

# DCUSA Panel Open Session

<b>Paper Title</b>	DCUSA SIG Headline Report
<b>Meeting Date</b>	17 December 2014
<b>Purpose of Paper</b>	For Information
<b>Synopsis</b>	This report summarises the meeting headlines and key decisions taken at the DCUSA Standing Issues Group on 28 November 2014. Full minutes of that meeting are available at <a href="http://www.dcusa.co.uk">www.dcusa.co.uk</a> .

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report summarises the meeting headlines and key decisions taken at the most recent meeting of the DCUSA Standing Issues Group (SIG) on 28 November 2014 and recent updates on the issues outlined.

## 2 DCUSA PANEL FEEDBACK

- 2.1 The DCUSA SIG considered the feedback from the DCUSA Panel that the public facing Theft of Energy Code of Practice (CoP) had been approved and an obligation was agreed to be placed on the DCUSA SIG to maintain and revise the document as required. The public facing Theft of Energy CoP was published on the DCUSA website on the 19 November 2014 under Frequently Asked Questions.
- 2.2 The DCUSA SIG considered the information that the Supply Point Administration Agreement (SPAA) Executive Committee (EC) had not approved the public facing Theft of Energy CoP at their last meeting as there were concerns that the outcome of investigations only addressed the actions that can be taken where theft has been confirmed and does not cover the process where theft has not been confirmed.
- 2.3 The DCUSA SIG noted that Lynne Fallon of British Gas was drafting some wording and once the SPAA Theft of Gas Working Group had reviewed and agreed the wording, it would be circulated to the DCUSA SIG for their consideration.

## 3 DIF 044 'TIMESCALES FOR RESPONDING TO REQUESTS TO INCREASE COVER'

- 3.1 The DCUSA SIG discussed DIF 044 which seeks to allow the Supplier to increase credit cover levels for the summer and winter periods and to introduce a five working day response timescale through which if no response is received a tacit agreement is considered to be in place.
- 3.2 Members noted that DNOs are mainly concerned about the scenario where the Supplier chooses to decrease their credit cover especially in cases where Suppliers may have a poor payment record which was the rationale for legal text on the decrease in credit cover process to be documented in DCUSA. Members noted that the Supplier can choose to increase their cover at any time and that there is no legal text in DCUSA to prevent them from increasing this credit cover.
- 3.3 The proposer advised that part of the rationale for this change was for the introduction of the five working day response timescale as some members of their credit cover team were experiencing difficulties getting responses from certain Distributors on the increase and

decrease of credit cover levels. The DCUSA SIG Chair agreed to participate in discussions with npower off-line to discuss how the current process could better facilitate this Supplier's needs.

#### **4 DIF 042 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)**

---

- 4.1 DCUSA SIG Members considered the collated responses to the DIF 042 Request For Information (RFI). DIF 042 highlights an issue where Suppliers' Meter Operators (MOPs) are experiencing difficulty installing replacement meters where a single common end Distributor cut-out fuse controls the supply of voltage to more than one Exit Point, i.e. to more than one customer.
- 4.2 The DCUSA SIG noted that some respondents did not appear to fully understand DIF 042 and that there was some confusion by Parties on their obligations in the instances highlighted by DIF 042.
- 4.3 The DCUSA SIG considered the Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) response which explained that if a shared fuse arrangement is considered Category C then it is not considered a defect and it is up to the DNOs internal asset management policy for the arrangement to be fixed. The proposer advised that there is legal drafting in DCUSA which states that anything which prevents the MOP from being able to undertake the work is considered Category B and this may be expanded upon in DCUSA as part of the rationale behind this change.
- 4.4 The DCUSA SIG agreed that if a Change Proposal (CP) is raised on this issue it should seek to introduce a national agreement between all DNOs to eradicate the shared fuse arrangement issue. Members noted that there would still be arrangements which sat outside any DNO agreement such as shared fuse arrangements in Victorian apartment blocks on private networks where the DNO has no rights.
- 4.5 Members considered that it would be beneficial to be able to view the national position of all Distributors on the DIF 042 topic, the Secretariat has been directed to contact the DCUSA Contract Managers of the DNOs who did not respond to this RFI and request for a response for consideration at the next DCUSA SIG meeting on the 19 December 2014.

#### **5 RECOMMENDATION**

---

- 5.1 The Panel is invited to:
  - NOTE the report.