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Paper Reference:	TABASC120_0912_03a
Action:	For Discussion

MP293 – Deferment of DCC Planned Maintenance during Adverse Weather

1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to gather the Technical Architecture & 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?

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. SECAS will work with Network Parties to quantify this impact in order to build a cost-benefit assessment.

2.3 What is the Proposed Solution?

MP293 has two Solution options in scope:

1. Requiring the DCC to defer a Planned Maintenance when it will overlap with an adverse weather event. This will require DCC Service Provider contract changes.
2. The DCC will make a limited number of SRVs/Alerts available to Network Parties during a Planned Maintenance, i.e., SRVs/Alerts with an “Enhanced Availability”

The Proposer has asked SECAS to explore these two options in parallel; this paper will focus on the “Enhanced Availability” Solution, however.

“Enhanced Availability” Solution Overview

During discussions on the deferral Solution option, the DCC raised the prospect of a potential Solution in which a small number of Service Reference Variants (SRV) and/or Alerts could be kept on during a Planned Maintenance. In this way, even when an adverse weather event happens concurrent with a Planned Maintenance, a Network Party could still be in communication with an SMS via one of the “Enhanced Availability” SRVs. As a result, both the DCC and Network Parties could achieve their operational goals during a Maintenance and an adverse weather event respectively, without detriment to the other.

The Proposer has asked SECAS to explore the “Enhanced Availability” Solution alongside the deferral Solution option, with a preference for the “Enhanced Availability” Solution as the primary means of resolving this Modification’s problem statement. Following discussion between Network Parties and the Energy Network Association (ENA), the trade association for Network Parties, the Proposer has identified two SRVs/Alerts that they believe would enable sufficient communication with SMSs during an adverse weather event. These are SRV 7.4 – ‘Read Supply Status’, and Alert AD1 – ‘Power Outage Event’.

“Enhanced Availability” Solution Considerations

The “Enhanced Availability” Solution is proposed to operate inside the following parameters:

- Using the Enhanced Availability service, Users shall be able to send the following on demand SRV and receive appropriate responses: 7.4, Read Supply Status
- Using the Enhanced Availability service, Users shall be able to receive this alert: AD1, Power Outage Alerts
- The Enhanced Availability service must be available for SMETS2 and SMETS1 Devices.
- Users will access the Enhanced Availability service via the DCC Gateway Network, and no additional User connectivity will be required
- Users will send Service Requests and receive Alerts and Responses in accordance with the existing DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS)
- All security and message signing will be in accordance with the existing DUIS
- When a Major incident, planned maintenance, or BCDR impacts the Enhanced Availability service specifically it will not be available.

- Both the DCC Total System and Enhanced Availability service will not be taken down at the same time for Maintenance or BCDR Tests.
- The Enhanced Availability system shall have at least 99.5% availability.
- The Enhanced Availability service must:
 - Have the capacity to handle at least 1,400,000 SRV7.4 plus corresponding Responses;
 - Alternatively, this may be expressed as an average maximum hourly volume.
 - Have the capacity to handle at least 400,000 AD1 Alerts per day;
 - Alternatively, this may be expressed as an average maximum hourly volume.
 - Ensure processing as close as possible to the existing standard DCC Total System functionality in terms of logging and messages; and
 - Target Response Times will be maintained

These parameters are subject to review by the Proposer and the DCC.

3. Questions for the TABASC

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

- 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 discuss this Modification at the SEC Working Group meeting on 3 December 2025 and then look to initiate a Preliminary Impact Assessment with the DCC in January 2026.

5. Recommendations

The TABASC is asked to:

- **PROVIDE** feedback on the Proposed Solution for MP293.

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SECAS Team

02 December 2025

Attachments:

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