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| Modification proposal: | Competition in Connections Code of Practice (CiCCoP) Modification 0004– COP Administration Corrections May 2016 | | |
| Decision: | The Authority ¹ directs this modification ² be made ³ | | |
| Target audience: | CiCCoP Panel, DNOs and other interested parties | | |
| Date of publication: | 16 January 2017 | Implementation date: | 18 January 2017 |

Background

In July 2015 we approved the introduction of the CiCCoP.⁴ Since then we have approved three modifications to the CiCCoP. These changes have:

- introduced a clear, common process for self-determination of Point of Connection by Independent Connection Providers;⁵
- introduced a clear, common process for design approval by Independent Connection Providers;⁶ and
- introduced clear, common reporting requirements for all DNOs to demonstrate compliance with the code.⁷

In addition to these changes the CiCCoP panel have also identified some minor spelling mistakes, inconsistencies in naming conventions and incorrect paragraph numbering in the CiCCoP document.

The modification proposal

This modification was raised by Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution (SSEPD) on 10 May 2016. SSEPD considers that the modification will better facilitate Relevant Objective (b).⁸ The modification seeks to correct errors in the COP text to aid clarity and avoid confusion.

Specifically the legal drafting also amends the Relevant Objectives in the CiCCoP, to ensure consistency with the Relevant Objectives as specified in standard licence condition 52 of the electricity distribution licence. The legal drafting also ties the new reporting requirement template in Appendix 2 to the main CiCCoP document.

CiCCoP Panel recommendation

The Modification Report for CiCCoP Modification 0004 indicates that all CiCCoP Panel Members recommended for us to approve the modification proposal. All CiCCoP Panel Members believed that the modification better achieves the Relevant Objectives of the CiCCoP.

¹ 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.

² 'Change' and 'modification' are used interchangeably in this document.

³ This document is notice of the reasons for this decision as required by section 49A of the Electricity Act 1989

⁴ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-revised-competition-connections-code-practice>

⁵ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/competition-connections-code-practice-modification-0001-self-determination-point-connection-independent-connection-providers>

⁶ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/competition-connections-code-practice-modification-0002-self-design-approval-processes>

⁷ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/competition-connections-code-practice-modification-0003-code-practice-reporting-requirements>

⁸ Relevant Objective (b) of the CiCCoP is to "not distort, prevent or restrict competition in the Local Connections Markets"

Our decision

We have considered the issues raised by the proposal and the Modification Report dated 22 December 2016. We have taken into account the CiCCoP Panel's recommendation which is included as part of the Modification Report. We have concluded that:

- implementation of the modification proposal better facilitates the achievement of the CiCCoP Relevant Objectives;⁹ and
- directing that the modification is approved is consistent with our principal objective and statutory duties.¹⁰

Reasons for our decision

We consider that this modification proposal better facilitates Relevant Objective (b) not to distort, prevent or restrict competition in the market for new electricity distribution connections. We consider that this modification has a neutral impact on the other Relevant Objectives.

We consider that the proposed amendments will improve the clarity of the requirements under the CiCCoP and avoid confusion. We consider that improved clarity will help facilitate DNO compliance with the requirements of the CiCCoP, thus ensuring that DNOs do not distort, prevent or restrict competition in the market for new electricity distribution connections.

Decision notice

In accordance with paragraph 5.50 of the Competition in Connections Code of Practice, the Authority hereby approves that '*Competition in Connections Code of Practice Modification 0004: COP Administration Corrections May 2016*' be made.

James Veaney

Head of Electricity Connections and Constraints Management

Signed on behalf of the Authority and authorised for that purpose

⁹ The Relevant Objectives for the CiCCoP are set out in paragraph 2.3 of the CiCCoP and are also set out in Standard Licence Condition 52.3 of the Electricity Distribution Licence.

¹⁰ The Authority's statutory duties are wider than matters that the Parties must take into consideration and are detailed mainly in the Electricity Act 1989 as amended.