Update on the South-West (Cork / Kerry) SEM Constraint Group

Introduction

EirGrid have reviewed conditions for the implementation of the South-West (Cork / Kerry) SEM Constraint Group. EirGrid submitted the findings of this review for noting by the SEM Committee and they are outlined below.

South-West Constraint Group

When the South-West Constraint Group was identified it was envisaged that a SEM Constraint Group would be established in 2015/16. The timing was based on the expected completion of network reinforcements including a number of 220 kV stations.

SEM Committee Decision Paper SEM-13-012 states that "*a constraint group identified and modelled by the TSOs for the South-West of Ireland (as defined in SEM-12-076) will be implemented from the date at which the constraints in this region become binding. This is expected to be the date at which the 220 kV stations are built.*"

While the 220 kV stations are scheduled to be complete in 2017 following the integration of Kilpaddoge 220 kV station, a number of the identified reinforcements which were expected to be complete before the stations are still in progress. These reinforcements (with their scheduled completion dates as of June 2017[1]) are:

- Kilpaddoge – Moneypoint 220 kV Cable (2017)
- Clashavoon – Dunmanway 110 kV Circuit (2017)
- Clashavoon - Macroom 110 kV Circuit 2 (2018)
- Uprate of Tarbert/Kilpaddoge – Clashavoon 220 kV Circuits
    - Kilpaddoge – Knockanure Circuit (2017)
    - Knockanure – Ballynahulla Circuit (2019)
    - Ballynahulla – Ballyvouskill Circuit (2019)
    - Ballyvouskill – Clashavoon (Complete)

EirGrid assessed if the Constraint Group should be established in advance of the completion of the other reinforcements.

[1] The scheduled completion dates for these projects are published on the quarterly Associated Transmission Reinforcement updates.

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The findings of the review confirmed that the identified network reinforcements need to be complete to facilitate the implementation of the Constraint Group. Therefore the South-West Constraint Group will not be established at this time.

EirGrid will keep this matter under review and will engage further with the SEM Committee and customers as the identified reinforcements are completed.

Appendix: Background to the Establishment of the South-West Constraint Group

In December 2011 the Single Electricity Market Committee (SEMC) published a decision paper entitled *Treatment of Price Taking Generation in Tie-Breaks in Dispatch in the Single Electricity Market and Associated Issues* (SEM-11-105). Subsequently, following further consultation on curtailment, the SEMC published a decision paper entitled *Constraint Groups Arising from SEM-11-105* (SEM-13-012).

SEM-11-105 required the TSOs to undertake modelling to identify Constraint Groups. A Constraint Group consists of a group of windfarms which contribute to a specified set of system issues within an electrical boundary. To manage these systems issues, should they occur, constraints must be applied to the windfarms within the Constraint Group in a specific order as outlined in SEM-12-076 (see below for further information).

Three Constraint Groups were identified, including one in the South-West of Ireland. The Donegal Constraint Group has been in operation since May 2014. The third potential constraint group identified was for Northern Ireland and there is no proposal to establish this at this time.

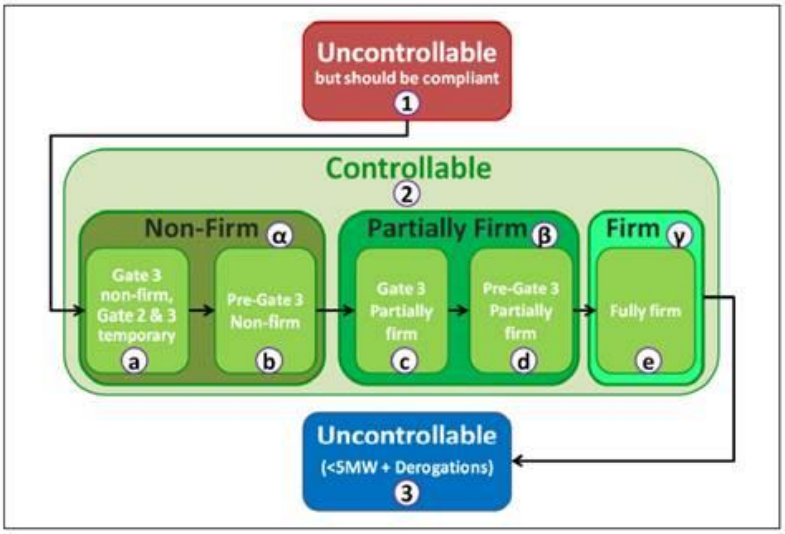
Dispatch of Generation

The SEMC decision papers, referenced above, which regulate the dispatch rule-set stipulate that a hierarchy for dispatching generation down should be employed based on the dispatchability of the units in question i.e. in order of categorization[2].

- Category 1: Plant which is not controllable but should be.
- Category 2: Controllable plant.
- Category 3: Uncontrollable plant (derogated or <5 MW)

Dispatch of Generation in a Constraint Group

A second order hierarchy is applicable to Category 2 windfarms in a Constraint Group. The position of Category 2 windfarms within a Constraint Group is dependent on Firm Access and Gate (SEM-12-076).



[2] EirGrid and SONI publish monthly updates of the categorisation of windfarms e.g. May 2017 Update