

Stage 03: Attachment A: Detailed Assessment for P253

P253: Improving the accuracy of the Credit calculation

What stage is this document in the process?

01 Initial Written Assessment

02 Definition Procedure

03 Assessment Procedure

04 Report Phase

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About this document:

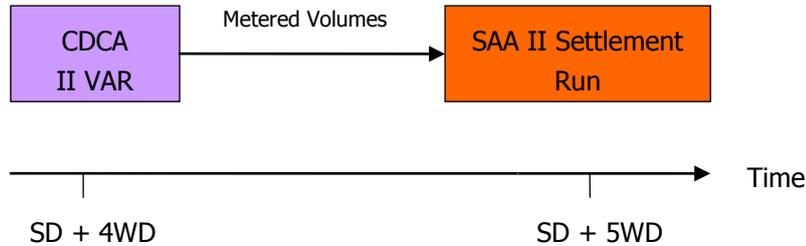
This is Attachment A to the Assessment Consultation. This attachment provides additional detail, including details of the Modification Group's discussions.

1 Background

How does the current II Run Run (impacted by P253) compare to the SF Run (not impacted by P253)

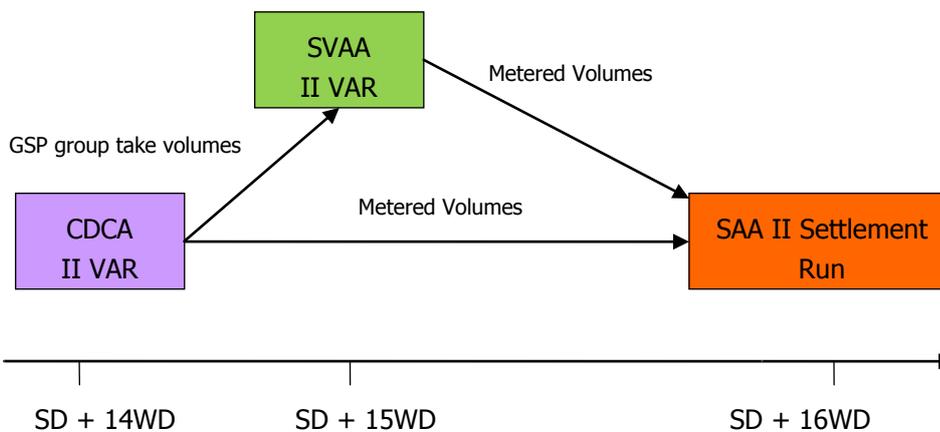
Interim Information (II)

- The CDCA conducts a Volume Allocation Run (VAR) and sends metered volumes to the SAA; and
- The SAA carries out the Settlement Run using CDCA volumes and estimating SVAA volumes.



Initial Settlement Run (SF)

- The CDCA sends metered volumes to the SAA and GSP Group take volumes to the SVAA;
- The SVAA sends volumes to the SAA; and
- The SAA uses both CDCA and SVAA volumes in the Settlement Run.



The SAA carries out an II Settlement Run 5 working days after the Settlement Date (SD +5WD).



Any questions?

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P253
Detailed Assessment

6 August 2010

Version 1.0

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Further details on the II Run

Central Volume Allocation

The SAA uses metered volumes from the CDCA. The CDCA conducts its own Volume Allocation Run (VAR) one working day earlier (SD +4WD) and this data is used in the SAA II Settlement Run.

Supplier Volume Allocation

The SAA does not use metered volumes from the SVAA in the II Settlement Run. Instead, the SAA estimates SVAA volumes using data from previous Settlement Days and Settlement Periods. The previous Settlement Day is known as d' and the previous Settlement Period is j' .

To estimate SVA data, SAA does the following:

1. For a given Settlement Day d , previous Settlement Day d' shall be the most recent Settlement Day prior to d that is:
 - 1.1.1. The same day of the week as Settlement Day d ;
 - 1.1.2. Not a clock change day; and
 - 1.1.3. A day on which an Initial Settlement (SF) Run has taken place
2. If Settlement Day d is not a clock change day, then previous Settlement Period $j' =$ Settlement Period j
3. If day d is a short clock change day, then:
 - 3.1. If $j \leq 2$ then $j' = j$
 - 3.2. If $j > 2$ then $j' = j + 2$
4. If day d is a long clock change day, then:
 - 4.1. If $j \leq 4$ then $j' = j$
 - 4.2. If $j > 4$ then $j' = j - 2$
5. Having determined the variables j' and d' , the BM Unit Metered Volume for Supplier BM Units in the Interim Initial Run is calculated as:

$$QM_{ij} = GSPGT_{ij} * QM_{ij}' / GSPGT_{ij}'$$

Where:

$GSPGT_{ij}$ is the GSP Group Take for the GSP Group associated with BM Unit i in Settlement Period j on Settlement Day d

QM_{ij}' is the BM Unit Metered Volume for BM Unit i in Settlement Period j' on Settlement Day d'

$GSPGT_{ij}'$ is the GSP Group Take for the GSP Group associated with BM Unit i in Settlement Period j' on Settlement Day d'

If there is no BM Unit Metered Volume for BM Unit i in Settlement Period j' on Settlement Day d' (for example, because the BM Unit was not effective on that Day), then QM_{ij} shall be set to 0.

Terms of Reference

Proposed Terms of Reference

The Modification Group was formed from members of the SSMG. The Group considered the following items:

The effect of the Modification on Applicable BSC Objectives (c) and (d) and any other relevant BSC Objective(s).

Are new performance levels for 100kW data needed?

How else could the credit calculation be made more accurate?

Will Parties want reports on the SVAA II VAR.

Whether an Alternative Modification is required.

The most effective implementation approach for the Modification, including whether the necessary Code Subsidiary Document changes are drafted in the Assessment Procedure or during implementation.

3 Modification Group's Discussions

The Modification Group discussions are structured into:

- Issue discussions
- Solution discussions
- Further discussions on Impact Assessment responses
- Potential alternatives

In each case the Group's initial discussions, views on the impact assessment and analysis where relevant, and final conclusions are grouped together. If you would like a summary of the analysis see Section 4, or for the full analysis, see Attachment B.

Credit Calculation Issues

The Group noted there were three key issues with the current credit calculation that P253 was looking to address:

1. There can be inaccuracies in the forecasting of SVA data (particularly embedded intermittent generation);
2. The estimation technique does not correctly forecast the usage around a Bank Holiday; and
3. With an increase in embedded generation in some Grid Supply Point (GSP) Groups, the GSP Group Takes (GSPGTs) have been decreasing. As SVA II volumes are based on a percentage of GSPGT, this can make a large difference to SVA volumes.

Inaccuracies of estimating SVA data caused by embedded generation

Group's initial discussions

ELEXON reminded the Group that analysis conducted by the Standing Issue 38 Group had demonstrated that there was a link between the levels of embedded generation in GSP Groups and the level of errors in the Interim Information Run (and therefore the credit calculation). ELEXON noted that they could improve on the analysis by splitting out the Half Hourly (HH) Import, HH Export and Non Half Hourly (NHH) components. This would hopefully prove that it was the Half Hourly Export which was causing the majority of the errors. You can find this analysis on pages 42 to 45 of Attachment B.

The Group also noted that it was likely that the only way to fix the problem of unpredictable embedded generation impacting the accuracy of the credit calculation was using actual metered volumes. This is further explored in the potential alternatives section.

Analysis results

With regards to a link between the level of embedded generation and the level of credit calculation error, the analysis shows:

- The greater the level of embedded generation, the greater the level of error at II;
- The changes in HH Export are more random and the HH Import or NHH components; and
- It is not possible to see a trend in embedded generation across different GSP Groups.

Group's conclusions

The Group concluded that there was a clear link between the level of embedded generation in a GSP Group and the level of credit calculation error. The analysis on pages

46 and 47 of Attachment B also demonstrates that central systems alternatives do not offer an enduring solution to remove embedded generation error from the credit calculation. However, the Proposed Modification would offer a solution.

Bank Holiday issues

Group's initial discussions

One member noted that the current credit calculation causes problems around Bank Holidays. The problem is caused by the significant difference in usage on a Bank Holiday when compared to the same day of the week which is not a Bank Holiday. For Suppliers with large portfolios of business customers this is particularly noticeable.

Another member agreed that some Parties had raised material doubt to correct inaccuracy in the credit calculation around Bank Holidays.

The Group requested ELEXON carry out analysis around the Bank Holidays in order to examine the impact on the accuracy of the credit calculation. The Group also requested ELEXON investigate whether the impact is the same for Scottish Bank Holidays.

Analysis results

The credit calculation is clearly affected on Bank Holiday Settlement Dates and also Settlement Dates 21 days after the bank holiday, i.e when the bank holiday becomes the reference day.

Group's conclusions

The Group noted the analysis clearly shows the error in the credit calculation increases around Bank Holidays and where Bank Holidays are used as reference days. On that basis the Group developed an alternative which would alleviate the Bank Holiday problem. See the Potential Alternatives section below for more details.

GSP Group Take tending towards zero

Group's initial discussions

The current credit calculation is susceptible to significant problems where the GSP Group Take approaches zero. This is becoming a particular problem in those GSP Groups with significant embedded generation. Where GSP Group Take for the reference day approaches zero for a Settlement Day where GSP Group take was significantly more than zero, the current calculation causes the Supplier BM Unit Metered Volume may tend towards infinity. This then leads to Suppliers raising material doubt claims as the Supplier BM Unit Metered Volume is clearly incorrect.

ELEXON noted that the Standing Issue 38 Group had demonstrated this problem with a worked example. This example could be repeated. The Group agreed this would be useful.

One member commented that the problem will only get worse. As more embedded generation is built GSP Group Takes are more and more likely to approach zero. Currently it was the North of Scotland which was particularly problematic. However, there were signs that other GSP Groups were starting to approach zero.

Analysis results

The analysis shows that the credit calculation is increasingly inaccurate as the GSP Group Take approaches zero. For more details see pages 39 to 41 of Attachment B.

Group's conclusions

The Group agreed with analysis conclusions above. ELEXON suggested that it may be possible to develop an alternative which would only impact the BSC Systems and would fix this problem. This potential alternative had been discussed during the Standing Issue 38 Group. The Group requested ELEXON develop this potential alternative. See the Potential Alternatives section below for more details.

Solution questions

- Would DC/DAs be able to meet the new timescales, how much actual metered volumes would be received and should providing the SVA HH metered volumes be incentivised?
- Should the new timescales be mandated in a BSCP or not?
- Would the Proposed Modification impact the Change of Supplier process?
- Would Parties want to receive reports on the SVAA II VAR?

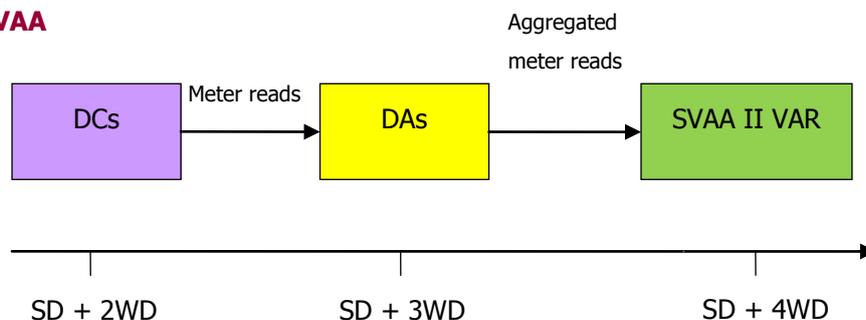
Would DC/DAs be able to meet the new timescales, how much actual metered volumes would be received and should providing the SVA HH metered volumes be incentivised?

Group's initial discussions

The Group noted that one of the key questions was could the Supplier Agents meet the Proposed Modification timetables. Currently, Data Aggregators must submit aggregated metered data to SVAA within 14 Working Days of the Settlement Date. The Proposed Modification would reduce that timescale considerably.

The Group first considered what timescales would be required for the Proposed Modification. The considered that the following timescales would be appropriate:

Figure 1: Timetable for Agents to provide aggregated metered volumes to the SVAA



On that basis some members were concerned that it may not be possible for all Agents to achieve these proposed timescales. However, other members considered that it should be possible for DCs and DAs to send the necessary data to the SVAA within the new timescales. The Group agreed to ask whether such timescales were achievable as part of the Impact Assessment.

The Group then considered what percentage of metered volumes they would hope for from HHDCs. One member suggested asking HHDCs what percentage of metered volumes they could provide. Another member commented that providing a suggested target might draw out a more complete response. The Group agreed to ask Impact Assessment respondents whether they could provide 90% or 95% of metered volumes. The Group also asked that if respondents could not provide at least 90%, what percentage could they provide.

One member commented that under P253 it was likely that some of the HH Metered Volumes would be estimated. They believed it was important to ask Party Agents what estimation techniques they used. It was noted that BSCP502 section 4.2.1 contains the estimation techniques. Techniques 'a' to 'f' are the preferred ones. It would be useful to ask Party Agents whether they used the preferred estimation techniques.

Alongside these discussions the Group considered whether the Proposed Modification should include incentives on Suppliers to ensure their Party Agents provide a certain percentage of HH metered volumes. The Group had no firm opinion at this point and decided to revisit the debate following the Industry Impact Assessment, when they would have a better idea about whether HHDCs could provide 90% or more metered volumes.

Industry Impact Assessment

Can you provide 90% actual HH data with the Proposed Modification timescales?

- Yes – 5
- No – 1

Can you provide 95% actual HH data with the Proposed Modification timescales?

- Yes – 2
- No – 4

Respondents also noted potential problems with:

- Hand held reads
- De-energised sites
- Sites with meters removed

Where Half-hourly meter reads cannot be obtained within the proposed timescales, will Data Collectors be able to provide estimations using method 'f' or higher (as detailed in BSCP502 section 4.2.1)?

All HHDC responses noted that they would be able to estimate in accordance with BSCP502.

One respondent noted there would be a cost impact, less qualitative estimates, more Supplier queries and an increase in exceptions.

One respondent noted that for CoS sites it would only be possible if CoS did not include change of HHDC.

Further Group discussion

The Group noted one respondent had identified problems with hand held HH meter readings. These are Half Hourly metered sites which are not read remotely, but permanently ready by hand. If there were large numbers of hand read sites there would need to be a greater amount of estimated volumes. The Group requested ELEXON find out what percentage of the HH market is read by hand.

The Group noted that some respondents seemed concerned that P253 would place targets on DCs/DAs to provide either 90% or 95% of HH data. The Group emphasized that the figures of 90% or 95% were there to help the Group understand what percentage of actual could be provided. The solution did not currently include incentives.

The Group debated whether incentives would be useful. On the one hand, the more actual metered volumes, the more accurate the P253 solution would become. On the other hand, placing incentives on Suppliers could increase expense for little benefit. The Group also noted that although the II Run was used for the Credit Calculation, it was not a Settlement Run. On the basis the Group agreed that the Proposed Modification would not include Supplier incentives.

Finally, the Group noted that ELEXON were proposing to use SF data to analyse the effectiveness of the Proposed Modification solution (see Attachment B). The Group commented that the Supplier metered data collected in time for the II run was likely to be less accurate as SF run data, as more of it will be estimated. The Group requested ELEXON conduct a sensitivity analysis in order to determine how inaccurate this metered data could be before it was more inaccurate than the current II Run.

Analysis results

ELEXON's analysis of Half Hourly hand read sites is on page 39 of Attachment B. On average, **1.05%** of SVA Half Hourly Meters are permanently hand read.

ELEXON's sensitivity analysis shows that for small Suppliers with embedded generation, latest run type data adjusted by as much as 5% to 10% is closer to actual metered volumes than II run data. For larger Suppliers the percentage adjustment is somewhat lower at less than 5%, although this may represent a much larger value in financial terms. ELEXON noted that these percentages are very high as one would expect error to average out (i.e. some over-estimates, some under-estimates).

Group's conclusions

The Group concluded the following:

- The majority of Party Agents would be able to provide an acceptable percentage of Metered Volumes within the P253 timescales;
- Even if the metered volumes are several percent incorrect through estimate data, the Proposed Modification is still more accurate than the current Supplier BM Unit estimation method;
- Hand read meters were not a significant issue when considering whether Party Agents could provide an acceptable percentage of Metered Volumes within the P253 timescales; and
- No Supplier incentives should be set under P253.

Should the new timescales be mandated in a BSCP or not?

Group's initial discussions

The Group considered whether the new Proposed Modification timescales should be mandated in a BSCP. Either all the new timescales could be documented in a BSCP. Or only the timescale for the Data Aggregator sending aggregated data on Settlement Day + 4 would be documented. This would leave the other timescales to the discretion of Parties and Party Agents. The Group's initial view was that it would be better for certainty to include all timescales in the BSCP. This would reduce confusion. The Group agreed to ask a question as part of the Impact Assessment.

Industry Impact Assessment

Should the new DA/DC timescales be in a BSCP or be contractual?

Respondents' preference:

- BSCP – 3
- Contractual – 2
- Don't want change – 2
- No comment/not applicable/no opinion – 5

Group's conclusions

The Group noted that the respondent's views did not provide a firm steer as to whether it was better to include the new timescales in the relevant BSCP or not. The Group agreed that the timescales should be documented in the relevant BSCP.

Would the Proposed Modification have an impact on the Change Supplier process?

Group's initial discussions

One member voiced concerns that introducing P253 would have a detrimental impact on the change of Supplier/Agent process. They noted that the current change of Supplier process works in a world where Data Aggregators are not required to provide aggregated data to SVAA until 14 Working Days after the Settlement. This would be reduced to 3 Working Days.

Another member noted that the biggest impact was likely to be around the contract change periods – April and October – where HH contracts are renewed. One member noted that a Party could raise a material doubt claim if they were concerned about the credit calculation during the contract round. ELEXON noted that few past material doubt claims had related to the contract round.

Industry Impact Assessment

How would P253 impact change of Supplier/Agent process?

There was a mixed response to the question. Respondents noted:

- No impact
- They would be able to complete CoS processes within proposed timescales
- P253 should not impact CoS process
- Potential impact relating to registration details or missing MOA details

Group's conclusions

The Group noted that with such a mixed response it was difficult to conclude as to whether the change of Supplier/Agent process would be impacted.

Will Parties want reports on the SVAA II VAR?

The Group discussed whether Parties would find it useful to receive SVAA II Volume Allocation Run Reports. ELEXON commented that their assumption was that these reports would not be wanted. One member commented that he did not think the data would be useful, but that did not mean it had no use. ELEXON noted that Parties would see the overall figures in the SAA-I014 'Settlement Report' flow. The Group agreed that, as they could not see a firm reason why the data would be useful to Parties, the sending of SVAA II VAR Reports to Parties should not be included in the Proposed Modification.

Further discussion on the industry Impact Assessment

Question 1: what are the impacts, costs and implementation timescales of the Proposed Modification on your organisation?

Key themes from the responses

- One respondent commented that the Proposed Modification would improve credit calculation accuracy. This would reduce credit and free up working capital. It would help them understand their imbalance position sooner. And should enable them to reduce their imbalance.
- One respondent commented they would be impacted by the additional aggregation run need and the Proposed Modification would require a 3 months implementation timescale.
- One respondent did not support P253. They believed the NHH changes were unfeasible and that P253 is anti-competitive as they would not be able to offer value added services, and that they would require 12 months to implement the Proposed Modification.
- One respondent commented they would have system impacts and would require 6 months to implement. They also noted that the increase Data Transfer Network traffic would increase their costs by £2,000 per year. They also noted that there would need to be updated MDD flows
- One respondents were concerned that P253 would introduce contractual issues with DAs/DCs and have MDD flow cost implications
- One respondent commented that they would require system changes, changes to accept flows earlier. They believed there would be limited benefit in receiving more accurate II data earlier.
- One respondent commented that they would require 6 to 9 months to implement.

Group views

A Group member questioned why one respondent considered the NHH P253 changes unfeasible. ELEXON explained that they had contacted the respondent who elaborated that they were concerned that the quality of the NHH data would be no better than the current process. The data they would be sending at SD+3 would be almost entirely made up of Estimated Annual Consumptions (EACs), rather than Annualised Advances (AAs). The member believed that even NHH data made entirely of EACs would be better than the current estimated data.

The member also struggled to believe that the P253 changes would take a year to complete. In their view a lot of functionality already existed. They also noted that no costs had been provided.

ELEXON noted that the respondent had commented that they believed P253 was uncompetitive. The respondent had subsequently elaborated that by reducing the mandated timescales for providing metered volumes would remove one of their value added services. Some members disagreed that this would be 'uncompetitive'. P253 would only be uncompetitive if it was discriminatory. The member believed this would not be the case under P253. It may erode some of the value of Supplier receiving data more quickly. However, there would be areas where an Agent could perform above and beyond what was expected under P253. For example, as there are no performance targets under the Proposed Modification and a potential value added service would be to guarantee a certain percentage of Half Hourly Metered Volumes.

Question 11 – Any comments

Key themes from the responses

- One respondent commented that they would require an extensive implementation timescale and therefore P253 would coincide with the smart metering roll out – have the Group considered smart metering conclusions?
- One respondent requested the group provide guidance on whether HH exception Reports (D0235s) need to be issued to relevant Parties?
- One respondent wanted to know whether II Run data would need to be sent to Supplier and SVAA, or just SVAA?
- One respondent questioned whether a timetable for II runs would be published on ELEXON website?
- One respondent commented that they welcomed the setting of higher standards, provided there is a review on MOA obligations to provide accurate and timely MTDs
- One respondent believes the cost of P253 to Agents would not justify marginal benefit to Suppliers. They believed that the smart metering roll out would have progressed into Settlement by the time this Mod was implemented, and that the solution, particularly the NHH element, was not clearly thought through

Group views

The Group noted the question regarding whether the Group had considered the introduction of smart metering for P253. The Group agreed that this would need to be considered once the full costs and benefits had been identified. The Group resolved to reconsider the question of P253's interactions with smart metering once the cost-benefit analysis had been completed.

One respondent had identified that P253 is likely to lead to a great number of D0235 'Half Hourly Aggregation Exception Report' exceptions. The Group agreed that there should be guidance on how to deal with D0235 exceptions that would result from the P253. This guidance should be that HHDAs should have no obligation to manage D0235 exceptions that result from the II aggregation run.

The same respondent also questioned whether II run data would need to be sent to Supplier and SVAA, or just SVAA? As noted above the Group debated the merits of whether Suppliers would want to receive the additional data. The Group finally agreed that Suppliers would not receive the additional data.

ELEXON confirmed a new Settlement calendar would be published on the ELEXON website.

One respondent believed the cost of P253 to Agents does not justify marginal benefit to Suppliers. They also commented that the smart metering roll out would have progressed into Settlement by the time P253 would be implemented and the P253 solution was not clearly thought through – NHH component is an afterthought.

The Group commented that no firm costs had been provided and the benefits had not been fully investigated. It was difficult to understand the respondent's view as they had not provided costs or timescales for implementing P253.

How does smart metering relate to P253?

The Group considered how the introduction of smart meters would relate to P253. The Group could see that the introduction of smart meters could make it far easier to gain access to Half Hourly Metered Volumes in reduces timescales. However, as of the last Group meeting on 27 July 2010 the Smart Metering Prospectus had not been issued (it was issued on the afternoon of the Group meeting). So, without a detailed description of how smart metering would develop in the next few years, the Group could only speculate.

Could Group will reconsider the smart metering question at its final meeting.

Are there any alternatives?

The Group investigated several alternatives before settling on an Alternative Modification. In general potential alternatives were looking to provide a central systems solution which would not impact participants.

Initial Group discussions

Moving the II Run to SD+6 or SD+7

One Group member noted that if Party Agents had problems with completing all the P253 activities within the current II timescales then maybe moving the II Run was a possibility. By moving the II run, Party Agents would have more time to complete the Proposed Modification activities. The Group agreed that moving the II Run should be investigated further and asked ELEXON to include a question on the moving the II Run in the Impact Assessment.

The Bank Holiday Solution

The Group then considered if there was a solution to the Bank Holiday problem. The problem was that the current estimation process did not take account of the different energy usage on Bank Holidays. For Bank Holidays the Group proposed that the reference day should be a Sunday. The Group included a question on the Bank Holiday solution in the Impact Assessment.

Impact Assessment

What would be the impact if the Bank Holidays were calculated in a different way?

There were few comments from respondent. Most noted no change of impact. However, one respondent was "totally averse to this suggestion". They believed there would be significant impacts and heightened risk. Another respondent believed the Bank Holiday solution would not fully address the credit calculation issue.

What would the impact be moving the II Run to SD+6 or SD+7?

Respondents were asked whether the answers to earlier questions on the Proposed Modification would change their views if the II Run were moved to SD+6 or SD+7. They responded as:

- No change - 8
- Positive change - 3

Those that noted a positive change changed that moving the II run would allow the 95% target for HH meter readings to be more easily met. It would also place less pressure on the change of Supplier/Agent processes. And improve the accuracy of data.

However, mostly respondents thought the overall benefit would be minimal, it would not improve Settlement and would still require some Party Agent system development.

Potential alternative - using 5 weeks of historic data

One respondent proposed a potential alternative which would build upon the current arrangements. Instead of using the day 3 weeks before the Settlement Day to estimate the energy volume, the solution would use an average of the relevant day 3 to 7 weeks prior to the Settlement Day. This would smooth out the peaks and troughs. The respondent suggested combining this with the Bank Holiday alternative which the Group identified at the first P253 meeting.

Further Group discussions

The Bank Holiday Solution

ELEXON noted to the Group that it had contacted the respondent who noted a significant impact. ELEXON had discussed the response and found that there was a cross of wires:

- The respondent was concerned that the Bank Holiday solution related to the estimation of Metered Volumes for individual MPANs by HHDCs (in accordance with Annex S-2 of the BSC and Annex 4.2 of BSCP502)
- ELEXON clarified that the Bank Holiday solution relates to estimation of Metered Volumes for Supplier BM Units by SAA in the II run (in accordance with Section T4.2.2 of the BSC). This process is internal to central systems and should be completely invisible to HHDCs.

With this clarification the respondent noted that they were no longer impacted and their original response did not apply.

The Group were keen to further explore the Bank Holiday solution. They commissioned three pieces of analysis to investigate the solution.

Moving the II Run to SD+6 or SD+7

The Group noted that the majority of respondents did not believe that moving the II Run to SD+6 or SD+7 would provide much improvement. One member also commented that moving the II Run would increase the number of days for which Credit Assessment Energy Indebtedness (CEI) (see main document, Section 2) was used. This was less accurate than the current calculation method for Actual Energy Indebtedness (AEI) (see main document, Section 2), so should be avoided. On that basis the Group did not further investigate moving the II Run as an alternative solution.

Potential Alternative - using 5 weeks of historic data

The Group believed there could be merit in using an average of 5 weeks of historic data (or more accurately, averaging the Supplier BM Unit Metered Volumes over 5 'like' days in the previous 5 weeks). They requested ELEXON to conduct analysis on how it would impact the credit calculation.

Central systems alternatives

ELEXON noted that there were two other potential central systems alternative that they could analyse:

- The Issue 38 Method – this is a variant of the current method that the Standing Issue 38 Group examined. Rather than applying an adjustment factor to the previous Metered Volumes, the change in GSP Group Take (since the reference Settlement

Period) is allocated among BM Units in proportion to the absolute size of their Metered Volume.

- Enhanced Issue 38 Method – this is the potential central systems solution we mentioned at the last meeting, which can be seen as a variant of the Standing Issue 38 method. The change in GSP Group Take is allocated among BM Units in proportion to the total absolute value of their Import and Export (as opposed to the Issue 38 method, which allocates in proportion to the absolute value of the net Metered Volume).

The Group requested ELEXON analyse the effectiveness of these two solutions.

Analysis on the Bank Holiday solution

The analysis of the Bank Holiday solution showed that not only was the credit calculation affected on Bank Holiday Settlement Days, but also Settlement Days 21 days after the Bank Holiday, i.e when the bank holiday becomes the reference day.

The use of a Sunday as the reference day, rather than a 'like' day did reduce the error in the calculation for the August 2009 bank holiday. For the Christmas period the method was slightly less successful. If this solution were introduced, then an alternative for the Bank Holiday when it becomes the reference day would also need to be considered.

ELEXON also conducted analysis on the Scottish Bank Holidays, to work out whether these should be included in the Bank Holiday solution. However, the results were less conclusive.

The Group noted that the analysis clearly showed that the Bank Holiday solution would need to be updated to be fully effective. The Group agreed to update the solution so that where the Bank Holiday was the reference day, instead of using the Bank Holiday, the BSC Systems would use the previous 'like' day which had passed through SF.

ELEXON updated the analysis and the Group was able to conclude that using the previous like Settlement Day rather than the Bank Holiday as a reference day did reduce the error. This time it was also clear that applying the Bank Holiday solution to Scottish Bank Holidays actually increased the error in the credit calculation. Hence the Group used the analysis to agree the Alternative Modification would include the Bank Holiday Solution for English and Welsh Bank Holidays (i.e. not including the Scottish Bank Holidays).

Central System solutions

ELEXON analysed the central system solutions together. The following table (which can also be found in Attachment B) shows the results of the analysis:

Comparison of Potential Central Systems Alternatives (for Settlement Days in October 2009)					
GSP Group	Current Method	Using Five Weeks of Historic Data (Variant 1)¹	Using Five Weeks of Historic Data (Variant 2)	Issue 38 Method	Enhanced Issue 38 Method
_A	7.96%	8.41%	8.39%	7.75%	7.88%
_B	9.40%	9.32%	9.24%	9.10%	8.79%
_C	3.99%	4.93%	4.92%	3.99%	3.99%
_D	13.78%	12.88%	12.53%	13.42%	12.19%
_E	7.57%	9.19%	9.14%	7.55%	7.52%
_F	12.50%	13.28%	13.30%	12.14%	12.22%
_G	8.36%	8.40%	8.34%	8.30%	8.04%
_H	4.48%	4.55%	4.53%	4.42%	4.39%
_J	9.51%	9.96%	9.91%	9.34%	9.24%
_K	7.70%	7.15%	7.12%	7.65%	7.62%
_L	5.92%	7.23%	7.20%	5.92%	6.03%
_M	7.13%	7.80%	7.79%	7.21%	7.31%
_N	14.34%	15.29%	14.99%	13.95%	13.12%
_P	39.30%	40.79%	32.96%	29.12%	22.84%

The Group was able to conclude that none of the new methods would resolve the underlying problems of estimating embedded generation. However, of the solutions the Enhanced Issue 38 method offered the biggest improvement, particularly in the GSP Group _P, the North of Scotland. And the Enhanced Issue 38 Method would fix the problem where GSP Group Take approaches zero.

Group conclusions on Alternatives

The Group concluded that an Alternative that combined the Bank Holiday Solution (not including Scottish Bank Holidays) with the Enhanced Issue 38 solution should be taken forward as the Alternative Modification. Although neither of these solutions would more accurately forecast embedded generation, they did offer a central systems solution which would fix the other two issues. They should also have minimum impact on participants.

¹ See Attachment B, Appendix A for details of the two variants of this technique that we modelled.

Analysis undertaken by ELEXON

The Group requested that ELEXON undertake the following analysis.:

1. Error in Credit Calculation
2. Sensitivity analysis of error in Credit Calculation
3. Impact of Bank Holidays on the Credit Calculation
4. Scottish Bank Holidays
5. Further analysis on the Bank Holiday solution
6. How quickly are D0268 'Half Hourly Meter Technical Details' flows are sent under the current arrangements?
7. Hand Read Half Hourly Meters
8. What happens when GSP Group take tends to zero?
9. Link between Embedded Generation and Errors in Credit Checking
10. Why Does Estimation Break Down for Embedded Generation?
11. Is Embedded Generation Behaving Consistently Across the Country?
12. Potential Central System Alternatives
13. Proposed Modification – Benefit Analysis

The full results of the analysis can be found in Attachment B. Below is the summary of why we did each piece of analysis and what it told us.

Error in Credit Calculation

Why we did it?

To understand the error in the current credit calculation and how it would potentially compare to the Proposed Modification.

Group's conclusions

The Group commented that the analysis proves that the error in the current Credit Calculation is not an immaterial one. Financially, the greatest impact is on the larger Suppliers. The largest percentage impact is on smaller Suppliers with embedded generation. These Parties tend to lodge less credit cover in relative terms and so are more likely to notice the impact on their Credit Cover Percentage.

Sensitivity analysis of error in Credit Calculation

Why we did it?

To understand what would happen if there were errors in the SVA HH metered volumes used under the Proposed Modification. Would the error still be less than using the current estimation method?

Group's conclusions

The Group commented that the sensitivity analysis was conclusive. It was clear that for small Suppliers with embedded generation, latest run type data adjusted by as much as 5% to 10% is closer to actual metered volumes than II run data. For larger Suppliers the percentage adjustment is somewhat lower at less than 5%, although this may represent a much larger value in financial terms.

Impact of Bank Holidays on the Credit Calculation

Why we did it?

To work out whether the error in the credit calculation increased around Bank Holidays.

Group's conclusions

The Group commented that not only is the credit calculation affected on Bank Holiday Settlement Dates, but also Settlement Dates 21 days after the bank holiday, i.e when the bank holiday becomes the reference day.

The use of a Sunday as the reference day, rather than a 'like' day does reduce the error in the calculation for the August 2009 bank holiday. For the Christmas period the method is slightly less successful. If this solution were introduced, then an alternative for the bank holiday when it becomes the reference day would also need to be considered (see the Further analysis on the Bank Holiday solution).

Scottish Bank Holidays

Why we did it?

To see if we should also include Scottish Bank Holidays in the potential alternative solution?

Group's conclusions

The Group noted the analysis was inconclusive. They therefore commissioned the next set of analysis which was conclusive.

Further analysis on the Bank Holiday solution

Why we did it?

To test an updated solution where Bank Holidays were not used for the reference day, and to decide if Scottish Bank Holidays should be used in the solution.

Group's conclusions

The Group noted that using the previous like Settlement Day rather than the Bank Holiday as a reference day reduce the error. It was also clear that applying the Bank Holiday solution to Scottish Bank Holidays actually increased the error in the credit calculation. Hence the Group used the analysis to agree the Alternative Modification would not include Scottish Bank Holidays.

How quickly are D0268 'Half Hourly Meter Technical Details' flows are sent under the current arrangements?

Why we did it?

To see how quickly D0268 'Half Hourly Meter Technical Details' flows are sent under the current arrangements. I.e. on change of Supplier, how many sites can the Half Hourly Data Collector dial on Day 1.

Group's conclusions

Unfortunately, the data we were looking for in PARMs was not present. Hence ELEXON could not complete the analysis. The Group noted that respondents had provided mixed opinion as to whether the Change of Supplier/Agent processes would be impacted by P253.

Hand Read Half Hourly Meters

Why we did it?

One impact assessment respondent identified that some SVA Half Hourly Meters are permanently hand read. Thus it was extremely difficult for Data Collectors to provide Meter Readings in the Proposed Modification timescales.

What conclusions we made

The percentage of hand read SVA Half Hourly Meters is low (1.05%). The Group concluded that there would be relatively little impact on receiving Half Hourly Meter reads from permanent hand read Meters.

What happens when GSP Group take tends to zero?

Why we did it?

To show an example of what happens when GSP Group Take tends toward zero.

Group's conclusions

The Group concluded that the current credit calculation does not work well when GSP Group Take tends towards zero.

Link between Embedded Generation and Errors in Credit Checking

Why we did it?

To prove the link between the level of embedded generation in GSP Groups and the errors in the credit calculation.

Group's conclusions

The analysis shows there is a clear link between the levels of embedded generation and errors in the credit calculation.

Why Does Estimation Break Down for Embedded Generation?

Why we did it?

We wanted to further investigate what was causing the link between the level of embedded generation in GSP Groups and the errors in the credit calculation. Was it definitely the embedded generation?

Group's conclusions

The analysis clearly proves that it is the HH Exprt component that is fluctuating in an unpredictable way. This shows that it is the embedded generation which is causing errors in the credit calculation.

Is Embedded Generation Behaving Consistently Across the Country?

Why we did it?

To determine whether it was possible to see a pattern for embedded generation across the country.

Group's conclusions

The Group concluded that no pattern existed. This analysis further proved that it is very difficult to accurately predict embedded generation.

Potential Central System Alternatives

Why we did it?

To test whether any of the central systems alternatives would improve the credit calculation accuracy. The alternatives we tested were:

- The Current Method – apply an adjustment factor to the Metered Volumes from the reference period so that their total matches the current GSP Group Take
- Using Five Weeks of Historic Data – use data from the five most recent available weeks (rather than just one) in order to smooth out peaks and troughs. This option was suggested at the last Modification Group meeting.
- The Issue 38 Method – this is a variant of the current method that the Issue 38 Group examined. Rather than applying an adjustment factor to the previous Metered Volumes, the change in GSP Group Take (since the reference Settlement Period) is allocated among BM Units in proportion to the absolute size of their Metered Volume.
- Enhanced Issue 38 Method – this is the potential central systems solution we mentioned at the last meeting, which can be seen as a variant of the Issue 38 method. The change in GSP Group Take is allocated among BM Units in proportion to the total absolute value of their Import and Export (as opposed to the Issue 38 method, which allocates in proportion to the absolute value of the net Metered Volume).

Group's conclusions

None of the potential alternatives appear to resolve the underlying accuracy issue. Their accuracy appears to be (at best) only slightly higher than the current method (except possibly in North Scotland, where all of them seem somewhat better than the current method).

Although this is disappointing, it is consistent with the idea that embedded generation is intrinsically hard to predict.

The advantage that the alternative methods of estimation have over the current approach is that they seem to work better in North Scotland i.e. they are more robust to very high levels of embedded generation. The Group therefore agreed it would progress the best of the potential alternative – the Enhanced Issue 38 solution.

Proposed Modification – Benefit Analysis

Why we did it?

In order to understand the cost-benefit of the Proposed Modification.

Group's conclusions

The majority of the Group believes that the benefits of the Proposed Modification clearly outweigh the costs. See main document Section 7 and Attachment B for more details.

5 Timetable and Responsibilities

Costs

Estimated progression costs based on proposed timetable	
Meeting costs (including Modification Group member expenses)	£1,500
Non-ELEXON legal and expert costs	£0
Service Provider impact assessment costs	£3,000
ELEXON resource	38 man days, equating to £11,350

Timetable

Assessment activity	Date
Modification Group meeting 1	29 March 2010
Draft Requirements Specification	30 March to 08 April 2010
Industry Impact Assessment	09 April 2010 to 07 May 2010
Modification Group meeting 2	12 May 2010
Conduct analysis	13 May 2010 to 01 July 2010
Modification Group meeting 3	02 July 2010
Conduct further analysis	03 July 2010 to 26 July 2010
Modification Group meeting 4	27 July 2010
Draft consultation document	28 July to 05 August 2010
Assessment Procedure Consultation	06 to 20 August 2010
Modification Group meeting 4	24 August 2010
Draft Assessment Report	25 August 2010 to 02 September 2010
Submit Assessment Report to Panel	03 September 2010
Present Assessment Report to Panel	09 September 2010

Attendance List

Member	Organisation	29/03/10	19/05/10	02/07/10	27/07/10
Adam Lattimore	ELEXON (Chairman)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tabish Khan	ELEXON (Lead Analyst)	✓	-	-	-
Andrew Wright	ELEXON (lead Analyst)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chris Stewart	Centrica	✓	✓	X	✓
Gary Henderson	SAIC	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marc Bradbrook	Haven Power	✓	✓	X	X
Chris Stribling	Ecotricity	✓	X	X	✓
Colette Baldwin	E.ON UK	✓	X	X	X

Member	Organisation	29/03/10	19/05/10	02/07/10	27/07/10
Andy Colley	Scottish and Southern	X	✓	✓	✓
Martin Mate	EDF Energy	✓	X	X	X
Imtiaaz Sali	EnDCo	✓	X	✓	X
Fiona Upton	npower	✓	X	X	-
Jenny Higgins	npower	-	-	-	✓
Attendee	Organisation				
David Ahmad	ELEXON (Lawyer)	✓	X	X	X
John Lucas	ELEXON (Design Authority)	✓	✓	X	X
Raihana Braimah	Ofgem	✓	X	X	X
Tabish Khan	Ofgem	-	✓	✓	X
Jenny Higgins	npower	✓	X	X	-
Sarah Scott	npower	X	✓	X	X
Roz Hartley	ELEXON	X	X	✓	✓