

This document is classified as **White** in accordance with the Panel Information Policy. Information can be shared with the public, and any members may publish the information, subject to copyright.

<b>Paper Reference:</b>	<b>SECCB_33_2108_01</b>
<b>Action:</b>	<b>For Decision</b>

## SECMP0062 Change Board vote

### 1. Purpose

[SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection'](#) has undergone Modification Report Consultation and is now being presented to the Change Board for vote. The Change Board are invited to determine whether SECMP0062 should be approved or rejected under Self-Governance.

This paper provides a high-level summary of the key points. Full details can be found in the Modification Report in Appendix A and the responses received to the Modification Report Consultation in Appendix B.

### 2. Summary of the proposal

#### What is the issue?

Alert Storms occur when Devices repeatedly send Alerts to DCC Systems and Service Users. Although these Devices have gone through rigorous test assurance processes, it is inevitable that not every possible combination and scenario will have been accounted for. This adds unnecessary traffic to the Communication Service Provider (CSP) or Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS) 1 Service Provider (S1SP) Gateway between the DCC Systems and Service Users. Currently there is little protection against Alert Storms, meaning that multiple Alerts are being counted and entering the gateway, rather than being filtered out, even after recognising they are originating from the same single Device.

#### What is the Proposed Solution?

The proposed solution is to provide Alert Storm protection through a DCC designed mechanism which will count the number of Alerts originating from a specific Device within a defined time window. If the Device sends the same Alert above a pre-determined threshold value, the mechanism will discard excess Alerts from the Device and only forward one copy of that Alert in a designated period agreed by the DCC on to the intended Users. An amendable exemption list was created to make sure specific Alerts which Users would want every copy of are not filtered out via the solution's mechanism.

### 3. Modification Report Consultation responses

The Modification Report Consultation had seven responses received, three voting to approve and four voting to reject. The four reject votes all came from Electricity Network Parties who, whilst supportive of introducing further protection against Alerts to DCC Systems, disagreed with the solution. The reasons were:

- the solution does not introduce protection at a CSP level, but rather through the Data Service Provider (DSP);
- the solution would not prevent Alerts being generated by a large number of Devices rather than a small number of Devices emitting large quantities of the same Alert type; and
- Parties are only notified of every incident by email or by manually checking the Self-Service Interface (SSI) – this either causes potentially large administrative issues or not having automatic prompts for knowing when Alerts are actively being filtered.

The respondents voting to approve the Modification Proposal were two Large Supplier Parties and the Security Sub-Committee (SSC), subject to conditions. The Large Suppliers both agreed with the effort to reduce Alerts and to actively filter them out of the DCC Systems. The SSC agreed with the solution but stated they would only support the modification if they had Security related Alerts added to the exemption list.

### 4. Next steps

#### Determination approach

The Panel have determined that SECMP0062 is a Self-Governance Modification. The Change Board's vote will therefore form a decision on the modification.

This decision will be subject to a 10 Working Day objection period where Parties can refer the decision to the Panel. If no objection is received, the Change Board's decision will be final.

#### Implementation approach

The Panel have agreed the following implementation approach where:

- Part 1 will be implemented on 7 November 2019 (November 2019 SEC Release); and
- Part 2 will be implemented on 5 November 2020 (November 2020 SEC Release).

### 5. Recommendations

The Change Board are requested to:

- **AGREE** that SECMP0062 should proceed to vote;
- **DETERMINE** whether SECMP0062 should be **APPROVED** or **REJECTED** under Self-Governance; and
- **PROVIDE** rationale for this decision against the General SEC Objectives.

Harry Jones

SECAS Team

14 August 2019

**Attachments**

- **Appendix A:** SECMP0062 Modification Report
  - **Annex A:** SECMP0062 business requirements;
  - **Annex B:** SECMP0062 legal text;
  - **Annex C:** SECMP0062 Northbound Traffic Management Mechanism Document;
  - **Annex D:** SECMP0062 impact assessment; and
  - **Annex E:** SECMP0062 Working Group Consultation responses.
- **Appendix B:** SECMP0062 Modification Report Consultation responses