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<b>Paper Reference:</b>	<b>CSC_10_0201_01</b>
<b>Action:</b>	<b>For Decision</b>

## DP096 Draft Proposal decision

### 1. Purpose

This paper provides a summary of our assessment of [DP096 'DNO Power Outage Alerts'](#), taking into account industry views and views of the Panel Sub-Committees on the problem this Draft Proposal has identified. We are asking the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) to agree that the problem identified under this Draft Proposal is clearly understood and that it is ready to progress to a Modification Proposal.

### 2. What is the issue?

DP096 has been raised by Del Kang of the Data Communications Company (DCC).

Power outages are a common occurrence. There are various causes ranging from third party damage and weather-related events to equipment failure. The Smart Metering Implementation Program aims to deliver the advantage of timely and automated notifications of Power Outage Alerts (POAs) and Power Restoration Alerts (PRAs) generated in the event of an outage. These alerts are sent to Distribution Network Operators (DNOs). Timely delivery enables improvements in:

- Timeliness of information to help DNOs reassure customers
- Visibility of faults
- Visibility of network topology & connectivity (when combined with other data)

For events affecting high voltage networks it is normal practice for automation schemes to attempt power restoration to some or all customers affected within three minutes. On low voltage networks there is little or no automation and power can only be restored by personnel attending site and carrying out a repair or by manual switching.

In the case of a power outage lasting more than three minutes, the DCC is obliged under the SEC to provide POAs to DNOs within a given timeframe. The SEC states that the timeframe POAs must be sent within is 60 seconds after the initial three minutes of the outage (to allow time for power to be potentially restored automatically). Once power has been restored, a PRA is sent to the DNO via the Data Service Provider (DSP). This must also be sent within 60 seconds.

The DCC is currently unable to meet this SEC obligation. A SEC transitional variation was approved by BEIS to compensate for the difference between the SEC obligation and the DCC's current capability. This exception expired on 31 October 2018 and BEIS cannot offer an extension.

The problem statement containing the information provided by the Proposer and updated by SECAS during our investigations can be found in Appendix A.

### 3. Comments on the issue

There has been extensive engagement between the DCC and DNOs to understand the DNO requirements and what the DCC Systems are currently capable of in regards to POAs and PRAs. This has included investigating defects being experienced by DNOs from outages and resulting POAs and PRAs.

On 8 October 2019 the DNOs submitted a requirements document via the Energy Networks Association (ENA). This document can be found as an attachment of the draft proposal under Appendix A.

The DNOs understand that the DCC System's characteristics mean that their requirements may be difficult to achieve and that they will have to compromise in order to reach agreement on the final arrangements for POAs and PRAs. However, DNOs feel that it is important that any system constraints are transparent and well-justified, and that decisions to reject suggested improvements are supported with sound cost and benefit evidence.

The full collated comments and questions raised can be found in Appendix A.

### 4. Next steps

We recommend that this Draft Proposal is converted into a Modification Proposal and proceeds to the Refinement Process. This will allow for discussions with Parties and the Working Group to help shape and assess a suitable solution for the issue defined.

### 5. Recommendations

The CSC is requested to:

- **AGREE** that the issue identified under DP096 is clearly defined and understood;
- **RECOMMEND** to the Panel that this Draft Proposal is ready to be converted to a Modification Proposal; and
- **RECOMMEND** to the Panel that the Modification Proposal should proceed to the Refinement Process.

**Bradley Baker**

**SECAS Team**

**19 December 2019**

#### Attachments

- **Appendix A:** DP096 problem statement