15 WD	17 WD
MP208	19 Jan 23	15 WD	24 WD
MP169	10 Feb 23	15 WD	50 WD
MP168 ¹	10 Mar 23	15 WD	213 WD
MP217	25 Apr 23	15 WD	62 WD
MP223	14 Jul 23	15 WD	29 WD
MP242	8 Sep 23	15 WD	24 WD
MP137	13 Oct 23	15 WD	1 WD
MP241	13 Oct 23	15 WD	16 WD
MP169	2 Oct 23	15 WD	16 WD
MP239	20 Oct 23	15 WD	23 WD
MP235	27 Oct 23	15 WD	15 WD
MP246	27 Oct 23	15 WD	10 WD

DCC Impact Assessments

DCC Impact Assessments completed in the last 12 months			
Modification	Returned	Target duration	Actual duration
MP178	1 Mar 23	40 WD	38 WD
MP202	11 May 23	40 WD	67 WD
MP211 ²	25 May 23	40 WD	105 WD
MP211 ³	7 Jul 23	40 WD	5 WD
MP176	9 Oct 23	40 WD	267 WD
SECMP0028	13 Oct 23	40 WD	30 WD

¹ The assessment returned the PA and this was sufficient for the IA so no IA was needed.

² The first Impact Assessment returned was for the wrong solution.

³ The second Impact Assessment required an adjustment to comply with the SEC

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7. Modification outcomes

Change Board votes

The Change Board voted on the following modification on 25 October 2023:

- [MP243 'CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.1 Installation End Date and Maintenance End Date'](#) – approved under Self-Governance on the basis it would better facilitate SEC Objective (a)⁴.

Priority: Medium

Authority decisions

The Authority has not issued a decision on any modification since the last Panel meeting.

There are no modifications currently with the Authority for decision.

Withdrawn proposals

Two Modification Proposals have been withdrawn since the last Panel meeting:

- [MP217 'Obtaining Timestamps to allow Target Response Time Measurements'](#)
- [DP232 'ACB Certificates on Install & Commissioning'](#)

We are exploring the business case of the following one other modification:

- [DP197 'Reallocating Third Party Communications Hubs in the Event of a SoLR'](#) Priority: High

8. Releases and Designations

SEC versions issued

SEC v79.0 went live on 2 November 2023, as a result of the November SEC Release. The following modifications were included implemented in the November 2023 SEC Release:

- [MP122B 'Operational Metrics – Part 2'](#)
- [MP216 'Incorporation of Category 2 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 9'](#)
- [MP226 'Incorporation of Category 3 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC - Batch 10'](#)
- [MP245 'SMKI Document Set Changes 2023'](#)
- [MP249 'Housekeeping Changes for the November 2023 SEC Release'](#)

⁴ Facilitate the efficient provision, installation, and operation, as well as interoperability, of Smart Metering Systems at Energy Consumers' premises within Great Britain.

- [DP250 'Correction of an error in GBCS'](#)

Upcoming SEC Releases scope

February 2024 SEC Release – 29 February 2024			
Modification	Priority	DCC System impacts?	Status
MP162 'SEC changes required to deliver MHHS' (legal text only)			Approved
MP167B 'Review of SEC documents (DCC Internal Systems change governance)'			Approved
MP224 'SEC Performance Assurance Framework'	High		Targeted
MP230 'Review the SLA for delivery and completion for SMETS1 firmware'	Medium		Targeted
MP243 'CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.1 Installation End Date and Maintenance End Date'	Medium		Targeted

June 2024 SEC Release – 27 June 2024			
Modification	Priority	DCC System impacts?	Status
MP162 'SEC changes required to deliver MHHS'		✓	Approved
MP178 'Removing DSP validation against the SMI join status for SR8.8.x'		✓	Approved
MP211 'Aligning the SMI with the CPL'		✓	Approved
MP234 'Addition of GDPR Principles of Public Task and Legitimate Interests into the SEC'	Low		Targeted

November 2024 SEC Release – 7 November 2024			
Modification	Priority	DCC System impacts?	Status
SECMP0028 'Prioritising System Messages'	Medium	✓	Targeted
MP137 'Sharing Information on Defects and Issues'	Medium		Targeted
MP176 'Customer Analytics Reporting'	Medium	✓	Targeted
MP223 'WAN Coverage Reporting'	Medium	✓	Targeted

Upcoming designations

There are no confirmed dates for any upcoming designations.

9. Cross-Code working

Code Administration Code of Practice (CACoP) Forum update

The CACoP Forum meets bimonthly, and the last meeting was on 6 October 2023. At this meeting the Forum received a final update on the Open Data part of the Open Data & Consumer Consent project and agreed with RECCo there was no further support it could provide on this. The Forum will review the outcomes of the REC Change Proposals arising from this work following their implementation, to see if the outputs would benefit from being replicated in other Codes. The Forum also discussed a proposal to remove thermal technology types that are embedded in various Codes and agreed this was a sensible proposal – this will not impact the SEC.

Ofgem notified the Code Administrators of its publishing moratorium over the upcoming Christmas and New Year period. The final day for publications will be Thursday 14 December 2023, then publications will resume from Thursday 4 January 2024.

The Forum has issued a survey to seek views from Parties across all the CACoP Codes on the CACoP principles and the products and services the Forum provides. As part of this, the Forum has reviewed the CACoP document itself, and is proposing some changes which it is seeking views on as part of the survey. Alongside some clarification and housekeeping changes, the Forum is proposing two new principles be added:

- The first would encourage Code Administrators to consider the potential impacts on the end consumer and on the move to net zero arising from any modification
- The second would reflect the Code Administrators providing support and input to Ofgem on Code Reform and Consolidation

This survey can be found [here](#) and will be open until Friday 27 October 2023. The Forum will then consider the responses received at its December 2023 meeting, before recommending any changes to the CACoP document to Ofgem for approval.

The next Forum meeting will be on Friday 1 December 2023. This will be the SEC's last meeting as Chair before National Grid ESO, as Code Administrator for the System Operator Transmission Owner Code (STC), takes over in 2024.

Cross Code Steering Group (CCSG) update

The CCSG last met 13 November 2023.

There were no new changes impacting SEC identified this month. However, REC, DCUSA, BSC and SEC representatives have held a meeting to discuss proposals relating to import and export supply and metering arrangements. BSC change P459 has been identified as a potential impact previously for SEC, but this will depend on business requirements confirmation and then the solution proposed. As yet, the working group for P459 has yet to be established and meet. SECAS has requested to be included on the working group for P459 to ensure that the solution development can be closely monitored and any potential impacts to SEC understood and worked through. If there is a cross code dependency, the aim is to consult on all related changes with industry in tandem, instead of individual codes seeking views at different times.