



DCUSA CONSULTATION

DCP 148 – Re-billing to be done via Credit/Re-bill

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Distribution Connection and Use of System Agreement (DCUSA) is a multi-party contract between electricity Distributors and electricity Suppliers and large Generators.
- 1.2 Parties to the DCUSA can raise a DCUSA Change Proposal (“DCP”) to amend the Agreement. DCPs should better facilitate the DCUSA General Objectives and/or Charging Objectives of the DCUSA document.
- 1.3 Amendments to DCUSA may only be made with the consent of a majority proportion of Parties to the DCUSA, through a voting process, or (where applicable) the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority.¹
- 1.4 When a DCP is raised, a Working Group is established to assess and develop the proposal in consultation with industry parties and other interested parties.
- 1.5 This document is a consultation issued in accordance with Clause 11.14 of the DCUSA and seeks industry views on Change Proposal DCP 148 – Re-Billing to be done via Credit/Re-Bill.
- 1.6 The Consultation has been issued to DCUSA Parties and Ofgem.
- 1.7 Parties are invited to consider the Change Proposal detailed in this consultation and submit comments using the form attached as Appendix C to dcusa@electralink.co.uk by **28 September 2012**.

2 INTENT OF DCP 148 – RE-BILLING TO BE DONE VIA CREDIT/RE-BILL

- 2.1 DCP 148 has been raised by E.On Energy as a result of the work undertaken by the DCMF MIG Annual Review Billing Supergroup. That group was established to determine best practices in DUoS billing and to facilitate moving the Industry towards such practices in order that Distributors adopt a common approach to billing.
- 2.2 The intent of DCP 148 is to ensure that all Distributors that raise reconciliation HH invoices use the credit & re-bill approach rather than invoicing the difference.
- 2.3 The DCMF MIG Annual Review Billing Supergroup has assessed different approaches

¹ For more information about GEMA visit the Ofgem website: <http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/TheAuthority>

used by Distributors under current practice and has determined its view of the optimal common approach that should be adopted in relation to the matter stated in the intent.

- 2.4 Different distributors adopt different approaches to HH billing from daily billing, weekly billing to two runs at varying times of the month. The Billing Group felt consistency was preferable and that two runs, a week apart, was preferable.
- 2.5 The Proposer explained that different Distributors adopt different approaches to changed data in HH billing; some credit an original invoice and raise a new invoice while others bill the difference. The Billing Group felt consistency was preferable and that credit and re-bill was the best approach.
- 2.6 This CP has been deemed a Part 1 matter as it is likely to discriminate in its effect upon Parties as some Distributors may have changes to make to their billing systems while others may not.

3 DCP 148 – WORKING GROUP CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Working Group is comprised of Distributor and Supplier Parties, as well as Ofgem representation; it is noted that all DCUSA Parties were invited to attend the Working Group.
- 3.2 All Working Group members are supportive of the general principles of DCP 148.
- 3.3 The Working Group reviewed the CP against the following DCUSA General Objective:
- General Objective 2² – Better facilitated – The Working Group agrees that DCP 148 will promote consistency and transparency in the methods faced by Suppliers.

4 PROPOSED LEGAL TEXT

- 4.1 The DCP 148 proposed legal text is set out in Appendix B.
- 4.2 Following a review of the proposed legal text by the Working Group after feedback gained from the consultation, it will be issued to the DCUSA legal representative for review.

² The facilitation of effective competition in the generation and supply of electricity and (so far as is consistent therewith) the promotion of such competition in the sale, distribution and purchase of electricity

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 Parties are asked to consider the intent and impact of DCP 148 and answer the following consultation questions:

1. Do you agree with the intent of DCP 148?
2. Do you agree with the principles of DCP 148?
3. Does the CP better facilitate the DCUSA General Objective 2? Please provide supporting comments.
4. Do you have any comments on the proposed legal drafting of DCP 148?
5. Are you aware of any wider industry developments that may impact upon or be impacted by this CP? If so, please give details, and comment on whether the benefit of the change may outweigh the potential impact and whether the duration of the change is likely to be limited.
6. Do you agree with the implementation date of DCP 148?
7. Are there any alternative solutions or matters that should be considered by the Working Group?

5.2 The Consultation response form (Appendix C) should be submitted to dcusa@electralink.co.uk no later than **28 September 2012**. Parties are asked to provide as much relevant detail as possible to enable the Working Group to understand the comments and the reasons behind them.

5.3 Responses, or any part thereof, can be provided in confidence. Parties are asked to clearly indicate any parts of a response that are to be treated confidentially.

6 NEXT STEPS

6.1 Following the end of the consultation period the Working Group will meet to review and consider the responses. The DCP 148 Working Group will submit its final report setting out the proposed variations to DCUSA Panel before the CP is issued to all DCUSA Parties for voting.

6.2 If you have any questions about this paper or the DCUSA Change Process or would like to participate in the Working Group please contact the DCUSA Help Desk by email to dcusa@electralink.co.uk or telephone 020 7432 3014.

7 APPENDICES

- Appendix A – DCP 148 Re-Billing to be done via Credit/Re-Bill
- Appendix B – DCP 148 Proposed Legal Text
- Appendix C – Response Form