

The Distribution Code Review Panel of Great Britain

Meeting 4 June 2015

Revision to Engineering Recommendation P28 – Progress to date

Paper by Gary Eastwood, Chair of the Joint GCRP & DCRP P28 Working Group

In June 2014, the Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP) and the Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) of Great Britain (GB) jointly sanctioned the review of Engineering Recommendation (ER) P28, Planning Limits for Voltage Fluctuations Caused by Industrial, Commercial and Domestic Equipment in the United Kingdom. The need for revision was prompted by significant changes in Standards and potentially disturbing equipment since P28 Issue 1 was last published in 1989.

As part of Phase 1 (Planning Phase), a joint GCRP and DCRP P28 Working Group was formed in the last quarter of 2014 following engagement with all relevant stakeholders. ENA has appointed Threepwood Consulting Ltd (TCL), who are providing the Chair, project management and secretariat services for the P28 Working Group. The inaugural meeting of the P28 Working Group took place in December 2014, where the Terms of Reference were drafted for approval by the DCRP.

Phase 2 (Review Phase) is concerned with defining the review requirements and preparing a detailed project plan for the revision of the document. The review work, culminating in the delivery of an interim report by the P28 Working Group, detailing the nature and extent of revisions to P28 is scheduled for completion at the end of July 2015. Phase 2 is currently running to programme and budget.

The only main issue that has arisen to date relates to proposed changes to the scope of the revised P28. The Terms of Reference initially widened the scope of revision beyond user disturbing equipment to all disturbing equipment that can potentially produce voltage fluctuations and associated light flicker. This included consideration of rapid voltage changes (RVCs) caused by transformer magnetising in-rush currents. Following concerns raised by a number of network operators, and subsequent consultation with members of the P28 Working Group, the Terms of Reference have been amended (see Appendix 1) to clarify the intention that, for the time being, P28 will remain a 'customer facing' document and that overarching policies and limitations with respect to voltage fluctuation will be contained within the Distribution Code. Notwithstanding, the Working Group will consider the adequacy of requirements for limiting voltage fluctuation in DPC4 of the Distribution Code and will recommend any necessary changes to the DCRP; this could include what voltage fluctuation aspects of DPC4, in particular those in DPC4.2.3.2, could or should be incorporated within ER P28.

Wherever possible, the P28 Working Group will seek to harmonise related requirements/limits in the Grid Code, the Distribution Code and ER P28 and are agreed on the need to be fair and even-handed in the application of requirements, taking into account the different operating context and objectives of users and network operators.

Revision and drafting of the P28 revision (Phase 3) will commence in August 2015 and is scheduled to be complete within 12 months from that date.

DCRP Recommendation

The Panel is requested to note progress