

<b>Change Proposal – BSCP40/02</b>	CP No: CP1345  <i>Version No:1.0</i> <i>(mandatory by BSCCo)</i>
<b>Title</b>  <b>Migration of interface between National Grid and BMRA/SAA/ECVAA from CSV to XML file format</b>	
<b>Description of Problem/Issue</b>  National Grid intends to replace its Balancing Mechanism (BM) system with the new Electricity Balancing System (EBS) in Q3 2013 <sup>1</sup> . The BM system is the source of System Operator data sent to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Balancing Mechanism Reporting Agent (BMRA) for reporting to industry via the Balancing Mechanism Reporting Service (BMRS);</li> <li>• the Settlement Administration Agent (SAA) for use in settlement calculations; and</li> <li>• the Energy Contract Volume Aggregation Agent (ECVAA) for use in credit checking.</li> </ul> National Grid’s current BM system sends data to BMRA, SAA and ECVAA in Comma Separated Value (CSV) format. The data in a CSV file is defined by its position in the file and changes to the data in the file require the synchronised activation of new code at both the National Grid and BSC Agent ends.  The new EBS uses the Extensible Markup Language (XML) data format internally (as do all similar vendor systems) and as standard in its interfaces with other systems.  The introduction of the new EBS is an opportunity to modernise this interface, from CSV which has its roots in punched-card data input, to the widely used XML. ELEXON is supportive of the strategy of moving to XML interfaces. It is noted that Cross Border Balancing data is already sent in XML format.  The issue that this Change Proposal addresses is the requirement and timescales for the migration of National Grid’s interface with BMRA/SAA/ECVAA from CSV to XML format.	
<b>Proposed Solution</b>  This Change Proposal follows on from the Draft Change Proposal number 0048 which was raised and consulted on during February 2011. Following positive and neutral responses we recommend that our preferred solution from the DCP is implemented, this recommends that no changes to the National Grid to BMRA/SAA/ECVAA interface are undertaken at go-live. Instead a new XML interface will be developed in parallel to the current CSV format as part of the new EBS Project to allow for future changes to be implemented in XML format. The XML interface will not be implemented at go-live; instead subsequent new or changed interfaces will be able to be implemented in XML.  Any remaining CSV interfaces could be converted to XML at a suitable opportunity e.g. when amending or re-engineering central systems.	

<sup>1</sup> This date is indicative and may change.

Please note that this change only impacts the interface between National Grid and the BSC Central Systems, namely, the BMRA, SAA and ECVAA. With the exception of National Grid, it does not impact any BSC Parties and the format of the data that BSC parties receive will not change.

### **Justification for Change**

The industry has previously expressed its frustration at the long lead-times and high costs for the progression of BSC and other industry modifications that involve changes to National Grid's BM system. National Grid is taking steps to address industry concerns by minimising costs and lead times where possible.

One such step is to propose migrating the National Grid to BMRA/SAA/ECVAA interface from CSV to XML format with the objective of making it quicker and cheaper to progress changes to the data sent via this interface. Such a migration would be particularly effective in reducing the timescales and costs for the average change, as the majority of BSC and other industry modification changes to the BM system since NETA go-live were essentially interface changes to facilitate greater data reporting, rather than changes to the core of the systems.

This Change Proposal to implement XML when interfaces are created or changed for other reasons avoids the costs of migrating all the interfaces to XML in one go for EBS go-live.

It means that National Grid can concentrate on the CSV version of the interface for go-live which minimises risks of problems with BMRA/SAA/ECVAA data at EBS go-live and to the timescales and costs of National Grid's EBS Project.

A separate industry consultation<sup>2</sup> carried out by National Grid on the system interfaces (among other areas of system functionality) between market participants and National Grid has shown that the industry is supportive of moving to modern interfaces such as those based on XML.

### **To which section of the Code does the CP relate, and does the CP facilitate the current provisions of the Code? (mandatory by originator)**

The CP supports provisions of section Q of the BSC which oblige National Grid to send data to BSCCo.

### **Estimated Implementation Costs (mandatory by BSCCo)**

ELEXON's implementation cost is 1 man day of effort equating to £240.

### **Configurable Items Affected by Proposed Solution(s) (mandatory by originator)**

NETA Interface Definition and Design (IDD) Part 2

BMRA & SAA Interface Specification:

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Codes/gridcode/associateddocs/>.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Balancing/EBS/>

**Impact on Core Industry Documents or System Operator-Transmission Owner Code**

*n/a*

**Related Changes and/or Projects** (*mandatory by BSCCo*)

*n/a*

**Requested Implementation Date**

3 November 2011 for the NETA IDD Part 2

**Reason:**

*n/a*

**Version History** (*mandatory by BSCCo*)

v1.0 for Industry Impact Assessment

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Attachments: Y/~~N~~\* (If Yes, No. of Pages attached: 1)  
(delete as appropriate)