Competition in Connections (CiC) Code of Practice Panel

Wednesday 25 May 2016 10:00

Teleconference

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Catherine Falconer (Chair)	(CF)	SSEPD
Brian Hoy	(BH)	Electricity North West
Ian Cobley	(IP)	Northern Powergrid
Neil Magrath	(NM)	UK Power Networks
Paul McGimpsey	(PM)	Scottish Power
David Overman	(DO)	CNA
Graham Smith	(GS)	UCCG
Tim Hughes	(TH)	Western Power Distribution
Andrew Green	(AG)	CNA (alternate)
Gareth Pritchard	(GP)	UCCG
Glyn Jones	(GJ)	MCCG
Jayson Whitaker	(JW)	MCCG (alternate) (part)
Ray Farrow (observer)	(RF)	Customer Representative
Alexandra Moore	(AM)	Energy Networks Association

Apologies

Colin Jamieson	(CJ)	CNA
Neil Fitzsimons	(NF)	MCCG
Stephen Perry	(SP)	Ofgem (observer)

Welcome

CF welcomed everyone to the meeting, briefly reminding the group of the intent of the session was to go over the modification proposal to be submitted to Ofgem. They would also be voting on a modification proposal to go to a working group.

Competitions Act

AM reminded the group of the need to adhere to the obligations of the Competition Act and these were listed at the back of all agendas.

Review of Previous Minutes

The group reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and agreed it was a true and accurate reflection.

Introduction to Modification Proposal Report

CF gave a brief overview of the meetings that had been held for reporting requirements. She also asked that seeing as GJ and BH were in the meeting, to see if they could provide any further detail on the proposal.

Review of Reporting Requirements Template Modification Proposal

CF discussed with the group the report that had come from the working group. The group looked though some of the responses that had been submitted and discussed in the responses matrix. The group looked over the proposed reporting template which was also attached to the modification report. The group felt that this was appropriate and covered all the areas of reporting for DNOs that would be required.

The Panel votes were recorded as follows:

Name	Decision
Brian Hoy - ENWL	Approve
Catherine Falconer – SSE	Approve
Gareth Pritchard – UCCG	Approve
Glyn Jones – MCCG	Approve
Graham Smith – UCCG	Approve
Ian Cobley – NPg	Approve
David Overman - CNA	Approve
Andrew Green – CNA	Approve
Paul McGimpsey – SP	Approve
Jayson Whitaker – MCCG	Approve
Neil Magrath – UKPN	Approve
Tim Hughes – WPD	Approve

The Panel voted to send the modification with a recommendation to approve. The group would make some changes to the text of the report, before it is sent to Ofgem.

BH also mentioned that it had been discussed at the last working group meeting that there would be a need to insert a section regarding any additional reporting requirements generated by future modification proposals into the modification proposal form. This would ensure any changes that would need to be made to the reporting requirements as a result of future proposed modifications would be captured and included as part of the modification work. (This modification to the form does not form part of the modification proposal being submitted, but something the Panel should also take into account and correct as a separate housekeeping issue. AM took an action to draft this up for the group.)

Review of Modification Proposal for admin changes to the Code of Practice

AM informed the group of when this modification had been received and reminded the group of when it had been circulated to them. The group discussed the changes further, with CF explaining that this modification would be quite straight forward and would most probably not need to go out to consultation. The Panel votes to proceed were recorded as follows:

Name	Decision
Andrew Green – CNA	Approve
Brian Hoy - ENWL	Approve
Catherine Falconer – SSE	Approve
Chris Roe – UCCG	Approve
David Overman - CNA	Approve
Gareth Pritchard – UCCG	Approve
Glyn Jones – MCCG	Approve
Ian Cobley – NPg	Approve
Paul McGimpsey – SP	Approve
Jayson Whitaker – MCCG	Absent a time of vote
Neil Magrath – UKPN	Approve
Tim Hughes – WPD	Approve

The Panel voted to move the modification proposal to a working group. BH volunteered to be a Panel member who sit on the working group.

Code Governance Review

AM discussed with the group the recent developments with Ofgem's Code Governance Review and how this could affect the CiC Code of Practice. She explained that with the changes that Ofgem have suggested for the role of Code Administrators on industry codes, although the Code of Practice is not an industry code, when it was first established the governance arrangements agreed to adhere to the code administrator code of practice. Therefore, it would be important for the Panel to look at some of the areas of its governance it may impact.

AM presented some slides to the group and highlighted some specific topics, to which the group responded:

Changes to consider	Group Response
Self governance	The Panel believed that it was too early to consider this at present and that currently they did not have enough experience as a Panel to implement self-governance.
Standard templates	The group recognised that the basis of the COP processes had been existing DCUSA processes, achieving some form of standardisation up-front. The Panel discussed that this might be something to

	hold back on and to wait and see what comes from Ofgem before taking further action on changing standard templates.
Modifications register	The Panel discussed how this was currently laid out on the Code of Practice website. AM took an action to look at what is in place currently and see if this fits with best practice.
Forward work plans	BH discussed that this might be not the best use of time currently, as there has only been three sets of modification proposals so far and would perhaps be more useful if the future when there are more modifications. DO raised that it would be useful to have a way for interested parties could see what is currently being discussed. BH noted that this may already be covered in the critical friend role of the code administrator and the group discussed how other groups may be able to help with this outside of the Panel.
Project management and assurance provisions	The Panel discussed that as there is already provisions in place for reporting and that every working group requires a Panel member to sit on it, then this should already be covered. With these provisions, information on the progress of working groups should always reach the Panel.
Reporting to Ofgem	The group discussed this and suggested that maybe a brief update would be appropriate and could be tied in with the annual report.

AM informed the group that she had spoken to Stephen Perry at Ofgem and he had suggested a meeting between the Panel and Ofgem to discuss what they had considered. GJ and CF volunteered to act as Panel representatives at any such meeting and to report back.

ACTION – GJ and CF to arrange for meeting with Ofgem to present discussions on this matter. By next COP Panel meeting

Potential amendments to the CiC CoP governance arrangements

AM discussed some potential changes which could be made to the current code governance. These were areas that had been highlighted by ENA as potential areas that could be changed, such as the positioning of certain paragraphs within the document and how votes maybe recorded from Panel members.

The group discussed how, apart from simple re-ordering of some sections, these would need to go to a working group and most probably could not be put into the previous modification for administrative changes as they would need to be consulted on. The group suggested waiting to take these changes any further to see what the outcome is of the Ofgem code governance review, to see if any other changes could also be incorporated.

ACTION – For future Chair of WG- simple re-ordering of some sections to be included as part of the admin changes modification.

Meeting Dates

The group discussed potential meeting dates, saying that the end of July would be most appropriate. AM took an action to circulate potential dates.

ACTION – AM to circulate potential dates and finalise date. Complete