SVG/23/290

Meeting name	SVG
Date of meeting	16 December 2002
Paper Title	CHANGES TO THE SUPPLIER VOLUME ALLOCATION METER ADVANCE RECONCILIATION REQUIREMENTS
Purpose of Paper	For Decision
Synopsis	This paper presents the conclusions reached by the data estimation group on the subject of Supplier Volume Allocation (SVA) Meter Advance Reconciliation (MAR). SVG are requested to approve that the attached draft Change Proposal (CP) is issued for Detailed Level Impact Assessment (DLIA) to Parties and Party Agents.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 At the meeting on 8 October 2002 (SVG/21/257), the conclusions of the data estimation group were presented to SVG. SVG approved the group's proposals for data estimation and agreed that a further meeting of the data estimation group should be held solely to discuss the MAR requirements of BSCP502 'Half Hourly Data Collection for SVA Metering Systems Registered in SMRS'.

1.2 The data estimation group (the group) met on 24 October 2002. This meeting was attended by Suppliers, Half Hourly Data Collectors (HHDCs), Meter Operator Agents (MOAs) and ELEXON. Appendix 1 contains a list of those attending the meeting.

1.3 The group discussed various issues relating to MAR, and the potential use of a mini-MAR.

2. DISCUSSIONS AND RESEARCH

2.1 Following consultation with the group, ELEXON has contacted Meter manufacturers to establish what cumulative Meter register readings can be remotely retrieved by the HHDC on interrogation, and the relationship of those register readings with the physical register displayed on the Meter.

2.2 The conclusions reached for all Metering Systems where responses were received from Meter manufacturers (one manufacturer failed to respond) were:

2.2.1 that, without exception, the time of the 'internal electronic register' readings relate to when interrogation takes place, ie. current time; and

2.2.2 there is no difference in the readings of the 'internal electronic register' and the Meter register, ie. the register displayed on the front of the Meter. They are derived from the same source.

2.3 A number of the group believed that the possibility of human error was high when taking and logging a manual read on site, and was much reduced when readings are taken remotely.

2.4 The group also highlighted that for Meters with integral Outstations, any problems that would be picked up by carrying out a site visit for the purpose of a MAR could also be picked up by the Instation following interrogation of the Meter / Outstation.

3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1 From the discussions with the group and the subsequent research mentioned earlier, there is no apparent reason to go to site for the purpose of taking a reading to perform a MAR for Meters with integral Outstations.

3.2 It is therefore proposed that, for Meters with integral Outstations, a MAR (commonly referred to as a mini-MAR) should be performed using the cumulative Meter register readings retrieved remotely. This shall be carried out on a weekly basis since it is believed that the period over which this type of MAR should be calculated should not be more than 50% of the data storage capacity of the average four-quadrant Meter. This is a minimum requirement. In addition, HHDCs may wish to perform mini-MARs for different time periods.

3.3 The tolerance for a weekly MAR should be set at ±0.6%. This will take into account the possible error created because the time of interrogation does not align exactly with the end of a Settlement Period (SP) and there is potentially up to an additional 30 minutes worth of energy recorded in the Meter advance compared to the individual HH data for the same period. The proposed tolerance also caters for the possibility that the demand during this extended period of Meter advance is greater than the average demand for the whole MAR period.

3.4 This will mean that HHDCs will no longer need to take into account and allow for the cumulative readings having not been taken at the end of a SP and allocating a proportion of the total Meter advance to the extended period.

3.5 Data estimation which has occurred during the period of the MAR calculation, however, will still need to be considered.

3.6 There is no intention to amend the obligation on HHDCs to go to site annually to perform a site safety check, however, the group highlighted that the access rate on the annual site safety visit is poor. A means of addressing this issue may be achieved by introducing a new performance assurance serial. ELEXON will pursue this further and produce a CP if required.

3.7 SVG should note that there is evidence (following receipt of audit reports and subsequent analysis provided by MOAs) to suggest that proving tests are not being carried out in line with BSCP502. Where a proving test has not been carried out and MARs are carried out on a weekly basis using the cumulative Meter register reading retrieved remotely by the HHDC, there is no check that the data retrieved remotely by the HHDC is the same as that displayed on the physical Meter register. ELEXON held an industry workshop on 27 September 2002 to discuss SVA proving tests in which a number of issues were raised. The notes from this meeting are included in appendix 3. ELEXON are progressing these issues separately to the MAR requirements. On the basis that the evidence suggests that proving tests are not being carried out across the market in accordance with BSCP502, ELEXON intend to evaluate a method of proving test monitoring and will present a paper to the February meeting of SVG, outlining proposals for monitoring proving tests, subject to the views of SVG. By monitoring proving tests in this way, ELEXON will be able to determine whether there are still issues with the proving process that need to be addressed.

3.8 There is no intention to amend the Existing obligations on HHDCs for those Metering Systems with separate Meters and Outstations, which require a site visit to physically read the Meter register and to carry out a MAR at least once every three months.

4. WAY FORWARD

4.1 The attached CP (Appendix 2) has been written to outline the proposed revised MAR requirements. It highlights the changes required to the Code Subsidiary Documents and is supported by the group.

4.2 SVG are requested to approve that the attached CP is logged and issued for Detailed Level Impact Assessment (DLIA) to Parties and Party Agents. The results of the DLIA will be presented to SVG for approval, subject to DLIA results, at a subsequent meeting. The proposed Implementation Date is 29 May 2003. This ties in with the proposed Implementation Date for the revised data estimation technique proposals (CP873 'Changes to the Half Hourly Data Estimation Requirements within the Code Subsidiary Documents').

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The SVG are invited to:

i) NOTE the conclusions of the group;

ii) AGREE that ELEXON should evaluate a method of proving test monitoring;

iii) APPROVE that the attached CP is logged and issued for DLIA to Parties and Party Agents; and

iv) NOTE the proposed Implementation Date of 29 May 2003.

Katie Key
Business Analyst

List of enclosures

Appendix 1: List of Attendees
Appendix 2: Draft Change Proposal and associated attachement
Appendix 3: Notes of Proving Test meeting

List of Attendees

Name	Company	Representing
Ceri Hughes	ELEXON	BSCCo
Katie Key	ELEXON	BSCCo
Malcolm Rowley	ELEXON	BSCCo
Ralph Sutton	ELEXON	BSCCo
Sara Ames	Powergen	Supplier
Bruce Wyatt	NPower	Supplier
Liam Smith	NPower	Supplier
Dave Ackrill	Powergen	Supplier
Roger Sparks	Western Power Distribution	Meter Operator Agent
Jonathan Woodthorpe	NPower	Meter Operator Agent
Paul Meadows	Siemens	Meter Operator Agent
Julie Batchelor	IMServ	Half Hourly Data Collector
Eric Graham	DataServe	Half Hourly Data Collector
Tony Morris	Siemens	Half Hourly Data Collector