

DCUSA Self Governance Guidance

INTRODUCTION

If you are considering raising a change to the Distribution Connection and Use Of System Agreement (DCUSA), there are a number of routes that you can take to obtain guidance before raising your Change Proposal (CP). This document has been prepared to provide you with an overview the self-governance process under DCUSA, alongside outlining the support that is available to you when progressing a CP.

TYPES OF CHANGES

Within the DCUSA Change Process, a CP can be progressed as either:

- Part 1 Matter; or
- Part 2 Matter

Change Proposals which fall under the category of Part 1 Matters require Authority approval ahead of implementation. Part 2 Matters are subject to Self-governance and do not require the prior approval by the Authority ahead of implementation. Part 2 Matter decisions by the Panel (i.e. approval/rejection of a CP) can be appealed to the Authority pursuant to DCUSA Clause 13.17.

HOW TO DETERMINE IF YOUR CHANGE SHOULD PROGRESSED AS SELF-GOVERNANCE

A CP must be categorised as a Part 1 or Part 2 matter in accordance with Clause 10.4.7 of the DCUSA (further guidance is provided in the DCUSA Change Proposal template).

Firstly, a CP can be considered as a Part 2 Matter if it does not fall into the criteria for a Part 1 Matter.

A CP is considered a Part 1 Matter if it falls under the following criteria:

- a) it is likely to have a significant impact on the interests of electricity consumers;
- b) it is likely to have a significant impact on competition in one or more of:
 - i. the generation of electricity;
 - ii. the distribution of electricity;
 - iii. the supply of electricity; and
 - iv. any commercial activities connected with the generation, distribution or supply of electricity;
- c) it is likely to discriminate in its effects between one Party (or class of Parties) and another Party (or class of Parties);
 - i. it is directly related to the safety or security of the Distribution Network; and
 - ii. it concerns the governance or the change control arrangements applying to this Agreement; and

- iii. it has been raised by the Authority or a DNO/IDNO Party pursuant to Clause 10.2.5, and/or the Authority has made one or more directions in relation to it in accordance with Clause 11.9A.

Secondly, it is worth highlighting previous types of changes that have been categorised as a Self-governance CP (Part 2 Matter) under DCUSA. Previous self-governance changes are not limited to being housekeeping changes but have included solutions that have acted to:

- Revise the DCUSA Party billing process;
- Clarify the derogation notification process therefore improving the implementation and administration of the DCUSA arrangements; and
- Update the DCUSA charging models to reflect changes to the electricity distribution licence therefore providing transparency between DNO and Supplier processes.

It should be noted that when a CP is raised it may not be clear whether the CP falls into the self-governance criteria therefore the categorisation may need to be revisited as the CP progresses.

PROGRESSION OF A SELF-GOVERNANCE CP

All CPs, despite being a Part 1 or Part 2 Matter, follow the standard DCUSA Change Process where key processes have been listed below:

- i. new CP submitted to the DCUSA Panel for approval into the DCUSA Change Process;
- ii. once approved for progression, the CP progresses to the Change Report phase or issued to a Working Group for development. Most self-governance changes go straight to the Change Report phase due to the solution often already being defined by the Proposer; however, the Panel may direct that a CP be progressed by a Working Group to develop the legal text (where required);
- iii. after finalising the CP solution, the Change Report is submitted to the DCUSA Panel for Voting approval;
- iv. Change Report issued to Parties for Voting; and
- v. Change Declaration issued to DCUSA Parties with Voting result and implementation date.

It should be noted that a rejected self-governance CP can be appealed to the Authority if a Party views that is likely to be unfairly prejudiced by the implementation or non-implementation of that Change Proposal.

WHEN TO SEEK HELP

There are a number of situations in which ElectraLink as a Code Administrator may assist you in providing further guidance in raising a CP, including:

- If you would like help in determining whether your CP meets the criteria to be classed as a Part 1 or Part 2 matter;
- If you would like to better understand the DCUSA Change Process and what information you need to include in the CP form;

- If you would like to seek wider views on your CP from other industry participants before formally raising the change;
- If you have an issue and you are unsure what the solution to it should be;
- If you would like help to refine your proposed solution; or
- If you would like to request data or information from other industry participants (e.g. the extent to which they experience the same issue that you do).

WHERE TO FIND SUPPORT

If you would like general support with regards to the Change Process, then please contact our team the DCUSA helpdesk on DCUSA@electralink.co.uk or call 020 7432 3011.

If you require support to help you refine or develop your solution, then there are a number of workgroups available to help you. The DCUSA website provides details on the current workgroups under DCUSA and can be accessed [here](#).