

DCUSA SIG Meeting 149 Minutes

27 October 2023 at 10:00am: Web Conference

Attendee	Company
Working Group Members	
Richard Ellis (RE)	NGED
Donna Jamieson (DJ)	Energy Assets
Simon Vicray (SV)	EDF
Emily Waters (EW)	BU-UK
Alexander Pentcost (AP)	Eclipse Power
Chris Ong (CO)	UKPN
Halimah Magaji (HM)	Yu Energy
Mark Agnew (MA)	British Gas
Victoria Burkett (VB)	SSE Energy
Catherine Duggan (CD)	ENWL
Paul Fitzgerald (PF)	SSEN
Shereen Ahmed (SA)	Energy Assets
Charlotte Precious (CP)	Energy Assets
Komal Brown (KB)	Scottish Power
Eleanor Suter (ES)	BU-UK
Tim Ellingham (TE)	RWE Supply
Warren Lacey (WL)	NPg
Carl Dennis (CDen)	Shell Energy Retail
Sally Musaka (SM)	SSE
Code Administrator	
Craig Booth [CB] (Secretariat)	ElectraLink
Richard Colwill [RC] (Chair)	ElectraLink

1. Administration

- 1.1 SIG members reviewed the “Competition Law Guidance”. All members agreed to be bound by the Competition Law Guidance for the duration of the meeting.

2. DIF 69 ‘Incorrect GSP’

- 2.1 The Chair gave an overview of the issue being raised (Attachment 1) and explained that a suggestion had been received that a central database of post codes and DNO areas could be used to solve the issue.
- 2.2 It was discussed that a central database may not provide a solution as IDNOs operate in multiple areas.
- 2.3 The Working Group queried whether the issue would be most likely to arise at the boundaries of DNO areas, due to postcodes spanning more than one DNO area.
- 2.4 The SIG members discussed that it would be useful to have examples and to understand the circumstances under which the issue occurs.
- 2.5 A supplier member highlighted that the impact to customers could be huge, depending on the size of the customer and the changes in prices as a result of correcting the issue. The member clarified that he had seen no such example, but that it was a possibility.
- 2.6 The Working Group also discussed that this could be an issue with the GSP being correct but the incorrect DNO/IDNO being assigned.
- 2.7 The Working Group agreed to issue an RFI asking (subject to change):
 - 2.7.1 for examples of the issue;
 - 2.7.2 for volumes;
 - 2.7.3 for the size of customers impacted;
 - 2.7.4 whether it is always an incorrect GSP or whether it was ever the incorrect DNO/IDNO being assigned;
 - 2.7.5 what the impacts were (to suppliers and their customers); and
 - 2.7.6 whether a central database would provide a solution.

Action: Secretariat to draft an RFI for DIF 69 and issue to the group for review, prior to issuing it to industry.

3. DIF 70 ‘Legal Meter Bypass’

- 3.1 The Chair gave an overview of the issue being raised (Attachment 2).
- 3.2 The Working Group discussed that Ofgem is making changes to supplier licenses to require them to provide a 24-hour service for customers, which may mean the issue is resolved as customers would always be able to contact their supplier in the event of being off supply.
- 3.3 It was also discussed that, in the interim, the ENA has been asked to work with suppliers around the support that DNOs can provide over winter.

3.4 The Working Group agreed to issue an RFI, however it was felt that the RFI should carefully word the questions to ensure that the information requested is split by whether the bypass performed was for a faulty meter or a non-faulty meter. The questions agreed (wording subject to change) were:

3.4.1 To DNOs/IDNOs:

- Please explain in what circumstances you would perform a bypass of a meter and whether these are for faulty or non-faulty meters.
- Please provide volumes for the number of meter bypasses performed in the last 12 months period. Please note, volumes must be split by faulty and non-faulty meter bypasses.

3.4.2 To suppliers:

- Are you aware of any bypasses performed on non-faulty meters? If so, please explain the scenario and, if possible, provide examples.

Action: Secretariat to draft an RFI for DIF 70 and issue to the group for review, prior to issuing it to industry.

3.5 The Working Group discussed whether there were similar issues with gas meters and whether this needed to be raised at REC as a dual fuel issue. Supplier members explained that they were not aware of any issues on gas and that, where a customer is off supply out of hours, the meter will be physically changed and flows received as normal, albeit from a different party. It was agreed to continue with the actions under the SIG for the time being.

4. DIF 71 'Use of Generators'

4.1 The Chair gave an overview of the issue being raised (Attachment 3).

4.2 A Working Group member stated they had not heard of the issue being raised and asked that an RFI be issued to request examples and to understand volumes.

4.3 The Working Group discussed that in a few rare circumstances, a generator had been on site where the MPANs were live and had been registered, and that this could impact settlements as Suppliers will be taking readings from the meters and entering these into settlement, creating an imbalance as no energy is being taken from the network.

4.4 A Working Group member stated that generators could be used where the land rights for the installation of the network had been delayed, but that this was usually to allow completion of the building works and not to enable residents or businesses to move in.

4.5 The Working Group discussed that it was necessary to understand volumes and, where a generator is installed, whether this is the responsibility of the DNO/IDNO or the developer, particularly if the site goes off supply. It was agreed to issue an RFI asking:

4.5.1 Are you aware of any examples where a generator has been used on a new development to provide energy to consumers before the properties can be connected to the network.

4.5.2 Where this scenario arises, for what reasons does it occur and how do you think these customers should be treated?

4.5.3 To Suppliers:

- What are the impacts to customers, settlements, etc.?

4.5.4 To DNOs/IDNOs:

- Where this scenario arises, who is responsible for the maintenance of the generator? (e.g., for fuelling it, repairing it, dealing with off supply incidents, etc.)

Action: Secretariat to draft an RFI for DIF 71 and issue to the group for review, prior to issuing it to industry.

5. Any Other Business

- 5.1 A Working Group member noted that the issues log contained spelling errors in the status column that needed to be corrected (Attachment 4).

Action: Secretariat to review and correct spelling errors in the issues log.

- 5.2 A Working Group member explained that the data for the Rota Load Block Alpha Identifiers had been delayed to mid-November and that, for some DNOs, there were a lot of changes to the block letter and that it would be prudent for Suppliers to ensure they are prepared for this.

- 5.3 The Chair suggested the DCUSA website could be updated to reflect this additional information.

Action: Chair to update the DCUSA website to explain that there are changes expected in the new data.

6. Date of Next Meeting:

The next SIG meeting will take place on 1 December 2023 at 1:00am, via Microsoft Teams.