Standing Issue Group Sub Group

DCUSA Issue Form (DIF) 50 - RTS Management in SMETS2

1. Issue

1.1. In conventional metering the time switch settings on metering systems are implemented on site by the MOP (as the Supplier's agent) via the equipment fitted to reflect the tariff (the settings being based on the SSC/TPRs provided by the Supplier). Time switching settings on smart metering systems are normally applied remotely. Local control can be achieved by hand-held terminal equipment, although this is not a mandated requirement, e.g. areas of no WAN.

1.2. Only energy suppliers have access to the relevant commands to set the time switching settings on a smart meter. Distributors will have no ability to control, or be involved, with the tariff arrangements applied to any meters on their network. This will lead to a removal of the diversification of switching times in their areas that they were previously able to manage through Group Codes that were randomly associated with the Radio Teleswitch (RTS) infrastructure e.g. there are five published Standard Settlement Classes (SSC) operating in the Scottish Mainland Load Managed Areas (LMA) with a different group code association to each. This means approximately a 5th of the portfolio, on these arrangements, switch concurrently thus providing a smoothing of the load in that region to protect the network from peak demand.

1.3. The current obligation in DCUSA is for the supplier to replicate the Switching Regime as closely to that already at the premises. This may be possible regarding the switching times but the smoothing effect will be lost once the RTS equipment is removed.

1.4. The implications of this are that the protection provided by the Group Codes will be lost resulting in the security of supply being put at risk and an escalation of the processes contained within Schedule 8 such as Security Restriction Notices being issued. It may also result in more LMAs being introduced. This was highlighted at the time of DCP204[1].

2. Potential Solution

2.1. The Working Group considered a number of options and have developed a potential solution that replicates the RTS arrangements apart from the ability to dynamically switch the load.

2.2. The first step would be for the distributor to review the current SSCs associated with Radio Teleswitch devices and ensure that such arrangements are available for time switch selection inclusive of each group code being associated with the SSC e.g. in the Scottish mainland as stated above where there are five Group Codes, an SSC for economy seven may result in 5 SSCs being created with the seven hour off peak times varying on each SSC to smooth out the load.

[1] DCP204 - Smart Metering Related Amendments to Schedule 8

Once this work has been completed the DNO may need to raise any new SSCs as part of the Elexon MDD process if any of the proposed combination are currently not available.

2.3. The second step is for the distributor to determine how such Group Codes are to be allocated to a Metering Point. A solution to this was suggested within DIF 45[2]. It was suggested that the last digit of the MPAN could be associated with a Group Code:

MPAN ending in 1 = Group Code A;

MPAN ending in 2 = Group Code B etc

This could be expanded to associate multiples together:

MPANs ending 1,3 and 5 = Group Code A

MPANs ending 2,4 and 6 = Group Code B etc

depending on the amount of load management required.

2.4. This approach is a simple, easy to identify the MPANs in question and provides an interoperable solution across the industry across all parties and suppliers.

2.5. Once the distributor has decided on the mapping of MPANs to a Group Code, there would be an obligation on the distributor within DCUSA to notify the supplier of such a combination. The suggested solution to this is for the distributor to send this as part of the LMA notification process which includes the MPAN and post code. Added to this for each MPAN whether a Group Code exists and if so which one.

2.6. The third step is for the supplier to ensure that they use the SSC with the specific Group Code identified in the LMA notification as part of replicating the tariff arrangement when an RTS arrangement is removed. This would also be placed into the DCUSA.

2.7. The suggested legal text is shown below.

3. Risks

3.1. The project associated with mandating HH settlement (via a Significant Code Review) may remove the need for SSCs in Half-hourly trading. To mitigate this risk, the administrator for the BSC, the Authority and potentially the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy BEIS should be invited to review this suggested solution either in advance of a change proposal being raised or for them to form part of the working group developing further the solution once a change proposal has been raised.

3.2. The current contract to continue RTS with Arqiva ends at the end of March 2020.

[2] Replicating Time Switching And Load Switching In The Smart Roll-out

Schedule 8 – Demand control

Definitions

Add a new definition

Group Code	A code associated with a Metering Point that determines when the switching times should be allocated in order to smooth the load in a Load Managed Area and thereby protecting the network from peak demand.

…….

5.3 A Load Managed Area Notice shall be effective when received or deemed to be received in accordance with Clause 59 and shall indicate:

(a) the geographical area to which it applies by providing the MPAN, ~~and~~ postcode and where appropriate the Group Code associated with the MPAN (or such other method as the Company and the Supplier agree, acting reasonably);

(b) the time or times of day during which in the Company's opinion:

(i) changes to Load Switching Regimes in force at particular Metering Points introduced by Suppliers have increased the coincidence of Demand to such an extent that Security of Supply may be threatened; and

(ii) new applications of Load Switching Regimes to particular Metering Points introduced by Suppliers may reasonably be expected to increase the coincidence of Demand to such an extent that Security of Supply may be threatened;

(c) the date from which the notice is effective; and

(d) that it shall continue in force until withdrawn in writing by the Company by serving a notice on all Suppliers and the Authority

5.4 The Company and the User acknowledge and agree that the issue of a Load Managed Area Notice constitutes notice that:

(a) significant modifications of Customer Demand in the area identified in such notice may threaten Security of Supply;

(b) SRNs and Emergency SRNs may be issued in respect of that area;

(c) any future changes to Load Switching Regimes and/or the Randomised Offset Limit in force at particular Metering Points in that area may be subject at the request of the Company to change in accordance with Paragraph 7.6 or 8.6; and

(d) any changes to Load Switching Regimes and/or the Randomised Offset Limit referred to in Paragraph 5.4(c) will, if requested by the Company pursuant to Paragraph 7.6 or 8.6 or if made voluntarily by a User, be at the relevant User's cost.

(e) where the User is replacing a Load Switching Device at a particular Metering Point, in the area identified in such a notice, the User shall use reasonable endeavours to ensure that the Load Switching Regime, and any other material characteristics of the existing Load Switching Device, are replicated on the new Load Switching Device; ~~and~~

(f) replicating includes the use of the Group Code at a particular Metering Point where these have been issued by the Company in accordance with Paragraph 5.3 (a); and

(g~~f~~) where the User is unable to comply with Paragraph 5.4 (e) and/or Paragraph 5.4 (f) the User will consult with the Company and agree to alternative arrangements for that particular Metering Point.