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SOLUTION DEVELOPMENT REPORT

I0216 REC CHANGES TO TIE IN WITH DCP419

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1 BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) have an obligation to contact Consumers when they receive a Power Outage Event Alert (AD1) from the DCC to ensure the Consumer is not experiencing a power outage. While this alert is generated whenever a Smart Meter experiences a power outage, it is also generated when a Smart Meter is de-energised for planned works or when the Communications Hub is disconnected in order to be replaced. This means that DNOs may be contacting Consumers unnecessarily, for work the Consumer and other industry Parties were aware of it in advance. This issue is expected to increase as the 2G to 4G Communications Hub replacement project commences in 2025, likely increasing the number of AD1s generated.

A change has been raised under the Distribution Connection and Use of System Agreement (DCUSA) as DCP419 Pre-Notifications of Planned Supply De-Energisations, of which I0216 is a cross-code change to.

These changes propose that all Parties who attend site to work on Smart Meters or their Communications Hubs must notify the DNO of this work in advance, and that DNOs do not have an obligation to contact these Consumers where such notification is received.

DCP419 has been progressing under a DCUSA work group since 27 April 2023. There have been 15 work group meetings and two consultations between that time and 03 February 2025.

I0216 was discussed at the REC Change Issues Group on 07 November 2024, with the minutes available on the REC Portal.

2 PROPOPSED SOLUTION OPTIONS

Two solution options have been developed throughout the DCUSA work groups. DCUSA and the REC Code Manager intend to take both through Party impact assessment in order to assess the business case of both before making a decision on which to take forward.

These solution options are:

1. The introduction of a new data flow/market message to be sent over the DTN; or
2. The introduction of an app and/or API to send and receive notifications.

2.1 SOLUTION OPTION 1 – MARKET MESSAGE

The first solution option for this change involves the introduction of a new market message to be sent over the DTN.

This market message would be sent by the below list of Parties to the DNO and Energy Supplier the day before any planned works.

- Metering Operator Agent (MOA) / Metering Service
- Safe Isolation Provider (SIP)
- Crowded Meter Room MOA (CMRM)
- DNO
- Electricity Supplier

The REC Code Manager believes there are three main drawbacks of this solution.

- The first is that market messages cannot be sent “real time”, meaning that DNOs will not be informed of emergency or other unplanned jobs, or any jobs booked on the same day they are carried out.
- The second is that there are other parties who are authorised to work on meters or carry out Communications Hub replacements that do not send market messages – the main one being a Communications Hub replacement agent, as they are not required to be a registered MOA/EMO/SIP. As one of the main business cases for this change is the increase of AD1 notification expected from the 2G/4G Communications Hub replacement roll out, this will be a large proportion of jobs that DNOs are not notified of.
    - The Electricity Supplier could send the market message for any planned Communications Hub replacements they are aware of, but the REC Code Manager has been informed that some Electricity Suppliers plans for the replacement rollout is to provide a list of sites to their chosen agents who will plan the jobs as they wish, with the Supplier not having knowledge of planned dates.
    - Communications Hub replacement agents is not a defined term under the REC. The Code Manager is using it in this instance to mean any agent that replacements only the Communications Hub on a Smart Meter, as there is no requirement for that agent to be a Consolidated Metering Code of Practice (CoMCoP) registered Party.
- The last is that there are concerns about Revenue Protection or Debt Collection Agents providing advance notice of attending site due to the potential sensitive nature of these jobs.

The proposed market message can be found in the appendices and is proposed to be owned by DCUSA.

2.2 SOLUTION OPTION 2 – APP AND/OR API

The second solution option for this change involves the introduction of an online application and/or API to send notifications.

This would be available by an application and API, allowing pre-booked jobs to be uploaded in bulk the day before or on the day they are due to occur, but also allow for agents on site to "real time" notify of emergency jobs or any jobs booked on the same day they are carried out. It could also be used by anyone attending site who is not required to send market messages. As such, it could be used by the below list of Parties to notify the DNO and Energy Supplier:

- MOA / Metering Service
- EMO
- SIP
- CMRM
- DNO
- Revenue Protection and/or Debt Collection Agent
- Communication Hub replacement agent

The REC Code Manager is of the opinion that Revenue Protection and Debt Collection Agents could also send the notification if required, as they could send it on the same day they are attending site or in real time on site.

It would also not require the Energy Supplier to send any notifications, as any agents working on their behalf (such as the Communication Hub replacement agent) could send it directly.

This is expected to require access to the Electricity Enquiry Service (EES) API, so the agent on site only needs to enter the MPAN or Meter Serial Number and any other information required is automatically populated.

3 DRAFT LEGAL TEXT

There will be changes required to REC Schedule 14 – Metering Operations, placing obligations on these Parties to send either the market message or the application/API notification.

The Code Manager has not drafted these changes at this time until it is known which solution option we intend to take forward. The Metering Operations Schedule is also undergoing large changes due to Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS), so the Code Manager hopes to make these changes as late as possible when the MHHS drafting is as close to finalised as possible.

The legal drafting will be available for consultation.

4 ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED

A third solution option was discussed and ruled out. This involved making a change to the Smart Energy Code (SEC) to amend the requirements on the DCC to only send the AD1 notification in certain circumstances – for example, if a power outage was registered but was restored within one hour. This was discounted due to the cost and timescales involved with this solution.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There will be a joint REC and DCUSA impact assessment for Parties. These will have identical questions, so Parties only need to respond once under REC or DCUSA.

Please note that any responses submitted anonymously or confidentially under the REC will be shared in full with DCUSA.

6 APPENDICES

6.1 APPENDIX 1 – MARKET MESSAGE STRUCTURE FOR SOLUTION OPTION 1

Please note the below market message outline uses current terminology, and may need to be updated for MHHS.

Flow Reference:	**D0###**
Flow Name:	Notification of planned supply de-energisations
Flow Description:	This data flow is to be utilised by all relevant Parties that de-energises or otherwise interacts the Communications of a Whole Current Metering Point with a Smart Meter installed, as part of any planned work, provide the Distribution Network Operator with advance notification of the supply interruption.
Flow Ownership:	DCUSA
Flow Version:	001

From	**To**
Electricity Supplier	Distribution Network Operator
Meter Operator Agent	Distribution Network Operator
Safe Isolation Provider	Distribution Network Operator
Crowded Meter Room MOA	Distribution Network Operator
Meter Operator Agent	Electricity Supplier
Safe Isolation Provider	Electricity Supplier
Crowded Meter Room MOA	Electricity Supplier
Distribution Network Operator	Electricity Supplier

Data Items:

Reference	Name
J0003	MPAN Core
J0012	Additional Information
J2050	Customer Agreed Appointment Date

Flow Structure:

Group ID	Group Description	Range	Condition	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	L7	L8	Data Item Name	Data Item Rule
AAA	MPAN Cores	1-*		G									
					1							MPAN Core	
BBB	Customer Agreed Appointment Details	0-1			G								
						1						Customer Agreed Appointment Date	
						O						Additional Information	

Notes:	This data flow is to be utilised by all relevant Parties that de-energises or otherwise interacts the Communications of a Whole Current Metering Point with a Smart Meter installed, as part of any planned work, provide the Distribution Network Operator with advance notification of the supply interruption.