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DP078 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC - Part 2'

Problem statement – version 0.3

About this document

This document provides a summary of this Draft Proposal, including the issue or problem identified, the impacts this is having, and the context of this issue within the Smart Energy Code (SEC).

Proposer

This Draft Proposal has been raised by Simon Trivella from British Gas.

What is the issue or problem identified?

Issue Resolution Proposals

Background

Issue Resolution Proposals (IRPs) identify issues within the SEC Technical Specification documents and put forward a solution to the identified problem. In the early stages of the Smart Metering Implementation Program, BEIS took the lead in developing the Technical Specifications that sit under the SEC. As part of this, BEIS also took responsibility for receiving and responding to issues raised internally, by the DCC, and by other interested industry parties. Since its inception, several hundred issues have been raised in relation to technical specifications under the SEC through the Technical Specification Issue Resolution Sub-Group (TSIRS). In some cases, these queries have been resolved by providing an explanation of the specifications, whilst others have resulted in proposed amendments to the specifications in the form of IRPs.

Processing of IRPs

BEIS have previously implemented the required IRPs via BEIS-led designations; however, this process has now been handed over to SECAS for changes to be implemented through the Modifications Process. To improve efficiency, it was agreed these changes should be progressed under a single proposal at regular intervals. This will be the second of these proposals, the first being SECMP0055 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC'.

SECMP0055 only progressed IRPs that did not impact on the DCC Systems, as these have a shorter lead time than those that would require system changes. This was with the intent that the IRPs with a short lead time would not be held up by IRPs with a longer lead time. This new proposal will take all the outstanding DCC System impacting IRPs and bundle them into one modification to be processed.

How does this issue relate to the SEC?

The IRPs identify issues in the SEC Technical Specification documents. The IRPs included in this proposal, listed below, require changes to the Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) with initial key impacts identified by SECAS in the table below.

Proposed IRPs							
IRP number	**IRP title**	**Impacted Technical Specification**	**IRP document**	**Impacted Users**	**Devices Impacted**	**Complexity**	**Notes**
IRP550	GCS20r - Response when an error occurs	GBCS	IRP550 GCS20r - Response when an er	• Gas Suppliers	• GSME	Low	Limited / no impact on GS.
IRP554	Future Dated command handling if activation in the Past	GBCS	IRP554 Future Dated command handling if	• Import Supplier • Gas Suppliers • Electricity Distributors • Gas Transporter	• CHF • SPF • GSME • ESME • HCALCS	Low	Likely no impact on Users. Potential impact on Devices.
IRP582	Read ALCS Event Log values	GBCS	IRP582 Read ALCS Event Log values v0_1	• Import Supplier	• ESME	Low	Understood to align GBCS to current operation.

What is the impact this is having?

What are the impacts of doing nothing?

These IRPs add clarity and corrections to the Technical Specifications documents. Device manufacturers are required to follow these documents for the specifications of their Devices. Therefore, any errors or miscommunication of these specifications will mean the Device will not work as intended. The industry group TSIRS have agreed that these are issues and have agreed upon the solutions. Not implementing these solutions would mean that these problems would not be resolved.

What are the views of the industry?

Views of the DCC

The initial views of the DCC at this stage, subject to formal IA, is that these three IRPs are the only DCC System impacting IRPs of those currently published and not yet incorporated into GB technical specification.

Views of SEC Parties

The issues and the solutions have been discussed and agreed upon by the TSIRS. Although TSIRS is a BEIS led group, various SEC Parties are represented.

The views of Parties regarding implementation of these IRPs will be gathered during the Refinement Stage.

Views of Panel Sub-Committees

SECAS have been working closely with the TABASC regarding the approach to implement these IRPs into the SEC. Following the raising of this Proposal, the TABASC were notified and queried whether another proposal will be raised for non-DCC System impacting IRPs. Another proposal is planned for these remaining IRPs to be raised later in 2019.

Views of the Change Sub-Committee

The Change Sub-Committee (CSC) agreed that this Draft Proposal clearly outlines an issue that will need to be resolved. They recommend to the SEC Panel that this Draft Proposal is converted to a Modification Proposal and goes to the Refinement Process.

The CSC did want to clarify when the validity period would commence for the new versions of the Technical Specification documents that would arise from this modification. SECAS advised that they will have the appropriate discussion with BEIS, the DCC, and the TABASC to establish this and coordinate with any non-SEC modification changes to the Technical Specification documents.