

02/04/1998

**Modification Proposal 217
DECISION****Frequency Response Service for Centrally Dispatched Generators****2nd April 1998****Present Position**

'Frequency response' is a service demanded of some power stations (under the Grid Code) by the National Grid Company (NGC, the owners of the high voltage electricity transmission network). The service allows NGC to request a power station to increase significantly its generation for short periods of time. To provide such a service a gas fired power station must be able to increase significantly its offtake of gas for a short period of time with no notice from Transco's system. At present available 'ramp rates', that is the rate at which offtake increases or decreases, are agreed in a Network Exit Agreement (NEXA) for each power station.

Although power stations (and other offtake points) can already make use of offtake rates and ramp rates that exceed those defined in a NEXA on a best endeavours basis after receiving permission from Transco. There are currently no generic network code rules that allow Transco to facilitate a Frequency Response service (FRS) although the code currently allows Transco to enter into an Ancillary Agreement for such a service.

Proposal

Transco propose to offer a service to all centrally dispatched CCGTs connected to the electricity transmission systems of either NGC, Scottish Power, or Scottish Hydro-Electric, to allow a no notice offtake rate change of up to 25% of that supply point's Hourly Quantity (SHQ - the hourly rate of consumption at a supply point). Since this service would be available to all centrally dispatched generators on common terms, Transco propose that it should be detailed in the network code rather than in a NEXA.

The common terms of the agreement proposed are as follows:

1. The supply point offtake rate (SPOR) can increase by 25% in a period of 10 seconds with no prior notification to Transco, as long as the SPOR does not exceed the maximum SPOR defined in the NEXA.
2. Shippers must notify Transco no later than 30 minutes after the commencement of a frequency response period of any frequency response service provided by the power station. On the following day shippers must provide to Transco details of the number of occasions, start times and volumes involved.
3. Transco will require a flow test at a site to ensure that its offtake equipment and the upstream pipework are capable of supporting this service and the service does not affect Transco's network adversely. If Transco is not satisfied it may decline to offer the service at that supply point. If the maximum supply point offtake rate is increased, or there is a material change in the surrounding network, Transco may require another test. Transco may withdraw the service from individual stations where, operational experience or planning data shows that this could affect the safe or efficient operation of the Transco network.
4. Transco may temporarily suspend the service to individual power stations where maintenance on the Transco system may be affected by the service.
5. At present Transco do not propose to charge for the service, although they may propose such a charge in the future.

Decision

Following a report from Transco, Ofgas has accepted this modification proposal.

Possible impact on customers

Supply points that are centrally dispatched generators supplying electricity to the grid systems operated by National Grid, Scottish Power, or Scottish Hydro will be able to comply with their relevant Grid Code obligations. Other large supply points can already access flexible offtake rates with notice which Transco will facilitate on a best endeavours basis.

Further Information

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