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Code Administrator Meeting

Summary

Workgroup Meeting 6: GC0176 – Introduction of Demand Control Rotation Protocol within Operating Code 6 of the Grid Code

Date: 21 July 2025

Contact Details

Chair: Lizzie Timmins, elizabeth.timmins@neso.energy

Proposer: Frank Kasibante, frank.kasibantel@neso.energy

Key areas of discussion

The Chair confirmed that the purpose of Workgroup 6 was to review the outstanding Actions, note the updated Timeline, review the draft Legal Text, finalise the Workgroup Consultation document, and check progress on the Terms of Reference.

Action review

Action 8: The NESO SME provided an update from a recent ETG meeting confirming that SSEN and SPEN stated that OC6.2.2 is still required and will therefore remain in the Legal Text. The action was closed.

Timeline update

The Chair reiterated the changes made to the updated timeline, which was shared previously, noting that key milestones such as the Workgroup Report and Draft Final Modification Report have been pushed back slightly.

Proposer's update and Legal Text

The NESO SME provided an overview of updates made to the Legal Text and supporting documents since Workgroup 5.

Glossary and Definitions

The NESO SME confirmed that they had responded to all the comments provided by Workgroup members since the last Workgroup meeting, noting that most of the changes to the Glossary and Definitions were editorial.

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The Chair noted that the most substantive change was made to the 'NETS DCRP Implementation' definition. A Workgroup member highlighted that different DNO areas might require different levels of rota disconnection, meaning the level of demand reduction (e.g. Level 1, 2, or 3) could vary between DNOs due to operational reasons. They suggested it is important to clarify which schedule is the live one for each DNO, as the situation may not be uniform across all 14 DNO areas. The Chair confirmed that this point would be included in the Workgroup Consultation.

A Workgroup member commented that they found the terminology used in the NETS Notices confusing, for example where the 'DCRP Implementation' Notice refers to the 'Activation Schedules' rather than 'Implementation Schedules' which would make more sense. Another Workgroup member suggested adding a step-by-step approach in the Notices to make it clear to stakeholders the sequence of steps involved, which could help address the confusion. The NESO SME noted that changing the term 'Activation schedules' to 'Implementation schedules' may impact Control Room operations. They will discuss the point with Control Room staff to determine if the change would cause any issues.

OC7

The Chair noted that the only substantive change to OC7 has been the inclusion of text to specify timeframes of the Notice being issued. The Chair asked the NESO SME to clarify whether the summaries of Notices go to the Authority and market participants together or if it goes to the Authority first. The NESO SME confirmed that Notices go directly to relevant licensees, with a summary posted for market participants, and that DESNEZ and Ofgem are notified separately. The Chair and NESO SME concluded that the current text was appropriate and should remain unchanged.

OC6

The Chair and NESO talked the Workgroup through the amendments made OC6. The substantive amendments discussed by the Workgroup were:

OC6.5.4 – A Workgroup member raised a concern about the wording used in paragraph iv regarding Demand reduction, suggesting 'unless otherwise agreed' instead of 'unless otherwise specified' to better reflect operational realities for Fast Load Blocks. Another Workgroup member suggested rewording the sentence to 'as uniformly as possible within the network operator's user system unless otherwise agreed'. The NESO SME agreed to consider the suggested changes.

OC6.5.5 and OC6.5.6 – The Workgroup discussed scenarios for Demand Reduction above 20%, suggesting that if time allows, DCRP should be used; if not, the Company and Network Operators should coordinate to reduce demand as best as possible, prioritising Load Blocks but accepting

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that Protected Sites List (PSL) protection may not always be feasible. The NESO SME clarified that while DCRP is preferred, a fallback for emergencies is necessary, and the text should cover both planned and urgent scenarios, consistent with previous arrangements. The Workgroup agreed to update the wording for the Workgroup Consultation and assess comments from respondents. The NESO SME also suggested that they would test the process during the Glacier exercise in October 2025.

OC6.5.7 – The Workgroup discussed the use of Activation Schedules, focusing on whether these should be codified in the Legal Text and how they relate to operational flexibility. The NESO SMEs explained that Activation Schedules are intended to coordinate the transition between fast-acting Load Blocks and DCRP blocks, and that templates for these schedules already exist.

A Workgroup member suggested including language such as ‘where practicable’ to allow DNOs the operational flexibility to make internal changes without always needing to consult the Company, as long as the required demand reduction is achieved. Another Workgroup member noted that customer notification requirements may limit the ability to interchange blocks freely but agreed that the proposed wording was reasonable. The Workgroup concluded that the Legal Text should allow for balancing the need for coordination with practical operational needs.

OC6.9.6 – The Chair noted that Ofgem have confirmed that their legal team do not want Legal Text in the Grid Code to relieve Network Operators from certain licence obligations during DCRP events. The instead have proposed issuing an enduring derogation alongside their GC0176 decision. Network Operator Workgroup members expressed concerns about relying solely on a derogation and discussed the need to ensure the derogation is granted before the modification is approved. The Workgroup agreed to document in the Workgroup Consultation and Workgroup Report that approval of the modification should be contingent on the derogation being in place. The Ofgem representative confirmed that a formal derogation application will be required, and they will aim to have the derogation ready for publication at the same time as the GC0176 decision, but it cannot be issued before their decision.

DCRP Summary – A Workgroup member questioned the inclusion of a step in the protocol summary diagram, where DNOs confirm they can deliver Load Blocks, despite this not being a codified requirement. The NESO SME clarified that the diagram is a high-level summary of a 29-step process from the protocol and some steps (like DNO confirmation) are not codified, but are included for operational clarity. The Workgroup discussed the merits of keeping this step in the protocol (in italics or as a non-codified step) based on operational importance for industry. The Workgroup concluded that informal steps should be in the protocol summary but should not be codified in the Legal Text.

NETS Notice DCRP Actuation – The Workgroup discussed how DCRP Actuation Notices should be addressed, whether per DNO, per licence area, or another method. The consensus was to issue a

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single notice to all relevant parties, with a table listing all licence areas and a clear ‘Yes/No’ indicator for each, ensuring clarity on which areas are being instructed. This approach would address operational needs, avoid confusion for organisations with multiple control rooms, and ensure that all parties know their status.

Workgroup Consultation

The Chair took the Workgroup through the comments and changes made to the Workgroup Consultation, discussing and agreeing a number of drafting changes. The key discussion points were:

Updating the defect – The Proposer has updated the description of the defect to make it clearer, updating text in the Executive Summary and the main body of the Workgroup Consultation. They also updated the benefits for customers of their proposed solution.

Timing of DCRP changes – The NESO SME confirmed that the DCRP will be amended to match the new arrangements, with plans to have it ready for implementation alongside the Ofgem decision for this modification. The Workgroup discussed the 10-day implementation period, agreeing it should be sufficient if the DCRP update is prepared in advance and coordinated with Ofgem approval.

Non-embedded (transmission-connected) customers – The Workgroup discussed whether the proposed solution should apply to non-embedded (transmission-connected) customers and whether there should be a Specific Workgroup Consultation question on the issue. The consensus was to clarify in the proposal and Workgroup Report that the proposed solution does not apply to non-embedded customers, rather than include a separate consultation question. They also noted that future changes could address this group if needed, but it is outside the current modification’s scope.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

The Chair noted that the issue of satisfying the ToR has been discussed previously but invited Workgroup members to consider if there is anything else that needs to be considered.

Next Steps

The Chair confirmed that the Workgroup Consultation and Legal Text will be checked and updated based on the outcome of this Workgroup meeting, prior to publishing it on 28 July 2025.

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They will also identify IDNO stakeholders and encourage them to respond to the Workgroup Consultation.

Actions

Action Number	Workgroup Raised	Owner	Action	Due by	Status
08	WG3	JZH	Provide ETG with updates in OC6.5.5 and investigate whether OC6.2.2 is still required.	WG6	Closed

Attendees

Name	Initial	Company	Role
Lizzie Timmins	LT	NESO Code Administrator	Chair
Matthew Larreta	ML	NESO Code Administrator	Technical Secretary
Frank Kasibante	FK	NESO	Proposer
John Zammit-Haber	JZH	NESO	NESO SME
Rebecca Scott	RS	NESO	NESO SME
Alan Creighton	AC	Northern Powergrid	Alternate
Andrew McLeod	AM	Northern Powergrid	Workgroup member
Garth Graham	GG	SSE Generation	Workgroup member
Graeme Vincent	GV	SP Energy Networks	Alternate
Jeevan Dhaliwal	JD	ENA	Observer (DCode Administrator)
John Knott	JK	SP Energy Networks	Workgroup member
Paul Goldson	PG	SSEN	Alternate
Paul Murray	PM	SSEN	Workgroup member
Richard Wilson	RW	UKPN	Workgroup member
Shilen Shah	SS	Ofgem	Authority representative
Thomas West	TW	NGED	Workgroup member