SECMP0058 'Changes to the governance of the Self-Service Interface'

Working Group Meeting 1

3 September 2018, Gemserv's Offices

Meeting summary

Discussions

Planned Maintenance

The Smart Energy Code (SEC) allows the Data Communications Company (DCC) four hours per month for Planned Maintenance. However, a temporary arrangement is now in place that allows DCC a window of six hours per week to carry out Planned Maintenance. The Working Group questioned the impacts this modification would have on planned DCC maintenance durations. DCC clarified that the window for system maintenance covers the deployment phase of changes to the Self-Service Interface (SSI) and that future SSI changes would not cause them to exceed this. DCC added that on the rare exception DCC needed to exceed six hours system maintenance in a week, they would have to consult with the Operations Group first, who have been delegated by the Panel to oversee changes to the SSI.

Proposed SSI Baseline Requirements Document

One Working Group member was concerned that the proposed SSI Baseline Requirements Document didn't carry over the pre-conditions of SEC Appendix AH 'Self Service Interface Design Specification'. Other Working Group members then suggested that, rather than completely removing the content from Appendix AH, it could be left with just a set of core principles and requirements. However, the Working Group member that raised this concern did not think that this would be adequate.

SSI change process

Working Group members suggested that that the Modification Process could be used to progress changes to the SSI. The Operations Group could vote on changes to the SSI and then the Panel could make the final decision. However, it was agreed that utilising the Modifications Process would prolong changes to the SSI. If the Operations group were to be delegated to make the final sign off decision, the Modifications Process would not have to be utilised resulting in more efficient changes to the SSI.

DCC noted that a level of awareness and enforcement was required to cover the costs of changes to the SSI and they were happy to have obligations put on them to ensure that costs were formalised.

One Working Group member felt that user requirements for changes to the SSI were not prioritised but that DCC's were. Another Working Group member then added that the SSI needs to retain a level of detail as to why certain requests for changes to the SSI are prioritised.

Documenting changes to the SSI

DCC explained that a delta document could be used as a method to show the industry what changes the sprints would be making to the SSI. One Working Group member was heavily against this method as they thought that this brought no benefit in terms of price control. The Working Group member added that changes to the SSI required full, open and transparent discussions with a consultation carried out with all SEC Parties, not just the Operations Group or the Customer Working Group. They felt that the proposed delta document approach would not be able to accommodate this, as this document would only come out after the changes had been made. Other Working Group members then raised the question as to which point of the process should the consultation(s) fall at; either at the development and/or implementations stages.

Modification scope

The Working Group considered the scope of the modification and the majority agreed that it should focus on the enduring process for SSI sprints whilst extending the waver for the current backlog of sprints to accommodate this.

Actions

SECAS will draft flow diagrams outlining the possible governance arrangements and timescales involved with making changes to the SSI and will liaise with the Proposer over the possible solutions. We will also seek further input from the Operations Group on this and will bring the outcomes from this work back to the Working Group at the next meeting.

SECMP0058 Working Group Meeting
1 Summary

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Page 2 of 2

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