

## **Distribution Code Review Panel** **EREC P18 Working Group**

### **Terms of Reference** **June 2020**

#### **Introduction**

Engineering Recommendation (EREC) P18 was last revised in 1978 and provides planning guidance for 132kV distribution network circuits. EREC P18 is listed as a Qualifying Standard (Annex 2) document in the Distribution Code.

A review of EREC P18 conducted in 2018 found that while much of the technical content of EREC P18 is still relevant, the document is in need of further review. Although the document appears to have served the industry well since it was published, the technical content needs to be revised to consider changes that have occurred through the evolution of modern distribution network circuits. A significant driver behind these changes can be attributed to the growth of Distributed Generation and the impact that this has had at voltages other than just 132kV.

These changes require a more comprehensive set of guidelines so that system planners can ensure network designs do not inadvertently introduce additional risk in operating and maintaining distribution networks. Stakeholders have proposed to the DCRP that the scope of EREC P18 needs to be reviewed and updated accordingly.

A Working Group to review of EREC P18 and the associated legal text in the Distribution Code has been sanctioned by the Energy Networks Association (ENA) on behalf of the Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP).

#### **Aim**

The aim of the P18 Revision Working Group is to:

- Identify changes and impacts to the complexity of circuits on modern distribution networks.
- Consider and recommend modifications to EREC P18 which better facilitate the objectives of the Distribution Code.
- Propose associated legal text changes to the Distribution Code and any other code documents affected.
- Modify the document to cover a wider range of circuit arrangements in line with the inclusion of additional voltage levels. (22kV > 132kV)

#### **Scope**

The EREC P18 Revision Working Group will:

- Identify changes to the complexity of circuits on modern distribution networks
- Consider the impacts on circuit complexity across a range of distribution voltages
- Consider changes to the P18 document including:

- Re-classification of the document to accommodate other voltages (22kV, 33kV and 66kV)
- Updates to account for the impact of DER and other emerging technologies
- Recognition of the roles of network automation and different classes of network equipment i.e. types of switchgear
- A range of illustrative examples of compliant and non-compliant network configurations
- Design options for mitigating network complexity i.e. acceptable methods for splitting a single circuit
- Prepare a revised draft of EREC P18 taking into consideration all changes recommended and agreed by the Working Group. This should also include re-visiting the existing text and further clarifying technical requirements and definitions.
- Prepare relevant Distribution Code Public Consultation documentation.
- Review Distribution Code Stakeholder Commentary, accommodating any relevant changes into the revised draft EREC P18.
- Prepare final modification report for the DCRP to make a recommendation to the Authority.

## **Membership**

All DCode Stakeholders are invited to attend and actively participate on the Working Group with membership approved by the DCRP.

- Membership will be capped to 32 members

## **Governance**

The DCode Administrator will facilitate meetings of the EREC P18 Revision Working Group and the secretariat for the group will be provided by the DCode Administrator.

A representative on the panel will be elected by the DCRP to chair the panel. The chair shall remain in place until the member step downs from the position.

The EREC P18 WG will endeavour to operate on the basis of consensus. Each of the member organisation's positions shall be considered with equal weighting. The DCRP will have oversight of the activities and dictate the strategic direction as appropriate.

The EREC P18 Revision Working Group meetings will normally be held at the ENA Offices, London or via WebEx teleconference unless agreed otherwise.

Following each meeting, the DCode secretariat will ensure that a record of action notes is completed and where necessary documents are circulated and actions followed up.

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the EREC P18 Working Group on an as needed basis or on the basis of significant changes being made to strategic objectives of the group.

The EREC P18 WG will be a group that operates until the DCRP considers the Working Group activities have delivered its' objectives.

## **Meeting Frequency**

The Working Group will meet on an as needed basis with the constituent members deciding the working groups next meetings at the closing of each meeting or as identified by the secretariat.

## Timescales

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Revise Restrictions Section; include Functional Switching, Zone Protection, Isolation	2 months
Revise and update terms and definitions section	3 months

## Compliance

ENA Member Companies and Associates must at all times comply with the requirements of Competition Law (the Competition Act 1998, the Enterprise Act 2002 and Articles 81 and 82 of the EC Treaty) and must not engage in any practice which will or may prevent, restrict or distort competition or constitute an abuse of a dominant position.