

GC0086 – Urgency Process

Summary

An urgent proposal may be raised whereby a party feels that the change needs to be progressed as a matter of urgency. An urgent Modification Proposal may deviate from all or part of the standard modification procedures.

Following designation of a Modification Proposal as urgent, Panel Members and Industry participants shall take all reasonable steps to ensure consideration, evaluation and implementation (if approved by the Authority) of the proposal is undertaken as soon as practicable. (See Flowchart below).

The status of the proposal may be changed from urgent (and vice-versa) if a change in circumstances relating to that proposal warrant it.

Guidance

The proposal must exhibit at least one of the following characteristics as identified by the Authority:

- a) There is a very real likelihood of significant commercial impact upon the Transmission Company, industry parties, or customers if the proposal is not urgent;
- b) Safety and security of the network is likely to be impacted if a proposal is not urgent;
- c) The Proposal is linked to an imminent date-related event.
- d) If not addressed a Party would be in breach of any relevant legal requirements.

This criteria is not exhaustive or definitive, and there may be occasions where a proposal is deemed to be urgent by the Authority without exhibiting one of the characteristics above (or conversely it may be non-urgent if one or more of the characteristics above is exhibited).

Ofgem have expressed the opinion in their guidance that retrospective modifications should be avoided, however there may be exceptions that could give rise to the need for a modification which would have a retrospective effect.

An urgent proposal can be considered as Self-Governance if certain criteria are satisfied. However, given the criteria for Self-Governance and Urgency have contrasting impacts, it is unlikely that a proposal would fulfil both the Self-Governance and Urgency criteria.

Role of the Code Administrator

The Panel Secretary should review the proposal and, upon being satisfied that all relevant fields have been populated, inform the GCRP via email. The Panel Secretary will then produce timetables to demonstrate how the proposal would progress if it is treated as urgent, if it is not treated as urgent, and if it is treated as urgent and proceeds directly to consultation. These timetables should then be forwarded to the GCRP. The Panel Secretary will then contact Panel Members by

phone to ensure that they have received the urgent request and proposed timetables.

Further to this, the Panel Secretary will then inform industry and provide them with the material (urgent proposal and proposed timetables). This email will include a request for a potential Workgroup and responses should be requested within 5 days of circulating.

All relevant material should be published on the National Grid website.

Role of the GCRP

The GCRP will convene a meeting to discuss the proposal and must give due consideration to the complexity, importance and urgency of the proposal, taking into account the guidelines published by the Authority.

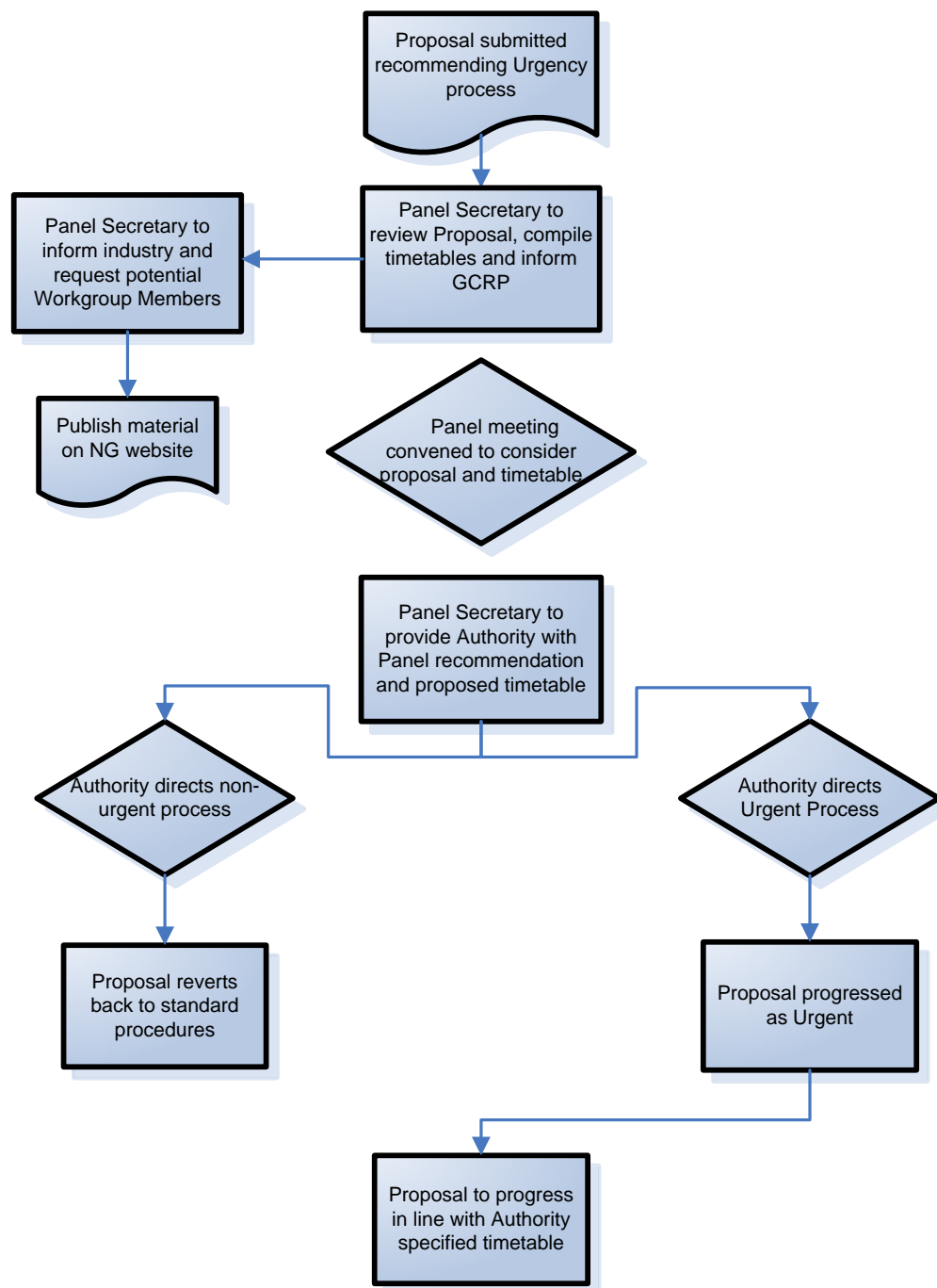
They GCRP must decide on the appropriate course of action, namely whether they believe that the proposal should be treated as Urgent, and the timetable for progressing such a proposal.

A recommendation in writing should then be made to the Authority.

Following receipt of the Authority's direction on whether the proposal should be treated as urgent and the timetable to be followed, the proposal will then be developed in accordance with the process and timetable stipulated.

The Authority may use their send back powers if they believe that they cannot properly form a decision on the Final Report for the urgent proposal.

Appendix 1 – Urgent Process Flowchart



NB. All timescales can be reduced from the standard timescales.