



Making a positive difference
for energy consumers

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

Date: 7 July 2020

Dear Peter,

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

Thank you for your letter dated 25 June 2020 concerning the SEC Panel request that we direct a revised implementation date for the November 2020 SEC Release. The Panel requests that the implementation date be moved from its current planned date of 5 November 2020 to 29 November 2020, with flexibility to further extend this to 6 December 2020 should further testing or unforeseen circumstances arise.

The Panel received a request from the DCC to defer the implementation date to 29 November 2020, and gave two reasons for this request – governance and testing extensions, and a parallel implementation of BEIS-led changes.

The DCC has explained that the timing for the governance approvals for the DCC System impacting modifications in scope is also taking longer than anticipated. It was noted that it will ensure an appropriate User testing window can be assured if the release date is extended.

The letter also highlights that there are a series of BEIS-led changes being implemented by the DCC in parallel with this SEC Release. It explains that by combining the testing and go-live timelines for the BEIS-led changes and the SEC Release allows for the most efficient implementation of both sets of changes and for a single uplift of the SEC Technical

Specification documents. The BEIS-led changes are being targeted for designation on 29 November 2020.

At BEIS's direction, the DCC has produced a combined Testing Approach Document (TAD) for the release containing the detailed testing approach for both the SEC modifications and the BEIS-led changes. The Testing Advisory Group (TAG) has reviewed and approved the DCC's testing plans based on this revised implementation date of 29 November 2020.

The Panel has considered the DCC's request and agreed to request a revised implementation date of 29 November 2020. The Panel considers it pragmatic that a small amount of flexibility be requested from the Authority, should additional time be needed to complete any actions arising from testing before going live or should there be a delay with the final approval for the parallel BEIS-led changes. The Panel has requested the flexibility to delay the implementation date by up to one week to no later than 6 December 2020 without needing to write to us again. The Panel notes that the implementation of this release will not require any obligatory changes to Users' systems or processes upon go-live and will not have any 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 November 2020 SEC Release. The Panel's request to revise the implementation date of this Release is an example of proactive governance which ensures that modifications and releases are implemented in the most efficient way for industry.

We expect that if additional time is required after 29 November 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. We anticipate that every effort will be made to meet the requested 29 November 2020 release date; however, we will approve a timeframe from 30 November to 6 December 2020, with 6 December 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 will 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 November

2020 Release be revised to 29 November 2020 with a contingency to further extend this date to 6 December 2020 without needing to formally write to us.

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