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Paper Reference:	TABASC_115_0307_293
Action:	For Discussion

MP293 – Potential Solution

1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to gather the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) views on the Proposed Solution for [MP293 – ‘Deferment of DCC Planned Maintenance during Adverse Weather’](#).

2. Summary of MP293

This section summarises the key points of this Modification Proposal. More information is available in the Modification Report in Appendix A.

2.1 What is the issue?

Network Parties are responsible for ensuring that consumers have their power restored following damage caused by an adverse weather event such as a storm. In order to determine the size and scale of damage, a Network Party may ‘ping’ Smart Metering Systems (SMSs) to map out which Supply Meter Points are on-supply, and which are not.

The DCC periodically conduct Planned Maintenance, during which SMSs become non-responsive. Should a Planned Maintenance event coincide with an adverse weather event, Network Parties will lose the ability to ‘ping’ SMSs, impairing their ability to assess damage incurred as a result of adverse weather.

This Modification Proposal has been raised by a Network Party, asking SECAS to explore options for how a DCC Planned Maintenance might be deferred should it coincide with an adverse weather event.

2.2 What is the impact?

The impact for this Modification can be categorised in two ways: The impact on a Network Party of not having access to communicative SMSs during and immediately after an adverse weather event, and the impact on the Data Communications Company (DCC) and its Users & Service Providers of having to cancel a Planned Maintenance with minimal notice.

Network Party Impact:

Where a Network Party is not able to communicate with an SMS during or after an adverse weather event, they may be forced to deploy resources that they otherwise may not have in order to determine which of their Supply Meter Points are on-supply. This results in both an operational, logistical and financial impact.

An adverse weather event has occurred at the same time as a DCC Planned Maintenance – This took place during Storm Daragh in December 2024. As a result, Network Parties have access to data to show the real-world impact on their operations as a result of an overlap. The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) will work with Network Parties to quantify this impact in order to build a robust cost-benefit assessment.

DCC Impact:

Should the DCC be required to defer a Planned Maintenance, the following impacts may result:

- The DCC may incur a penalty as a result of re-categorising the rescheduled maintenance as Unplanned;
- Where a Planned Maintenance is required to prevent an Incident, deferring it may result in that Incident occurring;
- Consequential impact on the DCC's Service Providers, who will also have to cancel their own arrangements put in place to facilitate a Planned Maintenance. This may also result in contractual issues between the DCC and its Service Providers;
- Consequential impacts on DCC Users, who had arranged works to coincide with a Planned Maintenance, that will now not go ahead;
- Impacts on Consumers as a result of inconsistent messaging around availability of SMS functionality; and
- Other Impacts that SECAS are to determine as a result of conversations with affected Parties.

2.3 What is the Proposed Solution?

The Proposer has suggested an impact matrix, whereby the decision to defer a Planned Maintenance is determined by a function of the size and severity of the adverse weather event. A higher "score" would determine whether a deferral should be considered or not, with consideration given to relatively more or less critical Planned Maintenance. Several questions remain outstanding regarding this matrix, such as how the size and scale will be determined, and whether the threshold being met for a deferral should simply require the DCC to consider the deferral, or whether deferral should be triggered automatically. A mock-up of a deferral impact matrix has been produced below – Please note that this is entirely for demonstrative purposes and is not indicative of the final proposed solution.

	Scale of Impact		
Size of Impacted Area	X	X	X
	X	X	X
	X	X	X
	X	X	X

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3. Questions for the TABASC

We seek the TABASC's input on the following questions to feed into the Modification Report:

- Does the TABASC see any issues arising from the implementation of this Modification?
- Does the TABASC have any views on the proposed solution?
- Does the TABASC have any views on the impact of the proposed solution?

4. Next steps

SECAS will present this issue to the Security Sub-Committee (SSC) 09 July 2025 and the Operations Group (OPSG) 28 July 2025.

5. Recommendations

The TABASC is requested to:

- **PROVIDE** feedback on the issue outlined as part of MP293.

Lydia Bentley

SECAS Team

26 June 2025

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** MP293 Modification Report v0.2