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MP194 ‘Incorporation of Category 2 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 7’

February 2022 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Ali Beard	SECAS
Kev Duddy	SECAS
Mike Fenn	SECAS
Joey Manners	SECAS
Elizabeth Woods	SECAS
David Walsh	DCC
Easton Brown	DCC
Emma Johnson	British Gas
Lynne Hargrave	Calvin Capital
Alex Hurcombe	EDF Energy
Daniel Davies	ESG Global
Carrie Coles	Good Energy
Ralph Baxter	Octopus Energy
Michael Walls	Ofgem
Mafs Rahman	Scottish Power
Eric Taylor	SMETS Design Ltd
Audrey Smith-Keary	SSE - OVO
Emslie Law	SSE - OVO
Robert Johnstone	Utilita
Kelly Kinsman	WPD

Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the modification, reviewed the Preliminary Assessment and proposed next steps.

Scope

SECAS provided an overview of the modification, noting that there was only one Issue Resolution Proposal (IRP) within scope, IRP617.

GBCS Table 10.6.2.4 requires that certain actions are taken by a Dual Band Communications Hub (DBCH) on the occurrence of a 'No More Sub GHz Device Capacity' event. The event occurs when:

- a Device is added to the Communications Hub Function (CHF) Device Log which is not a Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME) or Home Area Network Auxiliary Load Control Switch (HCALCS);
- there are already four Devices in the Communications Hub Function (CHF) Device Log, which are not HCALCS or GSME, that joined the HAN on a Sub GHz frequency; and
- the Device added then attempts to join the HAN on a Sub GHz Frequency

For the DBCH to detect this event, the Device Type of the Device being added to the CHF Device Log must be known before that Device attempts to join. This only happens following a CCS01 Command, but for a DBCH exchange a CCS03 command can be used to restore all Devices from the previous DBCH. The Proposed changes in this IRP add clarity that the Event will only occur following a CCS01 command.

Working Group Discussion

Preliminary Assessment

SECAS presented a high-level overview of the Preliminary Assessment, noting there were no impacts upon Communication Service Providers (CSPs) but that the Data Service Provider (DSP) would be impacted. SECAS noted that the DSP has confirmed that any new version of GBCS requires them to make certain changes to accommodate a new version. These include Service Request processing needing to be mapped against GBCS Use Cases for the new version as well as updating the Central Product List (CPL) processing that needs to recognise a new version.

SECAS summarised that Design, Build and Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) of the solution will take three months and the costs could be up to £150,000. The DCC also noted that post PIT costs are not expected to take the modification outside of this range, and highlighted that SIT and UIT costs would be shared amongst all modifications that impacted the GBCS. The costs to carry out the DCC Impact Assessment was £6,646 and be expected to be completed in 30 Working Days. One Working Group member (MR) questioned whether this was a genuine issue and whether any money at all should be spent on progressing. SECAS noted that views would be sought to costs in the Refinement Consultation and that a business case is developed as part of the modification, but also noted that all IRPs are discussed as part of TSIRS to ratify them before being transferred to SECAS.

SECAS asked the Working Group whether they had any comments on the legal text that had been provided and had been developed at the Technical Specification Issue Resolution Sub-Group (TSIRS). The Working Group had no comments.

SECAS advised that there was not enough time to add this to the scope of November 2022, and therefore the modification was being targeted for June 2023, which is when the next uplift of Technical Specifications is planned.

SECAS continued to present the case for change, noting a benefit to consumers whereby Suppliers could spend less time troubleshooting following a DBCH in this edge case, the DCC costs being the only major impact, and the modification facilitating SEC Objective (a). The Working Group were asked for any comments that contradicted these views and none were given.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS will distribute the Refinement Consultation for the modification; and
- SECAS will request the Impact Assessment following this Consultation.