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SECMP0046 ‘Allow DNOs to control Electric Vehicle chargers connected to Smart Meter infrastructure’

October 2019 Working Group Meeting summary

Recap on previous SECMP0046 Working Group meetings

The Working Group meeting began with SECAS providing an overview of the modification and a recap on some of the discussions and conclusion from the previous Working Group meetings. This overview included:

- Summarising the issue of Electric Vehicles charging potentially overloading Low Voltage networks
- All previously proposed solutions which have been discounted
- Agreed solution of using Home Area Network (HAN) Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switches (HCALCS) to control charging of Electric Vehicles
- Reminder of the business requirements

Clarification of business requirements for DCC Service Providers

During the DCC Preliminary Assessment, the DCC Service Providers returned a list of questions for clarity. The DCC responded to these and thought it best to get agreement from the Working Group that they align with what has been discussed at previous Working Groups. The questions and DCC answers can be found [here](#) as ‘SECMP0046 DCC Service Provider questions’. The Proposer commented they had some queries; however, these were resolved through other discussions. The Working Group had no further comments on this.

Since the Government’s “Road to Zero Strategy” pushes for new build homes to have Electric Vehicle charge points installed, the DCC had some further questions regarding how many Service Requests could potentially be sent at one time. The Proposer confirmed that a low voltage network (feeder) will on average will have about 36 households connected but can range from 2-250. It was stated by the Proposer that it should not matter if the number of Service Requests that are required, as long as it is reflected in their Service Request forecasting they provide to the DCC.

SECAS also enquired if, when new feeders are laid, do DNOs forecast load demand for futureproofing. The Proposer clarified that this is done, however not consistently depending on which company is laying the feeders, and therefore this modification should also cover such scenarios.

Discussion of the DCC Preliminary Assessment

Cost

The DCC Preliminary Assessments cost was discussed with the Working Group, where many were pleasantly surprised with the cost of £560,000 up to PIT.

Requirement 3 (optional) -Electricity Distributors will be able to join necessary devices (rather than requesting an Import Supplier to do so)

Discussions around the DNOs ability to perform the Service Requests resulted in agreement that this should still be a requirement. However, these discussions highlighted the need for a further requirement. As the Supplier is responsible for the functionality of the Smart Metering System, they have the ability to unjoin all devices if it is suspected that a device is causing issues on a system. It was agreed that the DNO should receive an alert from the DSP if a Supplier sends a command in attempt to remove the HCALCS (regardless of if this was successful or not). This would allow the DNO to discuss with the Supplier what the problem is and mitigate any potential issue where the DNO will try and send the Service Request to a Device that was removed from the Smart Metering System.

Requirement 4 (optional) - The customer can decline alteration of electricity supply to their domestic Electric Vehicle chargers

It was agreed that this optional requirement shall remain.

Mandating the ALCS/HCALCS list

SECMP0019 (implemented on 1 November 2018) defined a list for ALCS/HCALCS for labelling. However, SECMP0019 did not mandate that these labels must be applied to the ALCS/HCALCS. This is required in the implementation of SECMP0046 so as to allow the DNOs to ensure they are only altering load to a connected Electric Vehicle. SECMP0019 did not mandate this list due to the high DCC cost, but also to allow further changes to occur to it. The DCC confirmed that the Preliminary Assessment for SECMP0046 does include the mandating of this list in the cost, however it is unclear as to how this is proposed to be achieved. SECMP0019 originally proposed that the DCC System would have a dropdown list for DCC Users to select from. SECAS will discuss with the DCC if this is still the solution design. There are concerns that if this is a DSP defined list where DCC Users select dropdowns, any changes to the list would take a long time to implement. The other option is if the list is free text entry, and the list and obligations are defined in the SEC.

It was also discussed that there may need to be some refinement to the list. It was requested by the Working Group that when these questions are asked in the Refinement Consultation, it is made explicitly clear the discussions that were had in SECMP0019 and the refinement that occurred in that modification.

Modification Report

With many developments going on in the Electric Vehicle space, it was agreed that the assumptions of the Working Group on how this modification would integrate should be captured. Specifically, this is in regard to the development of the Proportional Load Control switch development from BEIS. Further to this, it was discussed that any solution design on the DCC Systems should take into consideration future proofing. The DCC reported that the Service Providers are already aware of these developments, but there is no reason why this should not be further captured. SECAS agreed to reflect this in the Modification Report and include these assumptions when requesting the Impact Assessment from the DCC. It was also agreed that there are changes outside of the SEC modification

that should be and considered (for example the possible BSC changes to allow multiple Suppliers for one property), and also other governance changes that may be required to enable this modification.

Next steps and further actions

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS will enquire to the DCC regarding the details of the PA for the mandating of the ALCS/HCALCS list.
- SECAS will investigate with the DCC a new requirement for alerts to be sent to the DNO when a Supplier attempts to remove an HCALCS from a Smart Metering System.
- SECAS will issue a Refinement Consultation with some specific questions regarding the ALCS/HCALCS list and the additional requirement.