




DCUSA Change Proposal (DCP)		At what stage is this document in the process?
<h1>DCP 470</h1> <h2>Independent Credit Assessments</h2> <p>Date Raised: 14/01/2026</p> <p>Proposer Name: Peter Waymont</p> <p>Company Name: Eastern Power Networks</p> <p>Party Category: DNO</p>		<div>01 – Change Proposal</div> <div>02 – Consultation</div> <div>03 – Change Report</div> <div>04 – Change Declaration</div>
<p>Purpose of Change Proposal:</p> <p>The purpose of this Change Proposal is to allow the Company to apply an independent credit assessment where a User has not requested it.</p>		
	<p>Governance</p> <p>The Proposer recommends that this Change Proposal should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treated as a Part 2 Matter Treated as a Standard Change Progressed to the Working Group phase <p>The Panel will consider the proposer's recommendation and determine the appropriate route.</p>	
	<p>Impacted Parties:</p> <p>Suppliers/DNOs/IDNOs/CVA Registrants</p>	
	<p>Impacted Clauses:</p> <p>Schedule 1</p>	

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Indicative Timeline		
The Secretariat recommends the following timetable:		
Initial Assessment Report	21 January 2026	
Consultation Issued to Industry Participants	March 2026	
Change Report Approved by Panel	20 May 2026	
Change Report issued for Voting	21 May 2026	
Party Voting Closes	11 June 2026	
Change Declaration Issued	15 June 2026	
		Contact: Code Administrator
		 DCUSA@electralink.co.uk
		 020 7432 3011
		Proposer Peter Waymont
		 email address peter.waymont@ukpowernetworks.co.uk

1 Summary

What?

- 1.1 Allow the Company to procure and use an Independent Credit Assessment (possibly in certain circumstances only) where the user has not provided or requested one.

Why?

- 1.2 We review the credit cover position of Users frequently. We write to Users who are in “Cover Default” under the credit cover arrangements. Some Users do not respond. However, we can see from credit assessment companies that those Users are not of concern. Similarly, the values may be immaterial. These Users are technically in Cover Default and we could suspend registrations. This seems a harsh sanction for immaterial values where we can see from independent assessments that the User is financially viable. Currently we can’t use this information unless the User requests us to do so. This results in us continuing to write to them and whilst they keep not responding.

How?

- 1.3 Amend Section 1 to add the ability for the Company to procure the assessment itself.

2 Governance

Justification for Part 1 or Part 2 Matter

- 2.1 This should be considered a Part 2 Matter as this does not meet the criteria to be considered a Part 1 Matter.

Requested Next Steps

- 2.2 This Change Proposal should:
- be treated as a Part 2 Matter;
 - be treated as a Standard Change; and
 - proceed to the Working Group phase.

3 Why Change?

- 3.1 We review the credit cover position of Users frequently. We write to Users who are in “Cover Default” under the credit cover arrangements. Some Users do not respond. However, we can see from credit assessment companies that those Users are not of concern. Similarly, the values may be immaterial. These Users are technically in cover Default and we could suspend registrations. This seems a harsh sanction for immaterial values where we can see from independent assessments that the User is financially viable. Currently we can’t use this information unless the User requests us to do so. This results in us continuing to write to them and whilst they keep not responding.

4 Solution and Legal Text

Legal Text

4.1 Amend Schedule 1 as follows -

2.5 Where the User does not have a Credit Rating from an Approved Credit Referencing Agency that is Ba3 / BB or above, CAF shall be determined as follows:

- (a) where there is, at the time of such determination, an Independent Credit Assessment that was carried out within the preceding 12 months and the User has not requested that the Company use the User's Payment Record Factor, CAF shall be determined by reference to the Independent Credit Assessment provided pursuant to Paragraph 2.6 or procured pursuant to Paragraph 2.7 (and, in either case, in accordance with the table set out at Paragraph 2.10); ~~or~~
- (b) where the User has requested that the Company use the User's Payment Record Factor or there is not, at the time of such determination, an Independent Credit Assessment that was carried out within the preceding 12 months, CAF shall equal the Payment Record Factor (which shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Paragraphs 2.12 to 2.14); ~~or~~
- (c) where the Company has used the User's Payment Record Factor for 60 months and the User has not provided an Independent Credit Assessment pursuant to Paragraph 2.6 or requested the Company procure an Independent Credit Assessment pursuant to Paragraph 2.7, the Company may at its sole discretion procure an Independent Credit Assessment and notify the User it has done so, and Paragraphs 2.8 to 2.10 shall apply.

Text Commentary

4.2 The additional text will allow the Company to procure and use an Independent Credit Assessment.

5 Code Specific Matters

Reference Documents

5.1 No additional reference documents are provided.

6 Relevant Objectives

	DCUSA General Objectives	Identified impact
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. The development, maintenance and operation by the DNO Parties and IDNO Parties of efficient, co-ordinated, and economical Distribution Networks	None
<input type="checkbox"/>	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	None
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. The efficient discharge by the DNO Parties and IDNO Parties of obligations imposed upon them in their Distribution Licences	None

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. The promotion of efficiency in the implementation and administration of the DCUSA.	Positive
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Compliance with the EU Internal Market Regulation and any relevant legally binding decisions of the European Commission and/or the Agency for the Co-operation of Energy Regulators.	None

6.1 This change better facilitates DCUSA General Objective 4 by promoting efficiency through the removal of administrative burdens.

7 Impacts & Other Considerations

Impacts on any Significant Code Review (SCR) or other significant industry change projects

7.1 This Change Proposal is not believed to impact upon any SCR or other significant project.

Impacts on other Codes

Grid Code..... ☐ SEC..... ☐ CUSC..... ☐

Distribution Code... ☐ REC..... ☐ BSC..... ☐

None..... ☒

Consumer Impacts

7.2 No consumer impacts identified.

Environmental Impacts

7.3 In accordance with DCUSA Clause 10.4.5A I have assessed whether there would be a material impact on greenhouse gas emissions if this CP were implemented and that assessment is set out below.

7.4 No environmental impacts identified.

Are there any wider industry impacts?

7.5 No wider impacts identified.

8 Implementation

Proposed Implementation Date

8.1 It is proposed to implement this in the next release after approval.

9 Recommendations

The Code Administrator will provide a summary of any recommendations/determinations provided by the Panel in considering the initial Change Proposal. This will form part of a Final Change Report.

Part C: Guidance Notes for Completing the Form

Ref	Section	Guidance
1	Attachments	Append any proposed legal text or supporting documentation in order to better support / explain the CP.
2	Governance	<p>A CP must be categorised as a Part 1 or Part 2 matter in accordance with Clause 10.4.7 of the DCUSA. All Part 1 matters require Authority Consent.</p> <p><u>Part 1 Matter</u></p> <p>A change Proposal is considered a Part 1 Matter if it satisfies one or more of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is likely to have a significant impact on the interests of electricity consumers; • it is likely to have a significant impact on competition in one or more of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the generation of electricity; ○ the distribution of electricity; ○ the supply of electricity; and ○ any commercial activities connected with the generation, distribution or supply of electricity; • it is likely to discriminate in its effects between one Party (or class of Parties) and another Party (or class of Parties); • it is directly related to the safety or security of the Distribution Network; and • it concerns the governance or the change control arrangements applying to the DCUSA; and • it has been raised by the Authority or a DNO/IDNO Party pursuant to Clause 10.2.5, and/or the Authority has made one or more directions in relation to it in accordance with Clause 11.9A. <p><u>Part 2 Matter</u></p> <p>A CP is considered a Part 2 Matter if it is proposing to change any actual or potential provisions of the DCUSA which does not satisfy one or more of the criteria set out above.</p>
3	Related Change Proposals	Indicate if the CP is related to or impacts any CP already in the DCUSA or other industry change process.

4	Proposed Solution and Draft Legal Text	<p>Outline the proposed solution for addressing the stated intent of the CP. The Change Proposal Intent will take precedence in the event of any inconsistency. A DCUSA Working Group may develop alternative solutions.</p> <p>The plain English description of the proposed solution should include the changes or additions to existing DCUSA Clauses (including Clause numbers).</p> <p>Insert proposed legal drafting (change marked against any existing DCUSA drafting) which enacts the intent of the solution. The legal text will be reviewed by the Working Group (if convened) and is likely to be subject to legal review as part of its progress through the DCUSA change process.</p>
5	Proposed Implementation Date	<p>The Change can be implemented in February, June, and November of each year or as an extraordinary release. For Charging Methodology CPs, select an implementation date which takes into consideration the minimum notice periods for publishing tariffs. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 months, for DNOs acting within their Distribution Services Areas; or • 14 months, for IDNOs and DNOs acting outside their Distribution Services Area. <p>Please select an implementation date that provides sufficient time for the Change to be incorporated into the appropriate charging model and the DCUSA in order to be reflected in future tariffs.</p> <p>Contact the DCUSA helpdesk for any further information on the releases dcusa@electralink.co.uk.</p>
6	Impacts & Other Considerations	<p>Indicate whether this Change Proposal will be impacted by or have an impact upon wider industry developments. If an impact is identified, explain why the benefit of the Change Proposal may outweigh the potential impact and indicate the likely duration of the Change.</p>
7	Environmental Impact	<p>Indicate whether it is likely that there would be a material impact on greenhouse gas emissions as a result of the proposed variation being made. Please see Ofgem Guidance.</p>
8	Confidentiality	<p>Clearly indicate if any parts of this Change Proposal Form are to remain confidential to DCUSA Panel (and any subsequent DCUSA Working Group) and Ofgem</p>
9	DCUSA General Objectives	<p>Indicate which of the DCUSA Objectives will be better facilitated by the Change Proposal.</p>

10	Detailed Rationale for DCUSA Objectives	Provide detailed supporting reasons and information (including any initial analysis that supports your views) to demonstrate why the CP will better facilitate each of the DCUSA Objectives identified.
11	DCUSA Charging Objectives	Indicate which of the DCUSA Charging Objectives will be better facilitated by the Change Proposal.
12	Defining 'Material' for Charging Methodology Changes	In respect of proposals to vary one or more of the Charging Methodologies, such proposals shall be deemed to be "material" if they might reasonably be expected to have a significant impact on the tariffs calculated under one or more of the methodologies.