

DCP 400 Working Group Meeting 01

09 March 2022 at 14:00 - Web-Conference

Attendee	Company
Working Group Members	
Carl Dennis [CD]	Shell Energy
Colette Baldwin [CB]	Gemserv
David Jones [DJ]	Alt Han Co.
Emma Johnson [EJ]	Centrica
Geoff Huckerby [GH]	Power Data Associates
George Barnes [GB]	Utilita
Irmeen Khan [IK]	Alt Han Co.
Kevin Liddle [KL]	NPg
Kevin Woollard [KW]	Centrica
Paul Abreu [PA]	Energy Networks Association
Richard Brady [RB]	Western Power
Richard Hill [RH]	Centrica
Scott McLaughlin [SM]	Scottish Power Energy Networks
Warren Lacy [WL]	NPg
William McKay [WM]	SSEN
Code Administrator	
Richard Colwill [RC] (Chair)	ElectraLink
Hannah Proffitt [HP] (Technical Secretariat)	ElectraLink

1. Administration

- 1.1 The Working Group (WG) reviewed the “Competition Law Guidance”. All WG members agreed to be bound by the Competition Law Guidance for the duration of the meeting.
- 1.2 The group noted the Terms of Reference and did not have any comments or feedback.

2. Purpose of the Meeting

- 2.1 The Chair advised that the purpose of the meeting was for the Proposer of DCUSA Change Proposal (DCP) 400 to give an overview of the change and for the WG to review the solution and to agree the next steps.

3. Overview of DCP 400 and Target Operating Model

- 3.1 DJ presented a set of slides to the group. These are included as **Attachment 1**. DJ provided background to the change and went on to consider the similarities/differences with DCP 394¹

Summary of the Change

- 3.2 The DCP seeks to amend the DCUSA to allow Alt HAN Co, acting as a Crowded Meter Room Co-ordinator to commission necessary works, using a shared Meter Operator, to resolve meter room issues that enable the installation of Smart and Alt HAN equipment.
- 3.3 The Proposer believes the following additional changes may also be necessary:
 - That Alt HAN Co becomes a signatory to the DCUSA (unless the changes in 1.1 can be given effect without the need for the accession); and
 - Data sharing provisions are established between Alt HAN Co as the Crowded Meter Room Co-ordinator, Suppliers and Network Operators for the purposes of identifying building network owners, landlords/owners.
- 3.4 The change would allow Alt HAN Co to establish a mechanism by which it could investigate and resolve issues related to Crowded Meter Rooms, on behalf of all affected stakeholders, which would in turn enable the installation of Smart and Alt HAN equipment allowing smart benefits to flow to those consumers.
- 3.5 By implementing a collective solution to enable meter rooms to be Smart and Alt HAN ready, this would allow for the co-ordination of actions across multiple Resolving Parties (e.g. building owner, Suppliers and network operators) and jurisdictions minimising the number of aborted installations, and associated smart abort costs, for Energy Suppliers and allowing for a more cost effective use of industry resources and less disruptive experience for consumers.

¹ DCP 394 - Allow any REC Accredited Meter Operator to De-Energise any Metering Point

- 3.6 The option of data sharing would support both the Crowded Meter Room Co-ordinator and Network Operators in being able to access the data needed to resolve issues with building access and contacts for permission for works.
- 3.7 This change would amend the DCUSA to allow Alt HAN Co Ltd, acting as the Industry Coordinator on behalf of Energy Suppliers to orchestrate resolutions in a Crowded Meter Room by coordinating with capable resolving parties (MOPs, DNOs, IDNOs and BNOs) and commissioning the necessary works. In doing so, the Crowded Meter Room Co-ordinator would accept liability for such works on behalf of Energy Suppliers (for which the Crowded Meter Room Co-ordinator may need to become a DCUSA Party).

DCP 394 vs DCP 400

- 3.8 DJ ran through the information included in slides 8 and 9 of **Attachment 1**, noting that DCP 400 is a separate change from DCP 394 and is not reliant on DCP 394 being progressed. DJ advised that DCP 400 is critical for progression to the pilot phase.
- 3.9 CB agreed that DCP 394 and DCP 400 are distinct proposals however raised the need to look into cross code impacts. CB highlighted that it is likely a Retail Energy Code (REC) change will be needed and potentially a Smart Energy Code (SEC) change.

01/01 – DJ to work with CB (REC) and Tim Newton (SEC) to review potential cross code impacts.

- 3.10 CB also highlighted that a large number of communications will be needed for the proposed solution and asked whether the Proposer intends to use existing data flows. DJ agreed that a centralised workflow system will be required and that where exiting flows exist, they will seek to use them where possible. DJ agreed to work with the DNOs to look into this.

01/02 – DNOs to work with Alt HAN Co to consider possibilities surrounding communications needed for the solution.

- 3.11 CB asked whether all Parties are obligated to use the Alt HAN Co solution and raised the 10% meter point gap of Parties that are not signed up. DJ noted that all Relevant Suppliers have an obligation under their licence conditions to adhere to the Alt HAN arrangements and Section Z of the SEC. CB raised concerns that it isn't mandated for Suppliers to be contracted with Alt HAN Co and asked where this leaves Suppliers who are not currently signed up. DJ agreed to investigate this and clarify with Gowling.

01/03 – DJ to refer to Gowling regarding potential situations where Parties have not acceded to Alt HAN Co.

- 3.12 CB noted that the DCP does not mention gas meters and asked how these will be dealt with. DJ noted that gas is a smaller issue and therefore they focussed on electricity first. CB noted that if the pilot work is successful, they wouldn't want to have to raise another change. DJ agreed to take this point away.

- 3.13 CB agreed to send an impact assessment document to DJ providing more details of all the above concerns.
- 3.14 SM noted they support the intent behind the DCP, highlighting that especially during the current bill increases, the ability to install Smart Meters for all customers will be crucial. SM raised concerns however over the commercial issues, noting that work to resolve crowded meter rooms is often very expensive and that there is no 'one size fits all' approach. SM noted that preparing a quotation would take a significant amount of work.
- 3.15 SM added that they are not comfortable being asked to provide indicative costs, noting that there is risk over how this information is used and that it could be taken out of context.
- 3.16 IK clarified that the Request for Information (RFI) requesting indicative costs for works undertaken, would be used to inform the initial business case and that any data provided would not be shared or attributed to a specific party. IK outlined that if they can obtain a range of responses, they can develop an idea of the likelihood of each of these costs.
- 3.17 SM noted that DNOs have commercially sensitive contracts with a broad list of vendors and that there may be alternative ways of gathering the required information, such as through the Energy Networks Association (ENA). GH noted that when discussed with Association of Meter Operators (AMO) members, they raised similar concerns around sharing this information as prices are commercially sensitive.
- 3.18 DJ thanked members for their feedback and noted that the RFI is not critical to DCP 400. DJ noted that they would take this away to discuss with the team working on RFI engagement.
- 3.19 SM asked whether it would be possible for the WAN connectivity to be checked before coming to DNOs for a quotation. DJ confirmed that the intention is that the coordinator will check this first using a WAN postcode checker and where on premises, using specialist equipment, if available.

4. Review of DCP 400 Proposed Solution

- 4.1 The WG reviewed the CP form and discussed the section referencing legal text.
- 4.2 Regarding section 4.3 of the CP, CB highlighted the reference to the 'gas-first' approach. CB noted that under the 'gas-first' approach, the Metering Equipment Managers (MEMs) installing the meter was acting under a licence obligation to install a Smart Meter. CB noted that contracting with Alt HAN is not the same and suggested that this needs to be explored further.
- 4.3 WL asked how the shared Meter Operator would be recruited. DJ noted that they have issued a pre procurement notification that has been circulated via the AMO and Energy UK. DJ noted that there may need to be more than one depending on regions. RH clarified that they should not need to recruit multiple as there are different mechanisms in place to allow one entity to work across the country if they have the correct accreditations.

5. Agree Work Plan

- 5.1 The WG agreed for a subgroup to draft a consultation document to be reviewed at the next meeting.

01/04 – The Secretariat to organise subgroup to produce first draft of consultation document ahead of next meeting.

- 5.2 The Chair noted that once a date has been decided for the consultation, the rest of the Work Plan can be completed. The group noted that they would be aiming for the Change Report to be presented to the DCUSA Panel for approval in July.
- 5.3 CB reminded members that if cross code changes are needed, these may need to be aligned. The Chair agreed that the group would revisit the Work Plan at the next meeting.

6. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

- 6.1 The Working Group agreed that the draft consultation document would be reviewed at the next meeting.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 The Chair asked the group whether there were any other items of business to discuss.
- 7.2 There were no other items raised.

8. Date of Next Meeting

- 8.1 The date of the next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 30th March 10am to 1pm.

9. Attachments

- Attachment 1 - DCP 400 Background & Comparisons to DCP 394

APPENDIX A

New and Open Actions

Action Ref.	Action	Owner	Update
01/01	DJ to work with CB (REC) and Tim Newton (SEC) to review potential cross code impacts.	DJ and CB	New action.
01/02	DNOs to work with Alt HAN Co to consider possibilities surrounding communications needed for the solution.	DJ and DNOs	New action.
01/03	DJ to refer to Gowling regarding potential situations where Parties have not acceded to Alt HAN Co.	DJ	New action.
01/04	The Secretariat to organise subgroup to produce first draft of consultation document ahead of next meeting.	RC	New action.