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MP085 ‘Synchronisation of smart meter voltage measurement periods’

March 2020 Working Group Meeting Summary

Overview

SECAS provided an overview of the issue identified by MP085 and the proposed solutions.

Issue:

- Average Root Mean Square (RMS) voltage readings do not take place across consistent time periods
- Data must be downloaded in high granularity and then recalculated
- 30 times more data has to be downloaded to make calculations

Proposed Solutions:

- Potential solution 1: to set SR6.5 to Future Dated
- Potential solution 2: Change SMETS to state that any changes to the Average RMS Voltage Measurement Period are applied from the start of the next hour according to the device's clock
- Potential solution 3: amend SR6.5 to be Future Dated at the Device

Solution Discussions

The Working Group understood the issue and agreed that it should be addressed. A member flagged that there are synchronisation issues across the wider industry that they feel should be addressed under a larger project.

Each potential solution was discussed in detail. The Working Group showed concern regarding the functionality of the first option. This was confirmed by initial testing performed by Western Power Distribution (WPD) which was discussed at the meeting. This solution has the least impact on SEC Parties, however testing proves that this is not a viable option to address the issues identified.

The second potential solution proved to be the most popular. The Working Group felt that this solution would address the issue identified in the proposal. Members confirmed that an update would be necessary for SMETS and GBCS, as well as a firmware update. The Working Group agreed that this solution was adequate for new meters, however questioned the effectiveness with meters currently installed. A firmware update was discussed which would allow the necessary functionality to be implemented for existing meters. This will be investigated with meter manufacturers and the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) during refinement.

The third potential solution which requires SR6.5 to be Future Dated at the Device was ruled out as the testing carried out by WPD also applies to this solution methodology.

It was suggested that this modification should be discussed at Technical Specification Issue Resolution Sub-Committee (TSIRS), however the Proposer has already presented the issue to the Sub-Committee, and as the Technical Specifications are silent on when Average RMS Voltage measurement periods commence, it was confirmed that there is in effect no issue in the specifications.

The Working Group advised that research needs to take place to identify which meters commence readings on the hour and which ones do not. Feedback will also need to be obtained from meter manufacturers as to when this modification could be implemented and also the potential firmware update for existing meters. A further action identified was for SECAS to investigate the possibility of a new firmware version being rolled out to all meters. Network Parties expressed concern that they currently have no relationships with meter manufacturers so if a firmware update is required to address issues with already installed meters this would be difficult for Network Parties.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS will work with the Proposer to produce the legal text for MP085
- SECAS to update the Working Group on any discussions from OPSG regarding new firmware roll-out
- Discuss potential solution 2 with meter manufacturers and TABASC
- Refinement Consultation