RETAIL ENERGY CODE

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STATUS	FOR DECISION

R0009 – INTRODUCTION OF SDEP AND EES USER MAINTENANCE API

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1 PURPOSE

This paper provides the Technical Expert Panel with an overview of the document provided to it with respect to R0009 – Introduction of SDEP and EES User Maintenance API.

It clarifies the approval required to be made by the Technical Expert Panel Members of the Preliminary Change Report and to move to consultation.

2 BACKGROUND

Secure Data Exchange Portal

The Secure Data Exchange Portal (SDEP) a module of the Electricity Enquiry Service (EES) was introduced in August 2020. It is an online secure platform which allows a standardised way of communicating between Retail Energy Code (REC) Parties when resolving missing or disputed data, escalations and other queries. The REC requires Energy Suppliers and Distribution Network Operators to use the SDEP when sending operational queries and escalations across the industry. On average over 90,000 messages are sent using the SDEP each month.

Prior to the introduction of the SDEP, email was the main form of communication between industry parties for the sharing of data. Several parties developed automated solutions to manage the sending and response to emails as part of their operational processes, however, the SDEP itself does not currently have this functionality. This means industry parties that were previously able to automate their processes fully or partially are no longer able to do so. Each action to raise or reply to a communication must be done manually.

Electricity Enquiry Service

In the Electricity Enquiry Service (EES) a Master Administration User (MAU) or other Authorised Persons with 'User Maintenance' permissions assigned to them can create, delete, and manage permissions for other users manually through the Graphical User Interface (GUI). In scenarios where changes need to be made to a large volume of user accounts, there is no mechanism to manage these in bulk. This has caused issues when setting up user permissions for the SDEP (which need to be set up individually for each user, message, and Market Participant Role), and managing mass changes to user accounts (such as changes to email domains, transfer of MPIDs, or large volumes of new users or leavers).

A period of analysis was undertaken to understand the user requirements and use case for the API. During this phase the Code Manager identified the underlying factors causing constraints with the systems, to ensure it was clear what issues needed to be addressed as part of the proposed solution.

Prior to the REC, these changes had been explored under the Master Registration Agreement (MRA), resulting in a draft API Technical Specification being produced, however, the change was not progressed at that time due to the transition to the REC. As part of the initial analysis activity, the Technical Specification was reviewed with both the Service Providers and the Proposer. Outstanding design areas were identified that needed to be addressed during the solution development activity, following this the Requirements Specification was drafted to support Impact Assessment activity.

A Service Provider Impact Assessment was issued to the EES Provider on 07 March 2022. A Party Impact Assessment was published by the Code Manager on 13 May 2022, inviting REC Parties to provide their responses by 15 June 2022. Eight responses were received from Parties, five from Energy Suppliers and three from Distribution Network Operators.

The responses from the Impact Assessments have supported the assessment of the business case, as set out in the Preliminary Change Report.

3 COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Overall, the Code Manager doesn't believe the intangible benefits are sufficient to justify the implementation of the Change Proposal, which would incur significant cost, as set out in section 11.1 of the Preliminary Change Report.

This minded-to position is based on the limited detail provided by REC Parties in their responses to the Party Impact Assessment.

The Code Manager will attempt to secure further tangible benefits from REC Parties through the consultation process, to support the case for change.

The Code Manager recommends that the Technical Expert Panel reject Change Proposal R0009.

4 CONSULTATION PLAN AND NEXT STEPS

The consultation on this Preliminary Change Report will be published on the REC Portal on **30 September 2022**. Consultation closes on **21 October 2022**. As part of the Consultation, Parties will be asked to provide any potential tangible benefits expected to be achieved, to support the Code Manager's re-evaluation of the cost benefit analysis and the current position on the case for change.

Following consultation, the Code Manager will produce an updated version of this Preliminary Change Report (referred to as the Final Change Report). This will include the outcome of the consultation, setting out a summary of the responses received and the Code Manager's response.

The Final Change Report will be issued to Technical Expert Panel to make its determination.