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Change Status Report – April 2020

1. Purpose

This document is the Change Status Report, which provides information on the progress of Smart Energy Code (SEC) Modifications and Releases.

The Data Communications Company (DCC)'s progress report on Preliminary Assessments and Impact Assessments is included as Appendix A to this report.

2. Recommendations

The Panel is requested to **NOTE** the contents of this report.

Holly Burton

SECAS Team

8 April 2020

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** DCC Preliminary Assessments and Impact Assessments update

1. Summary

This report provides a monthly update on the status and progress of SEC Draft Proposals, Modification Proposals and Releases, highlighting key information and decisions made.

More detailed information can be found in the [Modification Register](#).

Proposals currently in each stage



Draft Proposals for conversion

There are eight Draft Proposals being presented to the Panel for conversion to a Modification Proposal this month:

- [DP100 'Service Response Traffic Management'](#)
- [DP116 'Service Request Forecasting'](#)
- [DP117 'Bulk CH Returns'](#)
- [DP118 'Communications Hub Finance Charges'](#)
- [DP119 'CH Alert Storm Consolidation'](#)
- [DP120 'Correcting DUIS Matrix for SRV7.7 Eligible Users'](#)
- [DP122 'Operational Metrics'](#)
- [DP123 'IVP realignment of SMETS2 v2.0 and v3.1'](#)

Modification Reports

There are two Modification Reports being presented to the Panel this month:

- [SECMP0067 'Service Request Traffic Management'](#)
- [MP080 'Managing DUIS uplifts'](#)

Decisions

No modification decisions have been made this month.

2. Define

New Draft Proposals

DP119

[DP119 'CH Alert Storm Consolidation'](#) was raised by Graeme Liggett from the Data Communications Company (DCC) on 10 March 2020.

Device Alert Storms are already generating large numbers of alerts which are impacting network, Data Service Provider (DSP) and Service User capacity, and with the Smart Meter Roll-out, the number of Alert Storms is set to increase.

The Communications Service Provider (CSP) for the North (Arqiva) has proposed changes to Home Area Network (HAN) Devices and Communications Hubs at the appropriate industry forums, with changes to both HAN Devices and Communications Hubs required for complete coverage. The proposed changes would “localise” the impact of Alerts to the HAN and Communications Hubs. Changes to the behaviour of HAN Devices are anticipated to require additional investigation and would take an extended period to be implemented. Changes to Communications Hubs is thought to be a quicker first path, providing protection whilst device manufacturers implement a mechanism and would continue to provide protection against negative device scenarios.

DP120

[DP120 'Correcting DUIS Matrix for SRV7.7 Eligible Users'](#) was raised by Gemma Slaney from Western Power Distribution on 10 March 2020.

Electricity Distributors are eligible users of Service Reference Variant (SRV) 7.7 'Read Auxiliary Load Switch Data'. This was implemented through [SECMP0025 'Electricity Network Party Access to Load Switching Information'](#). However, the 'Service Request Matrix' within Smart Energy Code (SEC) Appendix AD 'DCC User Interface Specification' (DUIS) was inadvertently not updated when SECMP0025 was implemented.

DP121

[DP121 'Commissioning non-commissioned Devices after CoS'](#) was raised by Paul Saker from EDF Energy on 24 March 2020.

The DCC has a 90-day target to resolve Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity to 'reactive install and leave' installations. The time taken to establish WAN connectivity to 'proactive install and leave' installations is likely to be even longer. These 'install and leave' processes and associated obligations are included in the energy Supply Licences. In addition, the Operational Licence conditions require Suppliers to ensure their Devices can communicate with the DCC once WAN is available.

As a result of these timescales there is a risk that the Consumer will change their energy Supplier before WAN connectivity has been established. In these circumstances the gaining Supplier is not currently able to commission the installed Devices.

DP122

[DP122 'Operational Metrics'](#) was raised by Gemma Slaney from Western Power Distribution on 24 March 2020.

Issues with transparency of reporting and relevance of the measures contained within the Data Communications Company (DCC) Performance Measurement Report (PMR) have arisen. In its monthly review of the PMR, the Operations Group has found it increasingly difficult to report to the SEC Panel on the issues within the report.

As a result of the issues encountered by the Operations Group, the Operational Metrics Review (OMR) was undertaken to better understand the PMR measures, consider amendments and recommendations of new performance indicators.

Through workshops and surveys of Users, it is clear that Users want to see reporting that reflects the business processes that the DCC supports, for example, Installation and Commissioning, Billing, and Prepayment top up.

DP123

[DP123 'IVP and MVP realignment of SMETS2 v2.0'](#) was raised by Alistair Cobb from Landis & Gyr on 27 March 2020.

The SEC sets out the Smart Metering technical specifications. To ensure interoperability the dates which these technical specifications can be used are set out within the SEC.

The current UK Government social distancing guidance issued to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus means only essential meter installations are taking place. There is currently no definitive end date to this guidance. This has resulted in large numbers of Smart Metering Technical Specifications 2 (SMETS2) v2.0 and v3.1 Devices being held in the supply chain not able to be installed before the approaching deadline of 27 October 2020. Device manufacturers may also experience delays in the supply of SMETS2 v4.2 Devices.

This means the Installation Validity Period (IVP) end date for these Devices as currently set out will result in both a large number of stranded SMETS2 v2.0 and v3.1 Devices and potentially a significant interruption in the supply and installation of SMETS2 v4.2 Devices.

Change Sub-Committee decisions

The Change Sub-Committee (CSC) determined that the following Draft Proposals were ready to be presented to the Panel for conversion to Modification Proposals:

- [DP100 'Service Response Traffic Management'](#)
- [DP116 'Service Request Forecasting'](#)
- [DP117 'Bulk CH Returns'](#)
- [DP118 'Communications Hub Finance Charges'](#)
- [DP119 'CH Alert Storm Consolidation'](#)
- [DP122 'Operational Metrics'](#)
- [DP123 'IVP and MVP realignment of SMETS2 v2.0'](#)

The CSC determined that the following Draft Proposals need further development before being presented to the Panel for conversion to Modification Proposal:

- [DP094 'Supporting prepayment customers in no SM WAN scenarios'](#)
- [DP096 'DNO Power Outage Alerts'](#)
- [DP100 'Service Response Traffic Management'](#)
- [DP108 'SSI Job Type Role for SRO/ARO'](#)
- [DP111 'SMDA Budget Amendments'](#)
- [DP121 'Commissioning non-commissioned Devices after CoS'](#)

3. Refine

Working Group meetings

An ad-hoc Working Group meeting was held on 16 March to discuss [SECMP0067 'Service Request Traffic Management'](#).

The last monthly Working Group meeting was held on 1 April 2020, and included the following modifications:

- [MP077 'DCC Service Flagging'](#)
- [MP095 'Alignment of SEC Credit Cover'](#)
- [MP098 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 3'](#)
- [MP099 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 4'](#)
- [MP102 'Power Outage Alerts triggered by an OTA firmware upgrade'](#)
- [MP103 'DCC SOC2 Assessments'](#)
- [DP109 'ADT and Exit Quarantine file delivery mechanism'](#)

The next monthly Working Group meeting will be held on 6 May 2020, and the agenda will be confirmed on 29 April 2020.

Refinement Consultations

One Refinement Consultation is expected to be issued during April 2020:

- [MP098 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 3'](#)

Impact Assessment requests

The [MP078 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Part 2'](#) Impact Assessment request was rejected at the Change Board meeting in March 2020. The Change Board agreed that the DCC should undertake another Preliminary Assessment to assess the revised costs and net benefits of MP078 before the Impact Assessment request is returned.

DCC Assessment timescales

The timescales below cover the 12-month period up to the end of March 2020.

Summary		
Assessment	Total	Average duration
Preliminary Assessments open	3	105 WD
Preliminary Assessments completed in the last 12 months	13	68 WD
Impact Assessments open	3	205 WD
Impact Assessments completed in the last 12 months	3	38 WD

Open Assessments				
Modification	Type	Accepted	Target duration	Current duration
SECMP0007	IA	30 Jul 19	40 WD	182 WD
SECMP0015	IA	25 Apr 19	40 WD	250 WD
SECMP0056	IA	2 Jul 19	40 WD	202 WD
SECMP0066	PA	13 Jun 19	15 WD	215 WD
MP078	PA	26 Mar 20	15 WD	10 WD
MP092	PA	02 Dec 19	15 WD	93 WD

Assessments completed in the last 12 months				
Modification	Type	Returned	Target duration	Actual duration
SECMP0007	PA	11 Apr 19	15 WD	201 WD
SECMP0024	PA	17 May 19	15 WD	193 WD
SECMP0046	PA	9 Sep 19	15 WD	31 WD
SECMP0053	PA	2 May 19	15 WD	87 WD
SECMP0053	IA	20 Sep 19	40 WD	35 WD
SECMP0056	PA	24 Apr 19	15 WD	65 WD
SECMP0062	IA	4 Jul 19	40 WD	77 WD
SECMP0063	PA	1 Aug 19	15 WD	18 WD
SECMP0067	PA	5 Jun 19	25 WD	24 WD
MP077	PA	31 Dec 19	40 WD	40 WD
MP078	PA	31 Dec 19	15 WD	66 WD
MP080	PA	17 Jan 20	15 WD	41 WD
MP090	PA	11 Feb 20	15 WD	58 WD
MP093	PA	21 Jan 20	15 WD	37 WD
MP093	IA	6 Mar 20	40 WD	2 WD
MP099	PA	17 Mar 20	15 WD	27 WD

4. Opine

Modification Report Consultations

There is currently one Modification out for Modification Report Consultation:

- [MP093 'Implementing IRP511 and CRP535 to support GBCS v3.2 devices'](#)

The following Modification Report Consultations are expected to be issued in the week commencing 20 April 2020:

- [SECMP0067 'Service Request Traffic Management'](#)
- [MP080 'Managing DUIS uplifts'](#)
- [MP115 'Changes to the NCSC Good Practice Guides'](#)
- [MP123 'IVP realignment of SMETS2 v2.0 and v3.1'](#)

Change Board votes

There were no Change Board votes in March 2020.

Authority decisions

There were no Authority decisions in the last month.

Modification progression timescales

The timescales below cover the 12-month period up to the end of March 2020.

Proposal timescales		
Status	Total	Average duration
Proposals open (pre-decision)	54	267 WD
Proposals concluded in the last 12 months	20	211 WD

5. Release

SEC Releases

There are currently two modifications approved for implementation in the June 2020 Release (25 June 2020):

- [SECMP0053 'Amend Target Response Times for Service Requests Critical to Installation and Commissioning Processes'](#)
- [SECMP0062 'Northbound Traffic Management Mechanism – Alert Storm Protection'](#) part 1

There are currently two modifications approved for implementation in the November 2020 Release (5 November 2020):

- [SECMP0062 'Northbound Traffic Management Mechanism – Alert Storm Protection'](#) part 2
- [MP081 'Alignment of DUIS and CHISM to reflect current DCC Processing'](#)

There are currently no modifications approved for implementation as standalone releases.