

Peter Davies, SEC Panel Chair
Smart Energy Code Company
Limited
8 Fenchurch Place
London, EC3M 4AJ

Date: 9 April 2020

Dear Peter,

Decision to direct a revised implementation date for the June 2020 Smart Energy Code (SEC) Release

Thank you for your letter dated 18 March 2020 concerning the SEC Panel request that we direct a revised implementation date for the June 2020 SEC Release. The Panel requests that the implementation date be moved from its current planned date of 25 June 2020 to 6 May 2020, with flexibility to further extend this to 31 May 2020 should further testing or unforeseen circumstances arise.

The Panel received a request from the DCC to bring the implementation date forward to 6 May 2020, with the primary driver being that the SMETS1 Middle Operating Capability (MOC) release currently occupies the June 2020 SEC Release slot. The DCC has considered several delivery options and has concluded that a revised release date of 6 May 2020 is the preferred option. This revised release date would, in the DCC's opinion, provide an improved risk profile to deliver SECMP0053¹ and SECMP0062² that forms part of the June release.

The DCC explained that the SMETS1 Core 1.1 release is currently planned to use the testing environment before the SMETS1 MOC release in June. It was noted that by attempting to

¹ <https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/modifications/amend-target-response-times-for-service-requests-critical-to-installation-and-commissioning-processes/>

² <https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/modifications/northbound-application-traffic-management-alert-storm-protection/>

deliver the SEC Release in-between these two events would add significant risk to the June 2020 SEC Release. Specifically, if there was any slippage in the delivery of SMETS1 Core 1.1 it could result in the June 2020 SEC Release being cancelled as the SMETS1 MOC would be prioritised ahead of it. By combining the System Integration Testing (SIT), User Integration Testing (UIT), and Go-Live timelines for the SMETS1 Core 1.1 release and the June 2020 SEC Release would allow for delivery of both releases in advance of the SMETS1 MOC delivery in June.

The Testing Advisory Group (TAG) has reviewed the DCC's testing plans based on this revised date and has endorsed the DCC's proposed approach to testing on the basis that it reduces some overheads shared by the two releases and reduces overall delivery risk.

To mitigate the risk of the June 2020 SEC Release and the SMETS1 Core 1.1 release becoming interdependent, the TAG will monitor the progress of testing for the SEC Release. If it becomes apparent that a delay to this will result in a delay to the SMETS1 Core 1.1 release, the TAG will notify the Panel and recommend that the June 2020 SEC Release is delayed until after the SMETS1 Core 1.1 release has been implemented. To mitigate the impact of any delay to the SMETS1 Core 1.1 release on the June 2020 SEC Release, the TAG recommended that some flexibility is permitted around the revised implementation date to allow the June 2020 SEC Release to repeat any testing required and complete governance prior to implementation.

The Panel considered the DCC's rationale and agreed to request a revised SEC Release date of 6 May 2020. The Panel also considers it pragmatic that an amount of flexibility be allowed, should the DCC require additional time to complete any actions arising from testing before going live. It therefore requests the ability to delay the implementation date to no later than 31 May 2020 without needing to formally write to the Authority for permission. The Panel notes that the implementation of this release will not have any direct impact on Users' systems or processes nor will it have an impact on consumers.

We agree with the reasons set out in the request by the SEC Panel and consider that a revised Release date would provide the DCC with efficiencies in implementation for the June 2020 SEC Release. The Panel's request to revise the implementation date of this Release is an example of good governance which ensures modifications and releases are implemented in the most efficient way for industry.

We would expect that if additional time is required after 6 May 2020, the SEC Panel will use their discretion and act on the expert advice of appropriate SEC Panel Sub-Committees in order to determine the most appropriate way forward, whilst keeping us and SEC Parties

fully informed. However, we do not agree that the flexibility timeframe between 7 May and the latest revised SEC release date 31 May constitutes a reasonable planning assumption, as it does not provide the industry with an acceptable level of certainty of the delivery date.

We expect that every effort should be made to meet the requested 6 May 2020 release date. Therefore, we will approve a shorter timeframe from 7 May to 17 May 2020 with 17 May 2020 being the latest possible day to release the updated SEC. We feel that this will provide both the SEC Panel and the DCC the flexibility to ensure the most robust testing is undertaken and delivered to SEC Parties for this Release. If further time is needed, the SEC Panel would need to formally write to us again and request a further extension.

In accordance with your request under SEC Section D10.5 'Subsequent Amendment to Implementation Timetable', we direct that the new implementation timetable be substituted for the first such timetable and therefore, the implementation date for the SEC June 2020 Release be revised to 6 May 2020 with a contingency to further extend this date to 17 May 2020 without needing to formally write to the Authority.

If you have any queries or comments in relation to the issues raised in this letter, please contact michael.walls@ofgem.gov.uk in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqui Russell

Head of Metering and Market Operations

Signed on behalf of the Authority and authorised for that purpose