



Making a positive difference
for energy consumers

Industry stakeholders &
interested parties

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Dear Colleagues,

National Grid Transmission: proposed Statement of Works trial

Distributed generation (DG) customers have raised concerns that the Statement of Works (SoW) process can be time-consuming and costly.¹ The Statement of Works process is used to indicate whether a connection by a distributed generator will have a significant impact on the National Electricity Transmission System. National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) has identified a potential improvement to this process and would like to carry out a trial of a revised approach. Attached is a summary from NGET that sets out its proposal.

We note that this proposal may reduce both the time and cost of connecting to the network. This open letter provides an opportunity for interested parties to give us their views on this proposal.

Background

The Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC) constitutes the contractual framework for connection to, and use of, the National Electricity Transmission System. Included within the CUSC are various procedures that should be followed when a generator seeking a connection to a distribution network operator's (DNO) network may have an impact on the transmission network. CUSC section 6.5.5.1² requires the DNO to request a Statement of Works from NGET. This procedure gives NGET the opportunity to assess the likely impact, on the transmission system, of a new connection at distribution level. Section 6.5.5.3 of the CUSC requires NGET to issue, within 28 days, a SoW that confirms whether or not the connection will have an impact on the transmission system. The party requesting the SoW is required to pay for it.

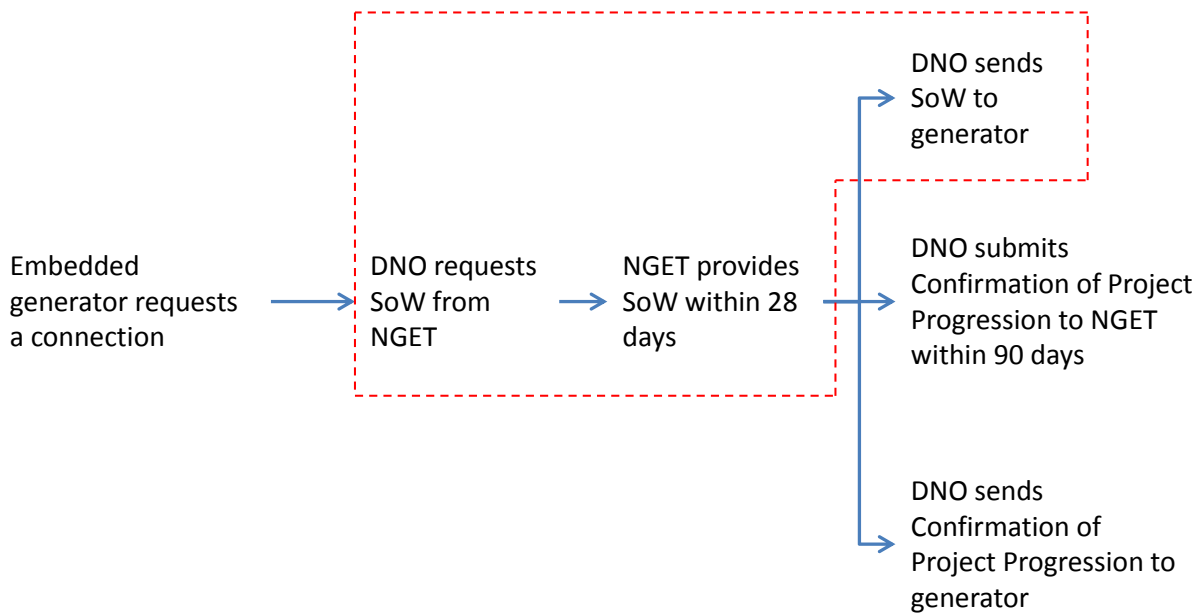
NGET's proposal

In cases where the DNO knows the request for a new connection will have an impact on the transmission system, NGET propose that they do not apply the first stage of the process but instead move directly to the next stage of the SoW whereby the DNO submits a confirmation of project progression to NGET. The process governing both Stage 1 and Stage 2 is set out in 6.5.5.1 to 6.5.5.7 of the CUSC. The diagram below illustrates the change proposed.

¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/ofgem-publications/43632/high-level-summary-dg-forumpublished.pdf>

² <http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Codes/systemcode/contracts/>

Fig.1: Statement of Works process where an embedded generation connection will have an impact on the transmission system



NGET propose to omit the stages outlined in red, in the event that the DNO knows from the outset that the connection will have an impact on the transmission system.

NGET intend to run a trial of this arrangement for one year. They acknowledge that if the trial is successful, a CUSC Modification Proposal will be required to formalise the changes to the SoW process.

In carrying out this trial in advance of seeking a formal modification of the CUSC, NGET will not be compliant with CUSC section 6.5.5.1. They have asked us for a letter of comfort that we will not enforce compliance with this section of CUSC and prevent the trial from progressing.

Consultation

Before responding to NGET we want to hear from any parties that may be affected by this proposal. Specifically we would like to understand the following:

- Do you understand NGET’s proposal?
- What is your view on the usefulness of the proposal and its perceived benefits?
- Do you have any concerns with this proposal?

Please send responses to our connections inbox, connections@ofgem.gov.uk. The closing date for responses is 21st February 2014.

Yours faithfully

James Veaney
Head of Distribution Policy