Public

Meeting Summary

Grid Code Development Forum – 4th February 2025

Date:	04/02/2025	**Location:**	MS Teams
Start:	09:00	**End:**	11:00

Participants

Attendee	Company	Attendee	Company
Claire Newton	NESO (Chair)	Nisrine Kebir	NESO
Kat Higby	NESO (Code Administrator)	Ola Atef	NESO
Amanda Rooney	NESO (Presenter)	Tanmay Kadam	NESO
Antony Johnson	NESO (Presenter)	Thoms Goss	NESO
Frank Kasibante	NESO (Presenter)	Alan Creighton	Northern Powergrid
James West	NESO (Presenter)	Dovile Kvedyte-Corrigan	Ofgem
Mohamed Fawzy	NESO (Presenter)	Garry Cotter	Orsted
Sudha Saji	NESO (Presenter)	Nicola Barberis Negra	Orsted
Matthew Dixon	NESO (Tech Sec)	Ruth Kemsley	Our Footprints
Stephen Sommerville	Aurora Power	Mike Kay	P2 Analysis
Nina Sanghera	Drax	Devansh Gautam	PSC Consulting

Paul Youngman	Drax	Kahraman Yumak	PSC Consulting
Daniel Oluwabukola	EDF	Andrew Allan	RWE
Leon Burdekin-Roberts	EDF	Tim Ellingham	RWE
Mohit Prajapati	EDF	Isacc Gutierrez	Scottish Power
Utkarsh Agarwal	ESB	Sigrid Bolik	Siemens
Obinna Unigwe	Field Energy	Graeme Vincent	SP Energy Networks
Barnaby Cowin	Nadara	Garth Graham	SSE
David Monkhouse	National Grid	Mustafa Kayikci	TNEI Group
David Lacey	NESO	Paul Crolla	Verdant Energy
Graham Lear	NESO	Xiaoming Li	Zenobe
Jamie Morgan-Wormald	NESO		

Agenda and slides

A link to the Agenda and Presentations from the February GCDF can be found here.

GCDF

Please note: These notes are produced as an accompaniment to the forum recording and slide pack presented and provide highlights only of discussion themes and possible next steps.

Meeting Opening – Claire Newton (GCDF Chair) & Matthew Dixon (GCDF Tech Sec), NESO

The meeting was opened, with an overview of the agenda items that will be covered.

Presentation: Code Administrator Update – Kat Higby, NESO

New Modifications: GC0185 'Grid Code Changes for Mandatory Frequency Response' was recently presented at panel. The panel agreed it did not have a clearly defined defect and scope, and so further work will be completed before it is presented again.

Workgroup Consultations: GC0182, GC0181 and GC0178 are all opening in March.

Code Administrator Consultation: GC0168 and GC0164 are opening in March.

Post-meeting note, since the forum, we have received the following updates:

GC0168 Code Administrator Consultation has been pushed back to the 4th May.

GC0178 Workgroup Consultation and GC0164 Code Administrator Consultation are both also going to be pushed back with updates to follow.

Presentation: System Restoration Proposed Grid Code Changes Post ESRS – Tony Johnson, NESO

The presenter discussed that this Grid Code change had been proposed following an initial request by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) at the STC Panel in 2024 that there should be equitable treatment between themselves, Scottish Power Transmission (SPT) and Scottish Hydro Electricity (SHE) transmission during a Restoration event.

The presenter shared that:

- An informal working group of NESO, SPT and SHE transmission has been meeting since the of Summer 2024 with Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) joining the discussions in September 2025.
- The proposed modification would be a joint Grid Code and Distribution Code modification following by a consequential STC modification.
- The scope and requirements include (but are not limited to) equitable treatment of NGET, SPT and SHE during a restoration event, introduction of Regional Restoration Plans (RRPs) and changes to OC5.7.2.1(g) to accommodate testing.
- Likely areas of text change in the Grid Code include the Glossary and Definitions (G&D), Planning Code (PC.A.5.7), Connection Conditions, European Connection Conditions, Operating Code 5, Operating Code 9 and Data Registration Code. Other sections of Grid Code may require updates in consequence to these changes.
- Some substantial work had already been undertaken with respect to the legal drafting, particularly with respect to the European Connection Conditions, Operating Code 5 (OC5) and Operating Code 9. It would be for the workgroup to develop and refine the proposals going forward noting that the current work to date provided a good platform upon which to build on the thinking already developed..

<u>Discussion themes / Feedback</u>

An attendee asked if the proposed modification would be retrospective or prospective.

The presenter confirmed that the proposed modification would be retrospective and prospective, noting these are mostly operational changes, rather than to connection requirements. The proposer noted the proposals should not conflict with contracts and nor

should they impact on developers who are currently working towards the requirements of GC0156. Each of these issues will be discussed during future workgroups.

An attendee raised concerns around the changes to the Anchor Plant Capability definition.

The presenter explained the reasoning surrounding the proposed changes to the definition including cold start time frames.

An attendee agreed but noted that changing the definition may add other obligations and the timeframe for people to become compliant with those new obligations needing to be considered.

The presenter confirmed that the workgroup would iron out these issues and ensured there are not any unintended consequences.

An attendee raised concerns that testing conditions are proposed to be changed to less stringent tests than current requirements.

The presenter agreed with the attendee that any tests must be fit for purpose, and this will be looked at in more detail in future workgroup discussions.

An attendee raised the need to also consider other priorities in each region such as CNI (Critical National Infrastructure) and secondary generators (generators bound by CUSC but which do not have restoration contracts). The attendee raised the awareness of potentially relevant groups including the North Hyde Action Group and NESO's demand expert group which may be relevant to this group,. The attendee raised that cost and other contractual implications need to be considered. Finally, the attendee noted that substantive progress has been made without the involvement of generating parties.

The presenter agreed with the priorities and parties to consider and noted the rest of the points raised by the attendee.

An attendee asked if this work was aimed at completion before the ESRS implementation in December 2026.

The presenter confirmed that the aim was to complete the work by 31st December 2026, but it needs to be completed properly rather than being rushed, hence it is possible it could overrun but it would not be an major issue if this was the case.

An attendee asked, based on the timescales shared, if the presenter is seeking urgency for the modification?

The presenter confirmed they are not seeking to request an urgent modification.

Presentation: Update to EDL Reason Codes: Introducing new 'ITB' code – Sudha Saji, NESO

The presenter gave background of the Constraint Management Intertrip Service (CMIS), an explanation of how CMIS works (including arming generators for either a stability or a thermal trip) and an explanation of the new EC5 Enduring service.

The presenter covered the following:

- The EC5-Enduring service has two different arming modes (stability and thermal), and the control room cannot currently distinguish which arming mode is active using Electronic Dispatch Logger (EDL) signalling, which raises multiple operational, commercial and settlement risks.
- The proposal is to add an EDL reason code, *ITB – Intertrip Commercial Thermal Armed,* which means the ITA will be repurposed to stability only (ITA – Intertrip Commercial Stability Armed).
- Alternative options that were considered including reusing ITA for both arming types and using an internal flag within the Open Balancing Platform (OBP) only. The presenter explained why the alternatives considered were discounted.
- The proposals benefits include operational clarity, accurate settlement and automated system flow as well as impacts including codes, IT systems and industry participants.

The presenter also talked through some industry responses to the proposed modification.

Discussion themes / Feedback

An attendee asked if the changes would be retrospective or prospective.

The presenter confirmed that the change will be prospective, and only for those under the EC5-Enduring service.

An attendee asked for clarity on a point made by the presenter in which it was stated that internal IT were able to make the system changes required now but they are waiting until implementation of the EC5-Enduring service.

The presenter confirmed that the attendee's understanding was correct.

An attendee asked how these changes will be communicated to the affected parties.

The presenter confirmed that the contract already mentions that a new IT solution is being explored, and that there will be a briefing to contracted parties.

Presentation: Update on Guidance Notes – Amanda Rooney, NESO & Mohamed Fawzy, NESO

The presenter covered:

- The background of Grid Code guidance notes including NESO's role and their current status. A number of issues relating to guidance notes have been identified by users include lack of clear ownership, version control and governance amongst others.
- The desired future position of guidance notes for users and colleagues and why the guidance notes are going to be updated in reference to ERIC (Easy to work with, Reliable, Impartial and Credible) which is a NESO acronym.
- The proposed approach for updating Grid Code guidance including structure and readability improvements in addition to technical enhancements.
- Next steps including the first template, external communications assistance and moving the documents into NESO's Quality Management System.

Discussion themes / Feedback

There was lots of discussion surrounding the topic of guidance notes, but in summary, the general themes focused around:

- Whether there will be a standard procedure for following guidance notes (applicable for both NESO and external stakeholders).
- Concerns surrounding additional requirements and obligations currently being brought in using guidance notes. Requirements should only be brought in via Code modification procedures.
- Accessibility in finding the guidance notes on the NESO website.
- Guidance notes should be approved by the Authority, especially if they are adding in requirements.
- Suggestion of a common folder to store guidance notes so they can be found more easily.
- Suggestion of a standing group to allow industry input in the process.
- If the Codes are written clearly and simply then there may not be need for guidance notes.
- The proposal for a slide at GCDF including any updates or additional guidance notes.

The presented noted all comments and responded to individuals during the discussion where required.

Presentation: Review of GB Ramping Arrangements: Brief Update – Frank Kasibante, NESO & James West, NESO

Presenters introduced the issues including current GB ramp-rate limits which were specified in an era of predominantly thermal plant and therefore are not in line with recent technology and market developments. The presenters covered NESO updates including a review of current GB ramping arrangements, the possibility of raising of a Grid Code Modification at an appropriate time and further assessment to ascertain what rates could be optimal.

Discussion themes / Feedback

An attendee asked if the proposed work would also cover Demand alongside Generators and Interconnectors.

The presenter confirmed that they are considering all technologies, including Demand.

An attendee raised a request to consider P28 in the scope of the modification which is looking at voltage step change issues.

The presenter confirmed that they have considered these requirements in their conversations.

An attendee asked for more clarification on the rapid action swings encountered as some technologies, such as Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) react quickly. The attendee also identified a gap in that ramp-rates for BESS are not clearly specified in the Grid Code but instead are in guidance notes. Finally, the attendee asked if the issues being seen are in relation to active power or reactive power.

The presenter:

- *Agreed that the clarifications around rate limits for differing technologies would be incorporated when identifying the defect.*
- *Made reference to Grid Code BC1.A.1.1 where ramping arrangements are currently described.*

An attendee asked for BESS rates in regard to pre-LFDD (Low Frequency Demand Disconnection) switching to be considered in the proposal.

The presenter agreed they would consider that in the scope of work.

An attendee raised concerns that the proposed modification is similar to a previous Grid Code Modification, GC0154, and more clarification on the defect would be required.

The presenter confirmed that they would be looking at the problem holistically (i.e. not limited to Interconnectors) and that the scope of the modification is still being worked out.

An attendee asked if the proposed modification would be looking to adjust Physical Notification limitations or dynamic parameters.

The presenter confirmed that this is part of the discussions currently taking place within the NESO teams and further reaffirmed the importance of crafting a clear defect and scope.

AOB

AOB 1: Issues surrounding invites to GCDF recently have highlighted a need to possibly change the process. NESO think that an invite-based system is best where participants email the box.techcodes@neso.energy to receive the monthly invites to GCDF rather than the current system through the NESO webpage. NESO asked people to share their thoughts on this proposal.

AOB 2: GC0166, which introduces new dynamic parameters for storage, has added an explanatory note on the relevant skip rates page for all stakeholders to access in a singular area. The link can be found here.

Attendees were reminded that the GCDF can be used by any industry party to present potential Grid Code changes and future agenda items are welcomed.

The dates for the 2026 GCDF sessions are available on the GCDF webpage.

The Chair thanked the attendees and presenters for their contributions and closed the meeting.

The next GCDF will be held on the 4th March 2026 with the 24th February 2026 being the deadline for agenda items and presentations.