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Acronyms and Defined Terms SEC Glossary	

SEC Change Update Report – January 2024

1. Purpose

This document provides an update on the progress of Smart Energy Code (SEC) Modifications 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. A SEC Releases update is included as Appendix B.

This month an update on the Modifications Improvements Project has been included as Appendix C.

2. Recommendations

The Panel is requested to:

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

Rachel Black

SECAS Team

16 January 2024

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** DCC Assessments Performance Report (**CLEAR**)
- **Appendix B:** SEC Releases update (**CLEAR**)
- **Appendix C:** Modifications Improvement Highlight Report (**GREEN**)

1. Overview

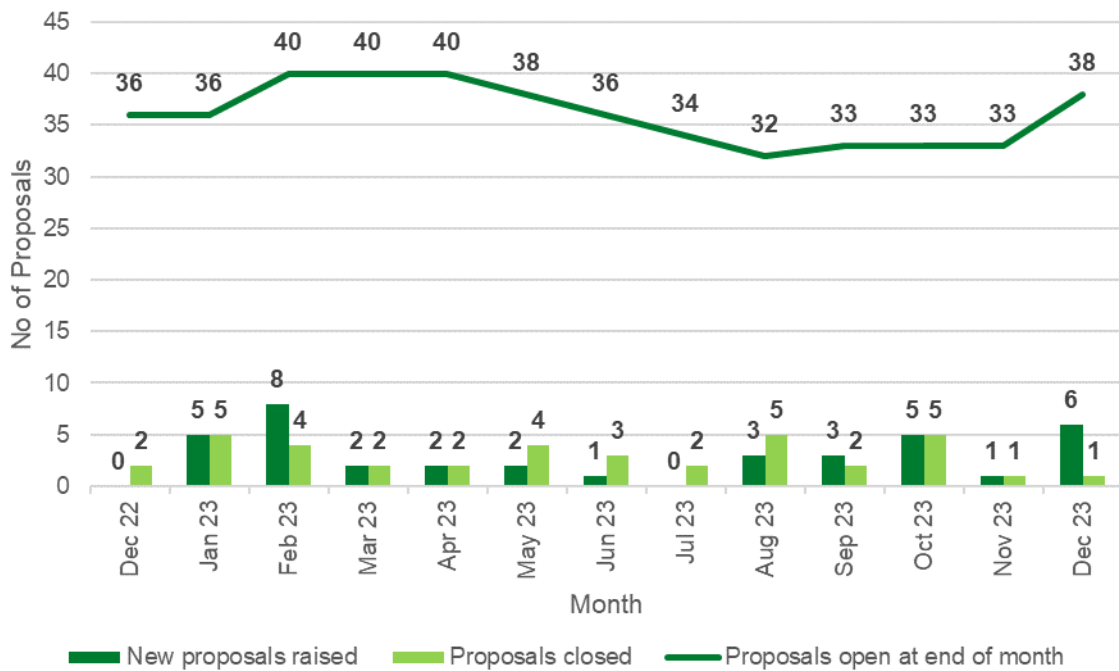
This information is correct as at the end of December 2023.

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 and 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 has engaged with Citizens Advice and the Energy Ombudsman to understand their views on the modification. SECAS will present the Proposed Solution to the Working Group in February 2024 to gain feedback on whether to make the Impact Assessment request.
DP218 'Review of the SEC Charging Methodology'	HIGH	Following the Ad hoc meeting hosted by SECAS on 14 December 2023, the DCC and their consultants anticipate an update at the Working Group in February 2024 to address emerging conclusions on DCC Charging options.
MP224 'SEC Performance Assurance Framework'	HIGH	SECAS is developing a draft of the Risk Evaluation Methodology. 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 have discussed the drafting with respondents to the Refinement Consultation who provided challenge which allayed their concerns. SECAS will present this to the February 2024 Working Group.
MP231 'Firmware Upgrade Pathways'	HIGH	Concerns raised at the September Working Group regarding liability and non-disclosure agreements have been addressed. SECAS presented this modification to the Change Sub-Committee in December to enter the Report Phase. The final vote will be held in January 2024.
MP252 'Amending the process for Communications Hub returns'	HIGH	On 19 December 2023 the Change Sub-Committee converted this Draft Proposal into a Modification Proposal and sent it to the Refinement Process. SECAS is developing the Business Requirements with the Proposer before presenting this modification to the Working Group.

3. Points to note

[SECMP0028 'Prioritising System Messages'](#)

This modification was raised in December 2016. In October 2017 it was placed on hold while SECMP0067 was being progressed. When [SECMP0067 'Service Request Traffic Management'](#) was rejected in October 2020, work was started again with the final voted being performed at the December 2023 Change Board meeting where the traffic management mechanism was approved. Some work still needs to be completed by OPSG and TABASC to finalise the priority list.

DCC Assessment Report

The DCC Assessments Section (previously Section 6) of this report has been removed and will be replaced by the DCC Assessments Report in Appendix A. The SEC Change team are reporting to the CSC, Change Board and Panel the assessment performance levels every month in order to ensure more timely action on any delays. We will continue to monitor the DCC Assessment performance and review the report provided by the DCC (Appendix A) and resolve any discrepancies or report them to Panel if they cannot be resolved.

SEC Releases Update Report

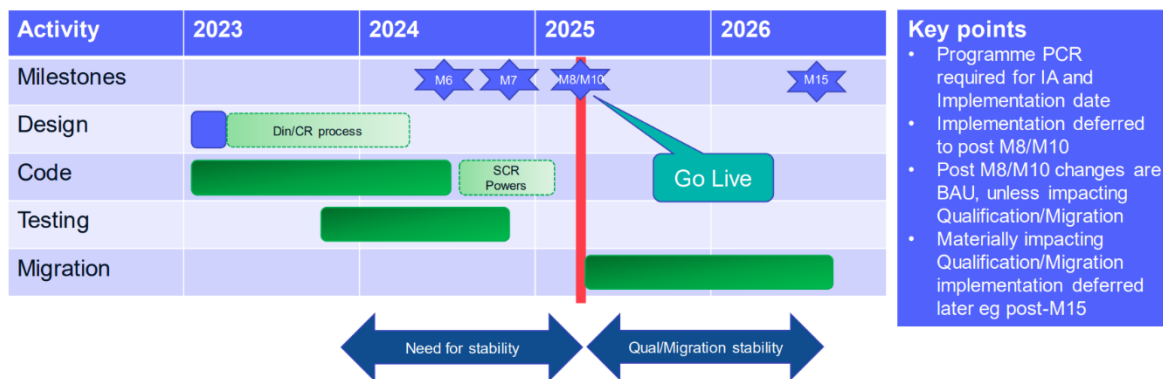
The Releases and Designations Section of this report has been reduced. The SEC Change team compile a report on updates to the Releases on a monthly basis for the CSC and Change Board. This will now be provided as Appendix B to this report. Designations will continue to be reported in Section 7 of this report.

Change Freeze relating to MHHS

There is now a change freeze for anything that might impact MHHS Target Operating Model (TOM) until MHHS Go Live which is expected in 2025. This will not impact any changes that are not related to MHHS TOM, which is the majority of SEC modifications.

Change Freeze Timelines

Programme and Change Freeze Timelines – Update from PSG



How will Change be assessed during this Change Freeze?

Milestone	Target Operating Model (TOM) Change Status	External Changes that impact the MHHS TOM	External Changes that have no impact on the MHHS TOM
Pre-M9	Changes accepted to improve the Design.	Need a Programme Change Request (CR) to implement.	No impact.
Post M9	Design changes are only accepted if without which the system would not work. "Nice to haves" will go into the backlog. Only P1 and P2 defects are facilitated post M9 pre M10. P3 and P4 defects going into the backlog.	Need a Programme CR to confirm impact, and assessment as whether it meets "TOM deficiency" threshold. Or are strategically important that Ofgem accepts the impact on the MHHS timetable.	No impact.
Post M6	Design Change as above, but extended to Code Changes so they must meet the deficiency in the Code threshold	Need a Programme CR to confirm impact, and assessment as whether it meets "TOM deficiency" threshold. Or are strategically important that Ofgem accepts the impact on the MHHS timetable.	No Impact.
Post M8 and M10	Design changes are Business As Usual (BAU) (with relevant Code Body) unless they impact the migration process. Same for Code Changes.	Design Changes are BAU with relevant Code Body unless they impact the migration process. Same for Code Changes. A Programme CR impact assessment is required against the migration process.	No impact.
Post M15	All Changes are BAU.	All Changes are BAU.	No impact.

Modification Improvement Project Update

Full details of the work completed so far can be found in Appendix C. In summary, the individual interviews for the end-to end review of the Change Process have been completed and the feedback is being analysed to develop some proposals for change which will be presented at a workshop in February. All other actions are also on track. The Review and update to the CSC and Change Board Terms of Reference will be done as part of the end-to-end review and will therefore be completed by March 2024. The review of the modification to allow Panel to withdraw a modification from the process has been completed and the results will be included in the workshop in February for consideration.

4. Change Sub-Committee decisions

Recent decisions

The CSC last met on 16 January 2024.

The CSC approved the below Modification Report for progression to the Report Phase:

- [MP223 'WAN Coverage Reporting'](#)

Priority: Medium

The CSC approved the below Modification Report for progression to the Refinement Process:

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

Priority: Medium

The CSC agreed the below modification should remain in the Development Stage:

- [DP262 'Extending the Installation End Date for CHTS v1.0 and GBCS v1.1'](#)

Priority: High

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

Priority: Medium

Upcoming decisions

The next CSC meeting will be on 20 February 2024.

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

- [MP207 'Allowing Registered Supplier Agents to Maintain Meter Firmware'](#)

Priority: Medium

- [MP242 'Change to Operational Metrics to Measure on Success'](#)

Priority: Very 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

Two new Draft Proposals have been raised since the last update.

- [MP261 'Extending the Organisation Certificate Validity Period'](#)

The DCC would like to align the new manufacture Organisation Certificates with the existing Issuing Organisation Certification Authority (OCA) Certificate, which has an expiry date of 25 years (2041). The DCC is unable to do this currently as Appendix B 'Organisation Certificate Policy' only allows Organisation Certificates to be valid for 10 years.

Priority: Medium

- [DP262 'Extending the Installation End Date for CHTS v1.0 and GBCS v1.1'](#)

Smart Energy Code (SEC) Schedule 11 'Technical Specification Applicability Tables' contains a table titled 'CHTS and Relevant Versions of GBCS', including the CHTS v1.0 and the Relevant GBCS v1.1. The Installation End Date for this combination was 30 April 2023 and had a Maintenance End Date of 31 May 2023. These dates have already been extended once as part of MP221 CHTS v1.0 and GBCS 'v1.1 Installation End Date and Maintenance End Date'. When this modification was raised there were approximately 200,000 uninstalled Communications Hubs.

The previous extension was three months. This timeframe was expected to be sufficient to allow Suppliers to locate and install this stock. However, Drax is aware of approximately 120,000 uninstalled Communications Hubs which are compliant with these specifications and not yet installed, across the industry.

Priority: High

6. Modification outcomes

Change Board votes

The Change Board voted on the following modification on 20 December 2023:

- [SECMP0028 'Prioritising System Messages'](#) – approved under Self-Governance on the basis it would better facilitate SEC Objectives (a)¹ and (c)².

Priority: Very High

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

² Facilitate Energy Consumers' management of their use of electricity and gas through the provision to them of appropriate information by means of Smart Metering Systems.

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.

7. Designations

SEC versions issued

SEC v81.0 went live on 18 December 2023 because of the Department of Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) re-designating the 'SMETS1 Transition and Migration Approach Document' (SMETS1 TMAD).

SEC v82.0 went live on 20 December 2023 as [MP251 'Transfer of Secret Key Material'](#) was implemented as part of an Ad hoc SEC Release.

SEC v83.0 went live on 9 January 2024 because of the DCC issuing notice to amend and re-designate SEC Appendix AQ 'SEC Variation Testing Approach Document for the CH&N Arrangements.

Upcoming designations

There is one designation expected soon, in relation to a Power Restoration Alert Delivery Mechanism (PRADM). There is no confirmed date yet, but this designation is expected within January 2024.

8. 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 which would support greater input from the Proposer and suggested that each Code reviews their forms separately to make this section clearer. The Forum agreed the wording in the CACoP needs to be generic enough so that it can be adapted by each Code. However, it was agreed 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 discussed if the Data Integration Platform (DIP) should be considered as an additional Code with its own governance arrangements, making it separate to the 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. Ofgem is considering implementing a similar mechanism for Code Managers in the future. In the meantime, Ofgem proposed that Code Administrators could carry out their own surveys, with the Forum agreeing more consistent questions that could be asked through these. Ofgem 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 meeting for January 2024, was cancelled at short notice. The next scheduled CCSG meeting is 12 February 2024.