

DCUSA Panel Meeting 220 (Open Session)

16 October 2024 at 10:00am

3rd Floor, Northumberland House, 303 306 High Holborn, London,
WC1V 7JZ / MS Teams

Attendee	Role	Company
Panel Members		
Donna Jamieson [DJ]	Panel Member (CHAIR)	DCUSA Ltd
Victoria Burkett [VB]	Alternate Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Karl Marylon [KM]	Alternate Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Donald Preston [DP]	Alternate Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Simon Vicary [SV]	Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Peter Waymont [PW]	Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Lee Wells [LW]	Alternate Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Kevin Woollard [KW]	Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Simon Yeo [SY]	Panel Member	DCUSA Ltd
Observers		
Alison Beard [AB]	Observer	SEC
Mark DeSouza Wilson [MDW]	Observer	BSC
Nadir Hafeez [NH]	Observer	Ofgem
Dia Pareek [DP]	Observer	Drax
Glenn Sheern [GS]	Observer	REC
Clare Wagstaffe [CW]	Observer	SSEN
Code Administrator		
Richard Colwill [RC]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Angelo Fitzhenry [AF]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Andy Green [AG]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Melissa Kendall [MK]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
George Kestner [GK]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Alysson Peña [AP]a	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Dylan Townsend [DT]	Secretariat	ElectraLink Ltd
Apologies		
Lorna Mallon [LM]	Observer	REC

1. Administration

Permission to record Meeting

- 1.1 The Panel RESOLVED to record this meeting to aid the Technical Secretariat in producing an accurate report of the meeting. The recording will be deleted once the minutes for the meeting are approved.

Welcomes and Introductions

- 1.2 The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Apologies

- 1.3 It was NOTED that 'Apologies' had been received from Lorna Mallon.

Non-Confidential Minutes

- 1.4 The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and the Panel agreed that they were a true and fair representation of the meeting.

Updated Actions

- 1.5 The Panel reviewed the new and open actions for the previous open session Panel meeting and updates on all actions are set out in Appendix A.

2. Updates from the Industry Working Groups/Codes

Balancing & Settlement Code (BSC)

- 2.1 MDW provided the Panel with a verbal update on BSC related topics. Points raised included:
- Two new VT ratios had been approved and would be added to the valid set on 21 October 2024; anybody with concerns should contact the metering team for more information.
 - P477 'Data Protection Provisions for Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement' had been approved by the BSC Panel. MDW NOTED that BSC Section C-12 already contained provisions to provide data protection officers and underlying procedures, and P477 was incorporating similar requirements into the rest of the BSC.
- 2.2 The Panel NOTED the BSC update.

Ofgem

- 2.3 NH provided the Panel with a verbal update on Ofgem related topics, which included:
- An update on the Expected Decision Dates ('EDD') for all DCUSA Change Proposals (DCPs) that were currently with the Authority for decision, including:
 - DCP 417 'Ability for the DCUSA Secretariat to Raise Change Proposals': A new licensing issue had come to light, so the EDD was being delayed until 19 November 2024 for a further review of the proposed solutions.
 - DCP 441 'Proposal to increase the number of allowed Change Report alternative variations from two to three': the EDD remained 6 December 2024, but this might be brought forward to earlier in November.

- DCP 433 'Limitation for backdating of rebates/charges under Schedule 32': the EDD remained 8 November 2024.
- DCP 438 'Rate of Return Change Proposal': following discussions at the last Panel Meeting, Ofgem were seeking to bring the EDD forward, into alignment with DCP 433, to 8 November 2024.
- Two more DCP 437 and DCP 439 had been received, the EDDs were being considered. He noted that DCP 437 had been requested a decision by 7 November 2024, to coincide with the November release date, so that this would allow this to be incorporated into charging models.
- DCP 425 had also been accepted on 17 September 2024.
- An update on Energy Code Reform, including:
 - the Ofgem DESNZ decision document, '[Energy Code Reform: Government Response to Consultation on Code Manager Licensing and Secondary Legislation](#)', had been published on 8 October 2024. Any questions should be directed to the industry codes team. The Government planned to lay secondary legislation to establish the Code Manager selection regime by year-end 2024.
 - A further consultation on the process for Code Manager selection and Ofgem's assessment for competitive and non-competitive basis would take place over coming months.
 - Further refinement and development of the draft standard licence conditions for code managers would also take place and the consultation on the full set of provisions was planned to be issued in early 2025. This consultation would also consult on updating the parameters for how appeals against Ofgem's code modification decisions could be escalated to the Competitions and Market Authority.
- Ofgem's publishing moratorium over the Christmas holiday period would run from 12 December 2024 until 3 January 2025.
- CACoP had published a survey to assess the performance of Code Administrators, which had replaced the surveys that had previously been issued by Ofgem.

2.4 The Panel NOTED the Ofgem update.

Smart Energy Code (SEC)

2.5 AB NOTED that no SEC modifications were being progressed that would affect the DCUSA.

2.6 The Panel NOTED the SEC update.

Retail Energy Code (REC)

2.7 GS presented the REC change update paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1016_01). The paper was taken as read.

2.8 GS highlighted that for REC R0170 'Withdrawal of Service Termination Issue Reporting Guidance (STRIG) from REC Governance', Ofgem had advised that they would have a decision by 13 November 2024.

2.9 In response to Action 217/05, GS NOTED that REC were seeing approximately 75% of SIP Applications being abandoned or otherwise not progressed: this was higher than they had predicted would be the case and investigations were ongoing to ascertain if systemic bad practice was being followed, such as seals being broken, or if MEMs were being followed. GS agreed to present any updated findings at future Panel Meetings.

2.10 The Panel NOTED the REC update.

3. Change Register

3.1 RC presented the Change Register updates to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1016_02). The paper was taken as read. RC explained which changes had changed status since the last Panel meeting as well as any that had moved into a new status since the paper was published.

3.2 RC presented the Status Change Tab and highlighted key points:

- DCP 325 'Reviewing the requirements of Sections 35A, 35B, Schedule 15 and Schedule 20': had been held whilst DCP 421 'Update the Tables in schedule 15 of DCUSA' was progressing, but a RFI had now been issued.
- DCP 420 'Provide targeted relief from residual charges for electric vehicle charging sites': this had progressed to the Consultation stage.
- DCP 442 'Aligning enduring flexible connections: an RFI had been issued.
- DCP 443 'Excess Capacity: This had progressed to the Consultation stage.
- DCP 444 'Additional Settlement Runs: This had progressed to the Consultation stage.
- DCP 445 'Implementation of Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) Arrangements: The Change Report would be tabled later in this Panel Meeting.
- DCP 437 'To Shorten the DUoS Pricing Notice Periods: This had been sent to Ofgem for approval.
- DCP 439 'Backdating Tariff Changes: This had been sent to Ofgem for approval.
- DCP 425 'Cost Apportionment Factor "cap" Methodology: This had been Implemented.
- DCP 421 'Update the Tables in schedule 15 of DCUSA: This had been Implemented.

3.3 DT Presented the Timetable Tab and highlighted key points:

- DCP 440 'Consuming "de-energised" sites': Some last-minute issues had arisen relating to data collation, which would cause this CR to be delayed until the November 2024 panel Meeting.
- DCP 412 'Discounts from TCR charges for 'peaky' final demand customers': this was delayed as the review of consultation responses had taken longer than anticipated.

3.4 The Panel NOTED the Change Register updates.

4. Initial Assessments

- 4.1 DT presented the Initial Assessment Cover Paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1016_03). The paper was taken as read. It was NOTED that there were no new Change Proposals for Initial Assessment by the Panel this month.
- 4.2 The Panel NOTED the Initial Assessment update.

5. Change Reports

- 5.1 DT presented the Change Report Cover Paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1016_04). It was noted that one Change Report was being tabled for approval this month.

DCP 445 'Implementation of Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) Arrangements'

- 5.2 DT NOTED that DCP 445 had been through legal review and following this some minor amendments had been made to the legal text, as noted in the Change Report.
- 5.3 The Panel SCRUTINISED DCP 445. No comments were raised.
- 5.4 The Panel RESOLVED to:
- AGREE that the Change Report contains the level of information required to enable Parties to understand the impact of the proposed amendments and to vote on the CP;
 - AGREE that the Parties eligible to vote on the CP will be those that are set out as Impacted Parties within the Change Report;
 - AGREE that the voting period for the CP should be 15 working days;
 - APPROVE the Change Report for issue to Parties on 17 October 2024.

220/01 Change Reports: For DCP 445 'Implementation of Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) Arrangement', the Secretariat to issue the Change Report to Parties for voting for a period of 15 Working Days

6. Housekeeping Log

- 6.1 DT presented the Housekeeping Log Summary Paper and Housekeeping Log to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1016_05). The paper was taken as read.
- 6.2 The Panel NOTED that no other Housekeeping Items had been identified by either the Secretariat or by any other Party.

7. Accession Applications

- 7.1 DT presented the Accession Applications paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1016_06). The paper was taken as read.
- 7.2 DT NOTED that one company had presented an application with an MPID with a different name from the entity in MDD. Whilst not tabled at this meeting, DT queried whether such an application should be progressed in future. This Panel RECEIVED ASSURANCES that MDD was not a comprehensive database, given it lacked a field for Company Registration numbers and AGREED that this alone should not delay

the progress of applications or prevent them from being tabled at Panel Meetings for scrutiny and approval.

7.3 The Panel NOTED that no Accession Applications were being progressed this month.

8. CACoP Headline Report

8.1 DT presented a verbal CACoP Headline Report to the Panel.

8.2 DT advised that the last CACoP Forum was held on 08 October 2024, during which the main topic of discussion was related to an item that had been discussed over a number of months which was the proposed cross-code survey. DT noted that this cross code survey was being conducted at the request of Ofgem and was in place of the one previously conducted by a third party procured by Ofgem. DT explained that the survey content had now been agreed and an email would be circulated to Contract Managers shortly.

8.3 The Panel NOTED the CaCOP Headline Report.

9. DCMDG Headline Report

9.1 DT presented the DCMDG Headline Report to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1016_07. The paper was taken as read.

9.2 DT highlighted key points, including:

- A paper had been provided to DCMDG members for them to discuss which set out some scenarios regarding the interpretation of Schedule 32, specifically with respect to sites banded based on their Maximum Import Capacity. The crux of which was two fold, being whether the materiality threshold of 50% capacity reduction was an issue when viewed in the light that sites are banded based on an historical 24-month averaging period, meaning customers charges applicable in 2030/31, will be based on data for their site from 7/8 years in the past. DCMDG members had also discussed the pros and cons of banding using a more dynamic approach rather than sites being placed into a residual charging band for a 5 year period. The outcome of the discussion was that members believed there was scope to amend the materiality threshold of 50% but that a move to a more dynamic banding arrangement could be problematic for sites banded based on consumption.
- DCMDG members received an update related to MHHS Change Request 055, which, if approved, would delay the start of migration by about 5 months and would also have an impact of the processes implemented in the BSC via BSC modification P432, which links to the processes set out in the DCUSA which were implemented by DCP 414. It was noted that is because the arrangements implemented by P432 are pinned to the applicable MHHS Milestone, which will move if CR055 is approved.
- As part of the update members received regarding the 'Private Networks' sub-group, members were told that BSC modification P455, had recently been approved by Ofgem. The Chair explained the P455 was raised subsequent to a BSC Sandbox Derogation from Emergent Energy, who are also progressing through a second Sandbox Derogation that links into DUoS charges for private networks but is not itself a direct DCUSA Sandbox Derogation, rather, a licence derogation for their partner company, a DNO.

- As part of the update members received regarding the 'Annual Allocation Review Lessons Learned' sub-group, DCMDG members discussed the problems around Annual Allocations Review data not being provided in a standard format and had agreed that there would be benefits in introducing a standardised data collection template. It had been agreed for the Chair to speak with the person who raised the concerns initially to see if there was a need to continue discussions at a future meeting or whether a recent email to Parties may have helped to resolve the issues.
- There was an AOB item with respect to the requirement, introduced by DCP 414, for Suppliers to provide customer contact details for customers impacted by BSC Modification P432 to the DNOs/IDNOs. The member explained that the text in the DCUSA is a little vague as to exactly how this should be done but that one idea, was that Suppliers just update the customer contact information via the relevant industry data flows and that the DNOs/IDNOs could then pick this information up from those flows. It was noted that some members disagreed with this interpretation, and noted that an issue had been raised and discussed at a meeting of the Standing Issues Group on this exact topic. It was noted that that the net result of that SIG discussion was that Parties were of the view that the text was clear enough and the expectation was for Suppliers to provide the customer contact details via a separate process. A Panel member agreed that their expectation was for a separate process to be used.

9.3 The Panel scrutinised the points above and the following was noted:

- the IDNO community had questions about the updating of the Charging Statements was required by Standard Licence Condition 14. . It was noted that both the version already published for 25/26 and the one which will need to be published at the end of this year for 26/27 need to be updated in line with the amendments being made as part of MHHS but that the IDNO community were not aware of how this was to be progressed. The Panel discussed this and NOTED that generally, the DNOs discuss this themselves and that one of them tends to agree to make the required updates, which are then submitted to Ofgem for approval. A Panel member noted that they can provide the relevant contact details for the person carrying out the amendments for this cycle.

9.4 The Panel NOTED the DCMDG Headline Report.

10. IWG Headline Report

10.1 RC presented a verbal IWG Headline Report to the Panel.

10.2 RC highlighted key points, including:

- There had been an additional IWG meeting as the scheduled September meeting had not managed to complete all of the tabled agenda items.
- Asbestos and cut-outs: AMO had provided guidance on how to deal with asbestos and were compiling a glossary of different cut-outs that MOPs may encounter; work was progressing to reshape these into an appendix.

- Data validation: sometimes data came through on flows that might be Category B or C and where there was an SLA attached, but with incorrect contact details. Testing would be taking place to identify why this was happening when different parameters were changed within the system.
- Online form: some DNOs were using an online form to report Category A issues, which had the benefit of allowing pictures to be submitted alongside the report. The ideal future situation would be for all of DNOs to operate with a standardised centralised system, but while discussions around how to introduce this were ongoing, a single process was not yet in place.

10.3 The Panel NOTED the IWG Headline Report.

11. DCUSA Monthly Horizon Scan

- 11.1 DT presented the DCUSA Monthly Horizon Scan paper to the Panel, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See paper (Panel_2024_1016_08). The paper was taken as read.
- 11.2 DT highlighted an addition to the Horizon Scan, which had been requested during the last meeting and was with respect to 'Ofgem review of standing charges for domestic customers'.
- 11.3 DT proposed removing the item related to 'Future System Operator' from the horizon scan as the changes to the DCUSA have now been made and that to his knowledge, there was no further work required in this space.
- 11.4 The Panel SCRUTINISED the DCUSA Monthly Horizon Scan, with one Panel member suggesting the inclusion of an item related to the 'Future of local energy institutions and governance' as a possible item to add in the future, but considered that these proposals were insufficiently developed to add at this time.
- 11.5 The Panel APPROVED the updated DCUSA Monthly Horizon Scan.

12. Any Other Business

- 12.1 No items of Other Business were raised.

13. Date of next meeting: 20 November 2024 at 10.00am

- 13.1 The next meeting will be held in person at ElectraLink's offices, 3rd Floor, Northumberland House, 303-306 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7JZ and via Microsoft Teams.

Appendix A: Summary of Actions

New and Open Actions – Open Session

Ref No.	Action	Owner	Update
220/01	<u>Change Reports: For DCP 445 ‘Implementation of Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) Arrangement’</u> : the Secretariat to issue the Change Report to Parties for voting for a period of 15 Working Days	ElectraLink	

Closed Actions – Open Session

Ref No.	Action	Owner	Update
217/05	<u>IWG Headline Report</u> : The Secretariat to approach REC and request information on incomplete or abandoned SIP applications to see whether any insights could be gained about companies that had initiated but not completed the SIP Accession Process.	ElectraLink	<p>Update 21 August 2024: The Secretariat are currently in contact with the relevant staff at REC to discuss this. KEEP OPEN</p> <p>Update 18 September 2024: The REC update advised that there were cf.70 SIP Applications currently being progressed and the Secretariat and the REC Code manager would continue discussions around this. KEEP OPEN</p> <p>Update 16 October 2024: the REC Representative NOTED that cf.75% of SIP applications were being abandoned or otherwise not progressed, which was higher than they had anticipated. The REC Representative ADVISED that REC were investigating why this was happening and FURTHER ADVISED that REC were investigating whether this was indicative of bad practice (e.g. meter seals being broken) or if MEMs were being correctly followed. The REC Representative agreed to present any updates to future Panel Meetings. CLOSED</p>
217/07	<u>AoB 2: ‘Pre-discussion of Change Proposal in standing groups ahead of submission’</u> : The Secretariat to prepare updated guidance on how Change Proposals could be pre-discussed with different standing groups ahead of submission and table proposed wording and updated website text for review and approval at a future Panel Meeting.	ElectraLink	<p>Update 21 August 2024: This has been drafted and will be circulated after the August Panel Meeting for review. KEEP OPEN</p> <p>Update 18 September 2024: this had been drafted and</p>

			would be circulated after the September Panel Meeting for review. KEEP OPEN Update 16 October 2024: This was presented onscreen and scrutinized during the October 2024 Open Panel and a link was circulated to the Panel for comment. CLOSED
219/01	Initial Assessments: The Secretariat to progress: DCP 444 'Additional Settlement Runs', to the Definition phase and to set up a Working Group to further refine the proposed solution and (2) DCP 445 'Implementation of Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) Arrangements', to the Change Report phase.	ElectraLink	Update 16 October 2024: These had been completed. CLOSED
219/02	Change Reports: For DCP 437 'To Shorten the DUoS Pricing Notice Periods', the Secretariat to issue the amended Change Report to Parties for a period of 10 Working Days and to ensure the shortened voting period is clearly communicated to Parties..	ElectraLink	Update 16 October 2024: This had been completed. CLOSED
219/03	Housekeeping Log: The Secretariat to add the new item 'Duplicate text in paragraphs 104 and 105 of Schedule 16' to the Housekeeping Log.	ElectraLink	Update 16 October 2024: This had been completed. CLOSED
219/04	Accession Applications: The Secretariat to progress the Accession Applications for: (1) Aurora Utilities Limited; (2) Charged Electric Vehicles Limited; (3) Utility Assets Limited (4) Smart Choice Metering Limited and (5) Voltari Services Limited by drafting and sending the applicant an Accession Agreement and advising the DCUSA Board that the Panel have recommended that they countersign each Accession Agreement.	ElectraLink	Update 16 October 2024: These had been completed. CLOSED
219/05	Derogation Requests: The Secretariat to circulate the email issued to Contract Managers regarding the provision of Annual Allocation Review data to VB.	ElectraLink	Update 16 October 2024: This had been completed. CLOSED
219/06	2024 Panel Elections: The Secretariat to progress the (1) 2024 Panel Elections and (2) 2024 Disputes Committee election processes in accordance with the agreed timescale, and to flag these elections and invite nominations at the monthly post-Panel call and at DCMDG.	ElectraLink	Update 16 October 2024: These had been completed. CLOSED
219/07	DCUSA Monthly Horizon Scan: The Secretariat to add an item related to Ofgem's review of Standing Charges for domestic customers to the Monthly Horizon Scan.	ElectraLink	Update 16 October 2024: This had been completed. CLOSED