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Acronyms and Defined Terms SEC Glossary	

SEC Change Update Report – December 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

12 December 2023

Attachments:

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

1. Overview

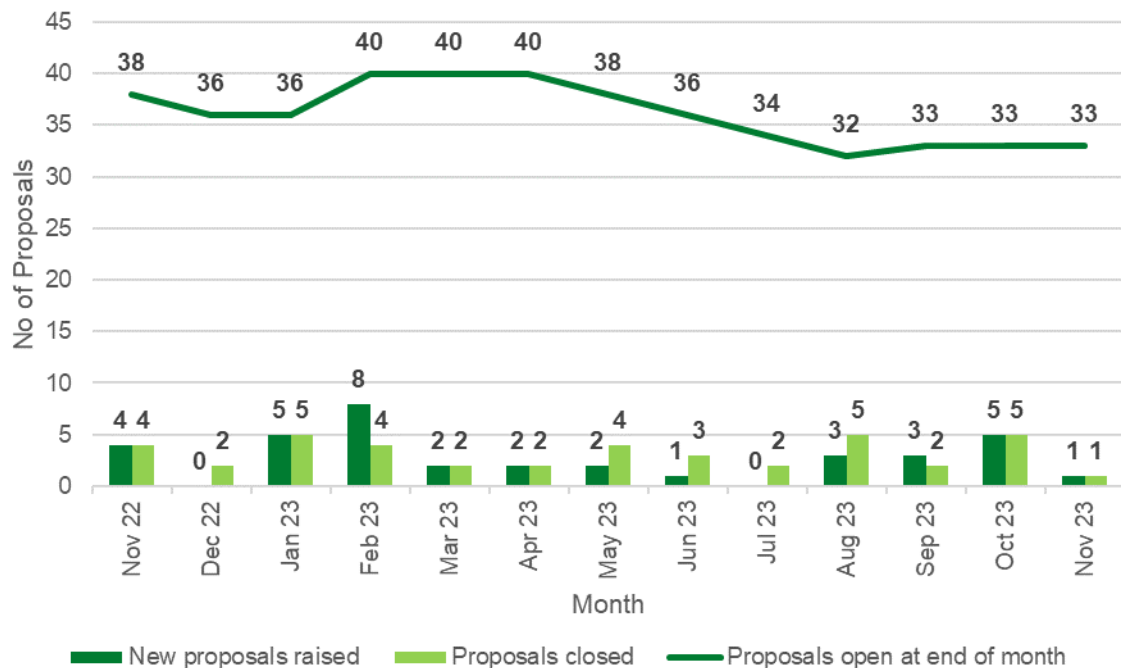
This information is correct as at the end of November 2023.

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	SECAS requested the Impact Assessment on 22 November 2023. SECAS expects this to be returned in late January 2024, with a view to being discussed at the February Working Group meeting.

Modification	Priority	Update
MP169 'Managing SEC obligations and the Consumers Right to refuse a smart meter'	HIGH	SECAS is working with Citizens Advice and the Energy Ombudsman to ensure the wording on their respective websites clearly states what Suppliers can offer without breaking their SEC obligations.
DP218 'Review of the SEC Charging Methodology'	HIGH	SECAS is hosting a meeting on 14 December 2023 where the DCC will provide an overview of the ongoing work by a third-party consultancy on the review of DCC User charging.
MP224 'SEC Performance Assurance Framework'	HIGH	SECAS is developing a draft of the Risk Evaluation Methodology. Once drafted, it will be used to develop several pre-identified risks/issues that SEC Parties face to better demonstrate the value, and potential process for the PAF. We will aim to discuss the drafting with respondents to the Refinement Consultation who provided challenge to ensure it is allaying their concerns.
MP230 'Review the SLA for delivery and completion for SMETS1 firmware'	HIGH	SECAS received five responses to the Refinement Consultation, all of which supported approval of the modification. SECAS will present this modification to the Change Sub-Committee in December to enter the Report Phase.
MP231 'Firmware Upgrade Pathways'	HIGH	Concerns raised at the September Working Group regarding liability and non-disclosure agreements have been addressed. SECAS will present this modification to the Change Sub-Committee in December to enter the Report Phase.
DP252 'Amending the process for Communications Hub returns'	HIGH	SECAS will present this modification to the Change Sub-Committee in December with the recommendation this should enter the Refinement Process. SECAS will develop the business requirements in January 2024 before presenting this modification to the Working Group.

3. Points to note

There are no additional points to note this month.

4. Change Sub-Committee decisions

Upcoming decisions

The next CSC meeting will be on 19 December 2023.

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

- [MP176 'Customer Analytics Reporting'](#)

Priority: Medium

- [MP230 'Review the SLA for delivery and completion for SMETS1 firmware'](#)

Priority: High

- [MP231 'Firmware upgrade pathways'](#)

Priority: High

- [DP256 'SEC Alignment with DCC SMETS1 MHHS Capacity Requirements'](#)

Priority: Medium

- [DP259 'Triage System Interface Definition'](#)

Priority: Low

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

- [DP252 'Amending the process for Communications Hub returns'](#)

Priority: High

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

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

- [DP256 'SEC Alignment with DCC SMETS1 MHHS Capacity Requirements'](#)

In April 2021, Ofgem concluded that Suppliers should be mandated to settle their customers on a half-hourly basis, known as Market-Wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS). The SEC does not set out detailed requirements on how the DCC should effectively manage the service where Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS)1 Service Request (SR) volumes exceed service capacity. We expect to ask the CSC to recommend this progresses to the Report Phase.

Priority: Medium

- [DP257 'DCC Management of Duplicate Messages'](#)

Several factors impact the DCC traffic, one of which is duplicate messages. The DCC would like to explore a solution that would look at halving the journey of retrieving a Service Response if the information was previously requested. We expect to ask the CSC to recommend this remains in the Development Stage.

Priority: Medium

- [DP258 'Aligning requirements for System Outage notifications'](#)

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The DCC have two separate obligations, one being BCDR and the other being Planned Maintenance. Both obligations require a notification period. These notification periods exist to provide Suppliers a period to plan and issue communications to consumers in a timely manner. The issue comes down to having two different notification periods for BCDR and Planned Maintenance. It has caused confusion for Suppliers to follow two different sets of notification periods. We expect to ask the CSC to recommend this remains in the Development Stage.

Priority: Low

- [DP259 'Triage System Interface Definition'](#)

Triage Facilities currently utilise IPsec as a method to secure data connection between Triage Facilities and Manufacturers. One Manufacturer has made a case to employ a different protocol to secure this data connection - TLS - to provide a more granular level of security and control over shared data. TLS is currently detailed elsewhere in the SEC as an acceptable method of encrypting communications but is not allowable under the current definitions for Triage Interface Systems. We expect to ask the CSC to recommend this progresses to the Report Phase.

Priority: Low

- [DP260 'June 2024 SEC Release housekeeping'](#)

The current SEC Documents may contain minor errors which were either in the SEC from inception or introduced via various changes over the years since it was created. SECAS maintains a log of these errors, which are either identified by SECAS or notified to SECAS by other parties. These errors make the SEC documents harder to understand and potentially lead to confusion or misinterpretation. We expect to ask the CSC to recommend this remains in the Development Stage.

Priority: Low

6. DCC Assessments

DCC Impact Assessment requests

The Change Board considered the following Impact Assessment request on 22 November 2023:

- [MP242 'Change to Operational Metrics to Measure on Success'](#) – the Change Board approved this request.

DCC Assessment timescales

This information is correct as at the end of November 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	1	20 WD
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
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 in progress			
Modification	Accepted	Target duration	Current duration
MP223	3 Nov 23	40 WD	20 WD

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

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

7. Modification outcomes

Change Board votes

The Change Board voted on the following modification on 22 November 2023:

- [MP251 'Transfer of Secret Key Material'](#) – approved under Self-Governance on the basis it would better facilitate SEC Objective (f)⁴.

Priority: Very High

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

No modifications have been withdrawn since the last update.

8. Releases and Designations

SEC versions issued

SEC v80.0 went live on 6 December 2023 because of the Department of Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) designating the Network Evolution Transition and Migration Approach Document (NETMAD) into the SEC under Appendix AU.

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

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

⁴ Ensure the protection of Data and the security of Data and Systems in the operation of this Code.

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Upcoming SEC Releases scope

February 2024 SEC Release:

Modification	Status
MP162 'SEC changes required to deliver MHHS' (legal text only)	Approved for inclusion.
MP167B 'Review of SEC documents (DCC Internal Systems change governance)'	Approved for inclusion.
MP230 'Review the SLA for delivery and completion for SMETS1 firmware'	SECAS will present this modification to the CSC on Tuesday 19 December 2023 to progress to the Report Phase. <i>Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: 15 Feb 2024</i>
MP243 'CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.1 Installation End Date and Maintenance End Date'	Approved for inclusion.
MP248 'RDP Requirements for DCC Gateway Connections'	SECAS will present this modification to the CSC on Tuesday 19 December 2023 to progress to the Report Phase. <i>Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: 15 Feb 2024</i>

Please note:

[MP162 'SEC changes required to deliver MHHS'](#) includes legal text changes to SEC Appendix R 'Common Test Scenarios Document' which will be implemented in the February 2024 SEC Release ahead of User Integration Testing (UIT). The remaining legal text and the associated DCC System changes will be implemented in the June 2024 SEC Release. The DCC has indicated that it would be beneficial to implement the SEC Appendix R changes sooner than the February 2024 SEC Release, however this is yet to be formalised.

June 2024 SEC Release:

Modification	Status
MP162 'SEC changes required to deliver MHHS'	Approved for inclusion.
MP178 'Removing DSP validation against the SMI join status for SR8.8.x'	Approved for inclusion.
MP211 'Aligning the SMI with the CPL'	Approved for inclusion.
MP253 'Traffic Management for Price Control Events'	This modification is currently out for Refinement Consultation. This consultation will close on Thursday 4 January 2024. <i>Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: 17 Jun 2024</i>

Modification	Status
MP254 'Changes to GFI Arrangements'	This modification is currently on hold until Jan 2024 as per the request of the Proposer. Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: <i>17 Jun 2024</i>

November 2024 SEC Release:

Modification	Status
SECMP0028 'Prioritising System Messages'	SECAS will present this modification to the Change Board on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023 for final vote. Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: <i>7 Jan 2024</i>
MP137 'Sharing Information on Defects and Issues'	The Refinement Consultation has now closed. SECAS will consider the responses before presenting to the Working Group. Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: <i>7 Aug 2024</i>
MP176 'Customer Analytics Reporting'	SECAS will present this modification to the CSC on Tuesday 19 December 2023 to progress to the Report Phase. <i>Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: 7 May 2024</i>
MP223 'WAN Coverage Reporting'	SECAS has requested the DCC Impact Assessment which is due to be returned in early Jan 2024 <i>Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: 7 May 2024</i>

February 2025 SEC Release:

There are currently no modifications targeted for the February 2025 SEC Release.

June 2025 SEC Release:

Modification	Status
MP169 'Managing SEC Obligations and the Consumer's Right to refuse a Smart Meter'	Following feedback at the November Working Group meeting, SECAS is working through a number of actions with the Proposer before returning to the Working Group in February 2024. <i>Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: 29 September 2024</i>
MP207 'Allowing Registered Supplier Agents to Maintain Meter Firmware'	The Sep 2023 Change Board rejected the DCC Impact Assessment request. SECAS is discussing the next steps with the Proposer and Ofgem. <i>Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: 29 August 2024</i>
MP235 'Enhanced Meter Data Access for Other Users'	This modification will be discussed at the December Working Group meeting to gain feedback regarding the

Modification	Status
	DCC Preliminary Assessment. SECAS expects the Refinement Consultation to open in early January 2024. <i>Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: 29 March 2025</i>
MP241 'Interoperability Checker Update'	SECAS will present this modification to the Change Board on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023 to request the DCC Impact Assessment. <i>Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: 29 August 2024</i>
MP246 'DCC User access to metadata via the DCC Self-Service Interface (SSI)'	This modification is currently out for Refinement Consultation. This consultation will close on Thursday 4 January 2024. <i>Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: 29 September 2024</i>

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 1 December 2023. At this meeting the Forum discussed the single response received to the CACoP survey. The Forum also discussed comments received on the proposed changes to the CACoP document. The Forum agreed to adjust the wording of the new Principle would support greater input from the Proposer and suggested that each Code reviews their forms separately to make this section clearer. Although for the wording in the CACoP needs to be generic enough so that it can be adapted by each Code, and that this wording was already used throughout the document.

The Forum discussed the low response rate to the CACoP survey and how the Forum could try and gain feedback in other ways. The Forum agreed that Code Administrators could seek time at their Panel meetings to discuss the CACoP. They proposed that each Code Administrator should take this forward in a way that works best with their Panel and engaging with their Panel prior to issuing a survey may improve response rates.

The Forum discussed the January 2024 CACoP Newsletter which members agreed would include the introduction of the new Chair and for any items to be notified by end of December 2023.

The Forum was introduced to the new CACoP Forum Chair, ahead of the System Operator Transmission Owner Code's (STC) turn chairing the CACoP Forum in 2024.

The Forum agreed proposed dates for meeting in 2024 and revisit them in February once members have checked their diaries.

The Forum discussed if the Data Integration Platform (DIP) should be considered as an additional Code with its own governance arrangements, making it separate to Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC). They considered that the DIP is more a Central Service System Provider than a Code

Administrator. They also noted that the CACoP Principles will not be applicable to the DIP unless it had an appropriate governance framework put in place. They acknowledged that the Forum might want to engage with the DIP in the future, but queried if they should be formally included. The Forum agreed that reviewing the Forum membership be added as a work item and discussed as part of the next meeting.

Ofgem noted that it will not be carrying out a cross-Code survey in 2024. They also noted Ofgem is considering implementing a similar mechanism for Code Managers in the future. In the meantime, they proposed that Code Administrators could carry out their own surveys, with the Forum agreeing more consistent questions that could be asked through these. They also suggested this could be included as a new CACoP Principle in the future. There was concern from the Forum there could be too many surveys in circulation at the same time and asked if Ofgem has a timeline for when it would want each Code to send out surveys. Ofgem advised it would obtain further details for the Forum.

Ofgem noted that the Future System Operator (FSO) Cross Code Workgroup (CCWG) has made good progress, and there is ongoing work for the gas packages. Ofgem will be meeting with Code Administrator representatives shortly to discuss this. They stated that the FSO project plan aims to begin baselining changes across all the affected Codes in the first quarter of 2024. Ofgem was unsure when these will go live but agreed to find out and inform the Forum. The Forum advised raising this during the next CCWG meeting and they are comfortable with baselining the proposal but would find it useful to know when it might be implemented. The Forum requested an update could be given at the next meeting.

The next Forum meeting will be on Friday 2 February 2024. This will be the first meeting as Chair for National Grid ESO, as Code Administrator for the STC.

Cross Code Steering Group (CCSG) update

The CCSG met 11 December 2023.

A change impacting all codes was identified as that of the impending removal of Facsimile as a means of communication by the end of 2025. All industry Codes have Facsimile / Fax as an agreed way of formally providing Notices to Parties. SEC currently uses the term Fax in Section M “General” and SEC Appendix P “SMKI Repository Code of Connection.” SECAS will raise an appropriate housekeeping change and consider the most suitable time for implementation, alongside other Codes applying similar changes. No other changes impacting SEC.