**REC Podcast Transcript – 06 December 2023**

**December Release 2023**

***Paul Rocke***

*Hello and welcome to the REC Podcast – the bite-sized show that brings the latest news from the Retail Energy Code straight to your ears. I’m your host Paul Rocke, the Head of Communications within the Code Manager team.*

*Today I’m joined by Holly Law, the Code Release Manager, as we explore the Change Proposals about to be implemented in the REC Release scheduled for the 06 December 2023. Welcome Holly – tell me all about what’s going into REC Version 3.7.*

**Holly Law**

Thanks Paul, and thanks for having me back again. We have our next REC release coming up on Wednesday 6th December and I wanted to take some time to talk through the Change Proposals that have been approved for this release. There are 5 CPs approved for this release.

The first one is R0067 – Introduction of CSS refresh functionality. CSS Market Messages sent by the Central Switching Service (CSS) to Switching Data Service Providers (SDSPs) are either not being received, being received after Gate Closure, or are being received out of the order that they were originally sent in. This Change Proposal seeks to introduce a refresh and resend functionality to mitigate these issues for SDSPs however, it is being tested initially for the Gas Retail Data Agent (GRDA) as the impacts are most prominent within its service. Once delivered, the refresh and resend functionality will be available for other SDSPs who may wish to connect their systems.

The resend or refresh messages to be included in the solution for this Change Proposal are:

* Registration SecuredActive Synchronisation (resend)
* Registration Cancelled Synchronisation (resend)
* Registration Event Synchronisation (refresh)

The Rec products impacted by this change are:

Schedule 1 – Interpretations and definitions, Schedule 24 – Switching Data Management and Schedule 27 – RMP Lifecycle.

***PR***

*Brilliant, thanks very much Holly. Probably worth saying, of course, for this Change and all the other Changes we’ll discuss today, details about all the Changes can be on the REC Portal via the Change and Release area of the Portal. Great, what’s next on the list to go in?*

**HL**

The next one is R0128 – Removal of CSS business rule 1177 to reflect OFAF optionality. This Change looks to remove business rule 1177, from the Central Switching Service (CSS) Message Business Data Validation Rules, which mandates that all Suppliers have a ‘One Fail All Fail’ (OFAF) reference included in their Switching Operational Data record in CSS. This was not the intended design. The Switching Operator has scheduled an update to the functionality to meet the original design. On implementation of the system update, the REC Data Specification needs to reflect the updated functionality.

***PR***

*Understood! What else do we have going into this Release?*

**HL**

R0136 – Change to REC Schedule Change to Market Stabilisation Charge (MSC). This Change Proposal seeks to deliver two changes to REC Schedule 22 – Market Stabilisation Charge.

The first Change will update the statement timescales in Schedule 22 to ensure that this is appropriately aligned with the statement Schedule. It currently says that within 10 Working Days after the end of each MSC-4-Week Cycle, RECCo shall send each Energy Supplier a statement in respect of that MSC-4-Week Cycle which contradicts the 15 days set out in Process Maps shared with Parties during the development of the administration arrangements of the Market Stabilisation Charge.

The second Change seeks to update the disputes Section (Section 7) of Schedule 22 to include reference to Credit Advice Notes. Suppliers are querying how they may raise a dispute when they believe they are not entitled to the monies stated on Credit Advice Notices as this process is not set out in the Schedule.

***PR***

*What’s the next Change on the list?*

**HL**

RECCo has also identified an opportunity for Consumers to benefit from improved product and service offerings through an Open First Culture. Further work is being progressed and is highlighted in [RECCo’s Open Data Review](https://www.retailenergycode.co.uk/fs/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Final-Open-Data-Review-v.1.pdf) paper which can be found on their website at retailenergycode.co.uk. The implementation of R0118 will assist in the move towards classification-based access within the REC which will be addressed through a later Change Proposal.

So a Summary of the changes are:

* The Gas DAM and Electricity DAM will both move from a Category 2 to a Category 3 Document
* A new appendix to the DAMs will also be added; the Enquiry Service User Category which will list the categories of Data Access and the purposes of the access
* REC PAB will be the owner of the DAMs (and the new appendix).
* Schedule 12 and the REC Baseline Statement will be amended to reflect these new responsibilities
* The PAB Procedures document will also be updated with a broad statement that the PAB will accept/reject any changes to the Category 3 documents in which it is responsible
* Will go through CAT 3 CP- shorter process for sign off- one approval point, not tied to releases so we don’t have to wait for it to be included in a release

The front-end process for requesting data is not changing, so continue to do what you do now. It’s the internal process that is changing and should be a much quicker, smoother process for access requests.

We’ll constantly review the process and carry out lessons learned, so this is a constantly evolving and improving process.

***PR***

*Great, thanks Holly. That sounds like it’s going to be a good one for improving the efficiency of the management of the Code. For those not so informed when you say DAM you are referring to the Data Access Matrices, is that right?*

**HL**

That’s right, yeah, so it’s the Gas and the Electricity Data Matrices and anybody applying for either additional access or new access to those Matrices.

***PR***

*Fantastic, thank you very much! And I believe that leaves us with one final Change Proposal in this release.*

**HL**

R0149 | Updates to the EES API Interface Specification. The EES Provider has made some alterations to the EES API Interface Specification to incorporate new data items that support Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) Stage 0 as well as some housekeeping changes and clarifications to the methods within the API.

Without the updated Technical Specification, EES API users will not be able to utilise the new data items or have further detail on the data items returned in the methods.

So, in summary, that’s 5 CPs for the December 2023 Extraordinary REC release. The REC products that will be impacted are the REC products that will be impacted are 1, 12, 22, 24, 27, GAS & Electricity DAM, Data Specification: CSS Message Business Data Validation Rules, PAB Procedures, EES API Interface Specification.

***PR***

*Fantastic, and remind me of where we can find all of the information about the CPs again?*

**HL**

Sure, I know it’s a lot of information, but all the CP’s can be found on the REC Portal, and on the Release Management page there is a Release Plan that provides an overview of all the CP’s included in this Release and the parties and products impacted. On 23rd November I hosted a drop-in session, the slides and the recording can also be found on the Release Page on the Portal under the December Release.

We’re always looking for ways to improve, and I’d love to hear from anyone on what they’d like to see as part of future releases. There’ll be a feedback survey sent out after the December Release, or you can get in touch with directly before then, just drop me an email at holly.law@recmanager.co.uk

***PR***

*Great thanks Holly. When can we expect to hear from you about the next release in the cycle?*

**HL**

The next standard release is on the 23rd February 2024, and so far we have 2 CP’s approved for that date, with more targeting yet to be approved. You can find details of these on the release page on the REC portal, and as always, I’ll be hosting a drop-in session and another podcast closer to the time.

***PR***

*Well thanks Holly, it’s always a pleasure to speak to you about REC Change and Release, I certainly feel like I’m more knowledgeable about the imminent changes to the code.*

*For now, that’s all we have time for. I hope you’ve enjoyed listening, and that it’s been useful to hear more about the upcoming December 2023 Extraordinary REC Release. I’ll speak to you on the next one.*