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Paper Reference:	SECP_70_1207_04
Action:	For Discussion

November 2019 SEC Release

1. Purpose

SEC Section D10 requires the DCC to produce and consult upon a Testing Approach Document (TAD) for each SEC Release and for the SEC Panel to review the document. The DCC has consulted upon the TAD and the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) has reviewed it on behalf of the Panel. The TAG has several outstanding concerns and cannot recommend acceptance of the TAD.

2. November 2019 Release Content

The scope of the November 2019 release is set out on the SEC website at '[About Releases](#)', and the table below sets out the modifications approved or targeted for this release:

Id	Title	Status
SECMP0018	Standard Electricity Distributor Configuration Settings	Approved
SECMP0023	Correct Units of Measure for Uncontrolled Gas Flow Rate	Approved
SECMP0025	Electricity Network Party Access to Load Switching Information	Approved
SECMP0039	Communication Hub returns notification mechanism for Other SEC Parties	Approved
SECMP0055	Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC	Approved
SECMP0060	Amend Requirements to remove 'Pending' devices from SMI	Approved
SECMP0062	Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection Part 1	Targeted

The scale of the changes in the release is relatively small.

The Panel approved in May 2019 the Release Implementation Document (RID) for the release. The current version of the RID is also published on the SEC website at '[About Releases](#)', noting that it will be updated to reflect changes to the release.

3. November 2019 Release Testing Approach Document

The DCC has developed the Testing Approach Document, discussing initial views with the TAG and consulting with industry between 23 May and 20 June 2019.

Key feedback and the views of the TAG regarding how DCC has addressed the feedback are set out below. The TAG's view regarding each point is recorded below.

3.1 Environment Sharing & Code Management

Industry and TAG members raised concerns regarding environment sharing and code management, specifically ensuring that the modified system testing in Systems Integration Testing (SIT) will accurately reflect the code promoted to the User Integration Testing (UIT) environment and into the live environment. The concern primarily relates to the consequences of running several programmes concurrently (i.e. November 2019 SEC Release, SMETS1 Middle Operating Capability (MOC) and SMETS1 Final Operating Capability (FOC)).

A second concern was raised that the DCC needs to communicate the environments that Users must use for any User testing, noting that several months' notice is required to enable organisations to make their infrastructure changes.

At TAG on 26 June, the DCC was not able to confirm the usage of environments by each programme or give necessary confidence to TAG regarding environment management and code management. A further discussion was arranged for 5 July, although the DCC was not able to provide information about MOC and FOC or clarify the interaction with these releases.

The TAG has outstanding concerns regarding environment usage and code management.

3.2 Duration and Timing of User Testing

Concerns have been raised regarding the time available for User testing, with two potential impacts:

- 1) if Users have insufficient time to test in UIT ahead of promotion to live, an opportunity to identify and address errors before they could impact consumers would be lost;
- 2) Users may not be able to gain the benefits of the release if they are unable to test the changes.

At TAG on 26 June:

- the DCC confirmed that Users will not be required to make changes prior to go live to continue to interoperate with the DCC Systems or Devices. Not doing so will mean only that they cannot benefit from new functionality rather than losing any existing capability;
- the DCC stated that Users would not be mandated to participate in testing ahead of the release. This position appears reasonable given the nature of the release, but should be stated explicitly in the TAD, or elsewhere;
- the DCC confirmed that Users will be able to conduct their own testing after the release goes live as part of the enduring Testing Services;
- the TAG stated that DCC needs to communicate when the updated version of Parse and Correlate will be available, noting that Users will require significant notice to deploy this;
- the TAG queried whether the Common Test Scenarios Document (SEC Appendix R) must be amended via consultation to reflect the changes in the release, such as the revised list of eligible Users for existing Service Requests.

The DCC has committed to providing environment details with Users and sharing planning information regarding Parse and Correlate.

Two key concerns remain that could impact a User's ability to conduct testing before go-live:

1. As currently planned, the time at which a production version of Parse and Correlate is available is unlikely to allow for any user testing to take place before November 2019;
2. Users need to know whether versions 3.0 and 3.1 of DUIS will be supported.

The TAG has outstanding concerns regarding the ability of Users to conduct testing before go-live.

3.3 Inclusion of Non-Release 19 Change Request

The DCC has proposed the inclusion of Change Requests, one of which appears to impact retry mechanism, specifically impacting install & commission. DCC considers this change critical to allow the DCC Systems to continue to operate. TAG knows little detail of this change and considers it imperative to understand the impact and need for User testing.

The TAG has concerns regarding the possible impact on Users, particular noting the concerns in section 3.2 that Users may not be able to conduct testing in the necessary timeframe.

3.4 Content of DUISv3.1

At TAG on 26 June, the DCC explained at a high level the changes between DUIS versions 3.0 and 3.1, noting that these were published on the SEC website on 10 June 2019.

TAG considers that this concern is appropriately addressed but notes the outstanding query regarding versions of DUIS that will be supported.

3.5 Use of Devices for Testing

Clarity was sought by industry and TAG members regarding the use of real Devices and emulators for system testing this release.

At TAG on 26 June, the DCC set out the planned use of SMETS1 real Devices and SMETS 2 real Devices and Emulators.

TAG considers that this concern is appropriately addressed.

3.6 Single End of Cycle Regression

At TAG on 26 June, the DCC confirmed following feedback, that a second End of Cycle Regression test is now planned.

TAG considers that this concern is appropriately addressed.

4. Summary

Following DCC consultation and discussion between TAG and DCC on 26 June and 5 July, the TAG considers that the key concerns remain open.

The TAG considers that further engagement is needed urgently to resolve these concerns before making recommending that the Panel accepts the Testing Approach Document.

5. Recommendations

The Panel is requested to:

- **NOTE** that the Panel is required to 'review' the SEC Release Testing Approach Document;
- **AGREE** that an update is brought to the Panel on 19 July, as the TAG cannot currently support the SEC Release Testing Approach Document.

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SECAS Team

5 July 2019