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Code Administrator Meeting

Summary

Workgroup Meeting 5: Generator and Interconnector Availability During a Severe Space Weather Event

Date: 10 September 2025

Contact Details

Chair: Claire Goult, claire.goult@neso.energy

Proposer: Helen Newman, helen.newman@neso.energy

Key areas of discussion

The Chair confirmed that the aim of Workgroup 5 was to discuss the Alternative Request, agree the Legal Text, finalise the Workgroup Report, agree the Terms of Reference, and carry out a Workgroup Vote.

Timeline and objectives

The Chair confirmed that this was the final Workgroup, prior to submitting the Workgroup Report to the Grid Code Review Panel on 15 September.

Alternative Request discussion

The Chair talked the Workgroup through the Alternative Request, which seeks to amend BC1.9.1(b) and BC1.9.2(b) by allowing Users to deviate from the best estimate position they declared in their Space Weather Output Usable Declaration, in the event the User is prevented from so doing as a result of an unavoidable event i.e. plant breakdown, safety grounds. The NESO Subject Matter Expert (SME) suggested amendments to the draft Legal Text designed to address the concerns raised in the Alternative Request, specifically the addition of clauses OC2.5.1(b) and OC2.5.2(b).

A Workgroup member asked whether 'Event' is defined in the Grid Code, the Chair confirmed that it is and provided the definition verbatim. The Workgroup discussed the definition and noted that it covers unscheduled or unplanned occurrences, including faults, incidents, breakdowns, and adverse weather, but not generic space weather unless it directly impacts the plant. The NESO SME noted that the Alternative Request Proposer questioned whether Interconnectors are covered by the definition of 'Event'. They suggested that the definition of 'Event' covers interconnectors under the '...or relating to, a System' and OC3.4.1 refers to a loss of interconnection

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in its list of Events deemed to be Significant Events. A Workgroup member suggested ensuring the Workgroup Report contains definitions of 'Event', 'System', and 'User System'.

The Alternate for the Alternative Request confirmed that they were content with the suggested Legal Text amendments and withdrew their Alternative Request. The Chair sought and received confirmation from the Workgroup that the revised draft Legal Text adequately addresses the concerns of the Alternative.

Legal Text discussion

Balancing Code 1 (BC1)

The NESO SME explained the rationale for including a reference in BC1 (Special Actions) to signpost the process related to space weather notifications, while keeping the main process in OC2. The Chair highlighted that adding Legal Text to BC1 creates a definite EBR impact, which will require an update to the Workgroup Report and a one-month consultation, which is already built into the timeline. Workgroup members suggested several typographical changes to ensure consistency, which the NESO SME agreed to update at the conclusion of the Workgroup meeting.

Operating Code 2 (OC2)

The NESO SME talked the Workgroup through the updates to OC2, describing OC2.4 as the general section on output usable, with the new process defined in OC2.5. The substantive discussion points were:

- Updates made to notification terms for clarity and consistency, including the use of '...imminent...' instead of '...possible...' and '...experienced...' instead of '...expected...'.
- If no Space Weather Output Usable Declaration is submitted, The Company will assume no impact to availability due to space weather.
- Wording regarding timeliness was changed for consistency with other sections, from '...undue delay...' to '...as soon as practicable...' or '...as soon as reasonably practicable...' depending on the clause.
- The Workgroup agreed to update the text in OC2.5.1 to read '...within three hours of The Company issuing a Space Weather Prepare Notification...' and to making related updates to other clauses.
- The Chair confirmed that declarations as part of Week 24 data submissions are no longer included in OC2.
- The Workgroup discussed whether to use '...Assets...' or '...Plant and Apparatus...' in OC2.5.4 and related clauses. The Chair confirmed that the Proposer is content to use '...Plant and Apparatus...' in OC2.5.4 but leave some references as '...Assets...' for flexibility.
- A Workgroup member raised concerns over the wording of OC2.5.1(b) and OC2.5.2(b) where '...unless an Event makes it impossible to do so.' would unfairly penalise users for

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unforeseen events that affect compliance. The Chair confirmed that the Proposer has changed the wording to ‘...unless an Event prevents them from doing so.’

Operating Code 7 (OC7)

The NESO SME confirmed that changes to OC7 were minor and mostly typographical. The substantive discussion points were:

- OC7.3.1 has been updated to confirm which Users the draft Legal Text refers to and now includes Interconnector Owners and Restoration Owners.
- The Workgroup agreed to remove the ‘Space Weather Awareness Statement’ from OC7, as it will be handled in the Space Weather Industry Protocol, rather than the Grid Code.
- References to ‘...without undue delay...’ were changed to ‘...as soon as practicable...’ or ‘...as soon as reasonably practicable...’ to align with related references elsewhere in the draft Legal Text.

Glossary and Definitions

The NESO SME made several typographical updates to improve clarity and consistency across definitions. A Workgroup member suggested specifying ‘...Met Office guidance...’ in the definition of Space Weather Experience Notification, which the NESO SME agreed and updated accordingly. The Workgroup agreed to delete the Space Weather Awareness Statement definition, as it is not referenced elsewhere in the Grid Code.

Workgroup members agreed the final Legal Text for GC0183 for the following sections:

- Balancing Code 1
- Operating Code 2
- Operating Code 7
- Glossary and Definitions

Draft Workgroup Report

The Chair talked the Workgroup through updates to the draft Workgroup Report. The substantive discussion points were:

- The Chair confirmed that due to adding Legal Text to BC1 there is now a definite EBR impact, so the Workgroup Report will be updated to reflect that.
- The Workgroup confirmed that the Legal Text has been reviewed, agreed, and referenced appropriately in the Workgroup Report, with all necessary sections addressed.
- The Workgroup provided their view on how and where they have met their Terms of Reference (ToR) in the ToR Overview section, with the Chair updating each ToR accordingly.

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Terms of Reference (ToR)

The Workgroup confirmed that they had met their Terms of Reference.

Workgroup vote

The Chair conducted a Workgroup vote and unanimously agreed the Original better facilitated the Applicable Objectives than the Baseline. A summary of the votes cast is shown below.

Workgroup Member	Company	Industry Sector	BEST Option?	Which objective(s) does the change better facilitate? (if baseline not applicable)
Charles Dolan	EDF Energy - Hinkley Point C	Generator	Original	i, ii, iii
Garth Graham	SSE Generation	Generator	Original	i, ii, iii
Graeme Vincent	SP Energy Networks	Onshore transmission licensee	Original	i, iii
Helen Newman	NESO	System Operator	Original	i, ii, iii
Kevin Anaafi-Brown	Eleclink Limited	Interconnector Owner	Original	i, ii, v
Kevin Cowan	EDF (Existing Nuclear Generation)	Generator	Original	i, ii, iii
Ross McFarlane	Northern Powergrid	Network Operator	Original	i, ii, iii
Tim Ellingham	RWE	Generator	Original	i, iii

Actions

There were no outstanding actions or new actions assigned.

Next Steps

The Chair confirmed that the Workgroup Report and final Legal Text will be shared with the Workgroup for final review, noting the quick turnaround time. The Chair asked all Workgroup members to provide their Voting Statements as soon as possible.

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Actions

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

Attendees

Name	Initial	Company	Role
Claire Goult	CG	NESO	Chair
Matthew Larreta	ML	NESO	Technical Secretary
Helen Newman	HN	NESO	Proposer
Alice Siri	AS	Ofgem	Authority Representative
Andrew Urquhart	AU	SSE Generation	Alternate
Calum Beckwith	CB	VPI	Observer
Charles Dolan	CD	EDF Energy – Hinkley Point C	Workgroup Member
Garth Graham	GG	SSE Generation	Workgroup Member
Graeme Vincent	GV	SP Energy Networks	Alternate
Graham Lear	GL	NESO	NESO SME
John Zammit-Haber	JZH	NESO	NESO SME
Kevin Anaafi-Brown	KAB	Eleclink Limited	Alternate
Kevin Cowan	KC	EDF (Existing Nuclear Generation)	Workgroup Member
Maria Lopez	ML	NESO	Observer
Ross McFarlane	RMF	Northern Powergrid	Workgroup Member
Tim Ellingham	TE	RWE	Workgroup Member