

Penny Garner
Acting Independent Chair
Grid Code Review Panel,
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Email: engineers@ofgem.gov.uk

Date: 28 July 2025

Dear Penny,

Grid Code Modification Proposal GC0183 'Generator and Interconnector Availability During a Severe Space Weather Event' – decision on urgency

On 09 July 2025, National Energy System Operator (NESO) (the 'Proposer') raised the Grid Code Modification Proposal GC0183 (the 'Proposal').¹ Following the Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP) meeting on 17 July 2025, we² received a request from the Acting Independent Chair of the GCRP that the Proposal be treated as an Urgent Modification Proposal.

This letter sets out our decision that the Proposal should be progressed on an urgent basis.

Background

The Proposal seeks to make changes to the Grid Code to obligate Generators and Interconnector Owners to notify NESO of their intended position in the event of severe space weather.

The Proposer has outlined the potential significant impact of space weather events on the functionality of electricity system. The sun experiences 11-year cycles of solar activity, the most recent peak of this was reached in late 2024. The solar storms that can lead to high impact are more likely during periods close to this peak and in the descending phase of the solar cycle which can be 2-3 years after the peak, and they can also occur at all other times in the solar activity cycle.

¹ The GC0183 proposal can be viewed here: [GC0183: Generator and Interconnector Availability During a Severe Space Weather Event | National Energy System Operator](#)

² References to the "Authority", "Ofgem", "we", and "our" are used interchangeably in this document. The Authority refers to GEMA, the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority. The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) supports GEMA in its day-to-day work. This decision is made by or on behalf of GEMA.

Over the last 12 months, the NESO and industry stakeholders have been working together to better understand the effects of space weather events on the electricity system and are currently preparing a Space Weather Industry Protocol (SWIP). Following discussions around the SWIP, a risk has recently been identified that some Generators and Interconnector Owners may potentially alter the operational status of some assets in the energy market based on their understanding of risk to their assets. This could potentially lead to a shortfall in supply and system instability. As it stands, under the current information processes, there may be insufficient time for NESO to be aware and thus manage any changes in Generator and Interconnector Owners planned availability during an anticipated or actual severe space weather event.

The NESO submitted this Proposal to mitigate this risk and requested that the GCRP treat the Proposal as urgent, rationalising this against Ofgem's Urgency Criteria (b)³. The Proposer stated that there is a risk to the security of supply due to the heightened risk of space weather events during the current phase of solar cycle.

Panel View

At the GCRP meeting on 17 July 2025, the Panel considered the Proposal and the request for urgency. The Panel unanimously agreed that the Proposal meets the Urgency Criteria (b) and recommended to the Authority that the Proposal should be progressed as an Urgent Modification Proposal.

Our decision

In reaching our decision on the urgency request we have considered the details within the Proposal, the justification for urgency, and the views of the GCRP. We have also assessed the request against the Urgency Criteria set out in our published guidance.⁴

Our guidance sets out that an Urgent Modification Proposal should be linked to an imminent issue or a current issue that if not urgently addressed, may cause:

- a) a significant commercial impact on parties, consumers, or other stakeholder(s)
- b) a significant impact on the safety and security of the electricity and/or gas systems
- c) a party to be in breach of any relevant legal requirements.

We note that the Proposal aims to address a newly identified and potentially significant risk to the security of electricity supply arising from severe space weather events. The Proposal highlights that the current stage of the solar cycle increases the likelihood of space weather

³ A significant impact on the safety and security of the electricity and/or gas systems.

⁴ [Ofgem Guidance on Code Modification Urgency Criteria](#)

events that could impact the electricity system. The urgency is driven by the potential for Generators and Interconnector Owners to alter the operational status of their assets in response to perceived risks, which could lead to system instability or supply shortfalls. Under current processes, NESO may not receive timely information to manage these changes effectively.

We therefore agree that the Proposal meets the Urgency Criteria (b) and should follow the urgent timetable below as proposed in the request for urgency.

Process	Date
Ofgem Decision on Urgency	By 29 July 2025
Workgroup 1	05 August 2025
Workgroup 2	11 August 2025
Workgroup 3	18 August 2025
Workgroup Consultation (7 Business Days)	19 August 2025 to 29 August 2025
Workgroup 4	04 September 2025
Workgroup 5	10 September 2025
Workgroup Report issued to Panel	15 September 2025
Panel sign off that Workgroup Report has met its Terms of Reference	18 September 2025
Draft Final Modification Report issued to Panel	27 October 2025
Panel undertake DFMR recommendation vote	30 October 2025
Final Modification Report issued to Panel to check votes recorded correctly	30 October 2025
Final Modification Report issued to Ofgem	30 October 2025
Implementation Date	10 Business Days after Decision

For the avoidance of doubt, in granting the request for urgency, we have made no assessment of the merits of the Proposal and nothing in this letter in any way fetters our discretion in respect of the Proposal.

If you have any comments or questions about this letter, please contact alice.siri@ofgem.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Gurpal Singh

Head of Engineering & Profession Lead

Signed on behalf of the Authority and authorised for that purpose