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Code Administrator Meeting Summary

Workgroup Meeting 15: GSR030 Review of Offshore DC Connections

Date: 03 July 2025

Contact Details

Chair: Deborah Spencer, deborah.Spencer@neso.energy

Proposer : Bieshoy Awad, bieshoy.awad@neso.energy

Key areas of discussion

The aim of Workgroup 15 was to review the Legal Text and next steps.

Legal Text

The Workgroup reviewed the Legal text, with discussions led by the Proposer and assisted by the Technical Code representative from NESO.

DC Converter Definitions

The Workgroup examined DC converter configurations, particularly focusing on bipolar arrangements and the challenges associated with high-speed switching devices for fault isolation. One member raised concerns about the clarity of the definition, prompting a detailed review of the wording. Highlighting potential misunderstandings, the same Workgroup member referenced the North Hyde Final Report that had recently been published, suggesting that there might be useful lessons for the modification. The Proposer responded by advising that it was out of scope but agreed the Workgroup consultation would note the report.

Bipolar arrangement Clarification

A Workgroup member provided an insight into the different configurations of bipolar arrangements, including symmetric monopole and ridge bipolar. The discussion highlighted the need for clarity in the definition to avoid confusion. The insight into the configurations helped the group understand the practical implications of the definitions. This technical knowledge was crucial for refining the legal text.

DC High-speed Switch Definition

The Workgroup discussed the definition of a DC high-speed switch. A member questioned the practicality of implementing such a device, which led to further discussion on its feasibility. Several members supported maintaining the definition as an

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aspirational goal, with the intent of making the DC high-speed switch a feasible option in the future. This approach was aimed at ensuring the legal text remains adaptable to future technological advancements.

Shared Subsea Cable Route Definition

The Workgroup considered the terminology for shared subsea cable routes. Several members preferred using the term "route" instead of "bundle," as it more accurately conveyed the concept of shared proximity.

The discussion covered the identification of shared subsea cable routes, emphasising the need for clear criteria to ensure consistent application of the definition. The Workgroup further addressed the criteria for mechanical protection of these routes, including considerations of proximity and the level of protection necessary to prevent simultaneous damage to multiple circuits.

Impact of Offshore HVDC Links

Concerns were raised about classifying offshore HVDC links as part of the onshore network, that it could lead to non-compliance with Chapter 2 of the SQSS. The Proposer along with the support of a Workgroup member explained the current classification and the use of design variations to address potential non-compliance.

Next Steps

The Chair proposed scheduling an additional session to finalise the review of the legal text before the upcoming Workgroup meeting on 2nd September. Details regarding the session will be communicated to the Workgroup members once a date has been confirmed.

Actions

For the full action log, click [here](#).

Action Number	Workgroup Raised	Owner	Action	Due by	Status
20	WG4	BA/FW	Compile text to cover ToR 3 - Consider retrospective impact on existing cables.	WG15	Propose to Close

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29	WG6	NN/LC	Slides from WG 5 were to be reviewed and updated before sharing with the Workgroup for publication.	WG15	Open
39	WG7	BA/SQSS Panel	Offshore Transmission Owners to be contacted about the likelihood of mechanical failures (which can be managed confidentially) for the Proposer to assess.	08/09/2025	Open
42	WG10	BA/TP	Discuss scope with Panel and confirm 11/06/2025 - This requires further discussion at the July Panel. BA to discuss further with Chair	WG13	Open
46	WG12	All	Workgroup to review and decide if Annex 3 (including draft proposal for STC) should be deleted from the report.	WG15	Open
49	WG12	BA/NN	Nicola expressed concerns about the process of reclassifying and declassifying cables based on risk assessments. Consider how to develop a more structured approach to the assessment process.	WG13	Open
50	WG12	BA	To email Panel to gain their views on the	WG15	Open

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			representation within the Workgroup to avoid issues on the day of submission. BA believes that Workgroup is now well represented. BA to email Ofgem		
52	WG13	BA/ALL	Proposer to revise specific workgroup consultation questions and amend as discussed in the Workgroup.	WG15	Open
53	WG14	TP	Circulate the 'Cyber and Physical Security Threats' presented to JESG to the Workgroup	WG15	Propose To Close
54	WG15	BA/GG/SB	To discuss the five options in the Workgroup Consultation	WG16	Open
55	WG15	BA/SB	Check with legal team regarding the definition of "shared subsea cable route" and its implications.	WG16	Open
56	WG15	BA/SB	Confirm with legal team the classification of offshore transmission circuits and their compliance with Chapter 2 of the SQSS.	WG16	Open

Attendees

Name	Initial	Company	Role
Deborah Spencer	DB	NESO	Chair

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Karen Stanton-Hughes	KSH	NESO	Technical Secretary
Bieshoy Awad	BA	NESO	Proposer
Steve Baker	SB	NESO	NESO Rep
Ayda Esfandiyari	AE	The Crown Estate	Workgroup Alternate
Darren Jones	DJ	Hitachi Energy	Workgroup Member
Garth Graham	GG	SSE	Workgroup Member
George Arvanitakis	GA	Xlinks	Observer
Nicola Barberis Negra	NBG	Orsted	Workgroup Member
Nigel Platt	NP	Siemens Energy	Workgroup Alternate
Roddy Wilson	RW	SSEN Transmission	Workgroup Member
Roger Carter	RC	Transmission Investment	Workgroup Member
Ross Wilson	RW	BP	Workgroup Alternate
Xioa-Ping Zhang	XPZ	Birmingham.ac	Workgroup Member