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SEC Modification Proposal Form – SECMP0058

Mod Title

Changes to the governance of the Self-Service Interface

Submission Date

02 August 2018

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1. What issue are you looking to address?

The Self-Service Interface (SSI) is a web-based portal which allows Users to obtain information about, and interact with, DCC Services. Appendix AH (the Self-Service Interface Design Specification) currently contains the specification for the SSI.

The design contained in Appendix AH is currently specified at a level of detail which is very prescriptive, and which can only be changed by following the Section D Modification process.

Because of this, DCC is unable to make rapid changes to the SSI to improve Users ability to access DCC services, which is undermining the usefulness of the SSI over time as the needs of Users change.

This issue has been discussed with the Operations Group sub-committee, which has agreed the scope of the problem.

Additional Planned Maintenance time may be needed to support the increased pace of change, but this is out of scope for this Modification Proposal. For the avoidance of doubt, DCC will raise a separate Modification Proposal aimed at revising the arrangements for Planned Maintenance, including the requirements relating to Maintenance of the SSI.

2. Why does this issue need to be addressed? *(i.e. Why is doing nothing not an option?)*

DCC has received feedback from Users that whilst the SSI is compliant in its current form, it has insufficient functionality to fully support them as effectively as they require. Doing nothing will maintain significant lead-times before the desired changes can be deployed.

To be able to implement the improvements already identified in a timely manner, and to allow DCC to respond to User feedback more rapidly in the future, the governance of Appendix AH needs to be modified.

Any modification to the governance of Appendix AH must allow the end-to-end change process to complete more quickly, whilst also ensuring that Parties remain in control of what new functionality is deployed, along with the associated costs.

3. What is your Proposed Solution?

DCC proposes that Appendix AH should be removed from the SEC and replaced with a specification document which is created and maintained by DCC.

The proposed DCC managed specification document would allow full traceability of the requirements outlined in H8.15(c) and H8.16 to the lowest level of detail. It will also reflect the requirements of Appendix AI (Self-Service Interface Code of Connection).

We propose that the new DCC managed document should not be subject to the Section D Modification process. Instead, it should be amended by DCC following consultation with Parties, and with the agreement of the SEC Panel (or a Sub-Committee to which the Panel has formally delegated the required decision-making power).

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The Operations Group has been consulted regarding this solution, and has expressed its support, along with a desire to implement the required Modification as quickly as possible.

DCC is currently required to comply with temporary arrangements relating to Planned Maintenance of the SSI, as agreed with the Panel at its April 2018 Panel meeting (SECP_56_1105). This arrangement expires at the end of November 2018 and whilst any changes to Planned Maintenance are out of scope for this Modification, DCC intends to seek agreement from the Panel to extend the current arrangement until the existing SEC requirements relating to Planned Maintenance have been reviewed. This extension has been discussed with the Operations Group, which supported the proposed extension.

4. What SEC objectives does this Modification better facilitate?

DCC considers that this Modification better facilitates the following applicable SEC objectives (Section C1.1):

(a) the first General SEC Objective is to facilitate the efficient provision, installation, and operation, as well as interoperability, of Smart Metering Systems at Energy Consumers' premises within Great Britain;

This Modification will provide Users with an improved means of accessing DCC Services directly, including information which could be critical to resolving issues related to the provision, installation and operation of Smart Metering Systems.

(b) the second General SEC Objective is to enable the DCC to comply at all times with the General Objectives of the DCC (as defined in the DCC Licence), and to efficiently discharge the other obligations imposed upon it by the DCC Licence;

This Modification will better enable DCC to meet the Interim General Objective in its licence, specifically it will support improved to co-ordination of the activities, systems, and procedures of SEC Parties by providing better access to DCC Services and information.

5. What is the requested Path type?

Path 3

It is proposed that this Modification Proposal is progressed as a Path 3 Modification (Self-Governance), as it does not meet any of the criteria under D2.6:

- The proposed variations are unlikely to have a material effect on existing or future Energy Consumers because they do not change the Services that Users can access via the SSI.
- The proposed variations are unlikely to have a material effect on competition in the Supply of Energy or Commercial Activities connected with the Supply of Energy as the Services provided will be equally available to all Users.
- The proposed variations are unlikely to have a material effect on the environment, on access to or privacy of Data, on security of the Supply of Energy, and/or on the security of Systems and/or Smart Metering Systems because all existing access rights would be preserved, and all existing security arrangements would continue to apply.
- The proposed variations are unlikely to have a material effect on the arrangements set out in Section C (Governance) or Section D (Modification Process) as they do not seek to make any changes to those sections.

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Appendix AH would no longer be subject to the Section D process, but the process itself remains unchanged.

- The variations are likely to unduly discriminate in their effects between one Party (or class of Parties) and another Party (or class of Parties) because the Services received by all Parties will remain unchanged compared to the current arrangements.

6. Are you requesting that the Modification Proposal be treated as Urgent?	No

7. What is your desired implementation date?

The ideal implementation date would be as part of the November 2018 SEC Release to allow DCC to start delivering new functionality as quickly as possible.

8. Which SEC Parties are expected to be impacted? (Please mark with an X)

Large Supplier Parties		Small Supplier Parties	
Electricity Network Parties		Gas Network Parties	
Other SEC Parties			

No SEC Parties are expected to be directly impacted as a result of this Modification.

There may be indirect impacts on Parties in the future if this Modification is implemented, as the pace of change in relation to the SSI will increase. However, Parties will be consulted prior to the implementation of any proposed changes.

9. Which parts of the SEC will be impacted?

Section A – Definitions and interpretations

- A1 removal of reference to Appendix AH, addition of the definition of the new DCC maintained document.

Section H8 – Service Management, Self-Service Interface and Service Desk

- H8.15(a) reference the new DCC maintained document in place of Appendix AH.
- Addition of new H8.16 to define Panel controlled governance of the new DCC maintained document.

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- Subsequent numbering changes as a result of adding a new H8.16.

Appendix AH – Self-Service Interface Design Specification

- Removal of entire appendix.

10. Will there be an impact on Central Systems? (Please mark with an X)			
DCC Systems		Party interfacing systems	
Smart Metering Systems		Communication Hubs	
Other systems			

No changes to Central Systems are expected as a direct consequence of this Modification.

11. Will there be any testing required?

No testing is anticipated as a direct result of this Modification.

12. Will this Modification impact other Energy Codes?	No

No impact on other Energy Codes is expected as a result of this Modification.

13. Will this Modification impact Greenhouse Gas Emissions?	No

No impact on Greenhous Gas Emissions is expected as a result of this Modification. The proposed changes only affect the SSI.

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