Annex E – TI API Technical Specification

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Consultation Questions

Question E1: Do you agree with introducing a new REC Category 2 TI API Technical Specification covering the proposed Phase 1b requirements and specified existing Phase 1a interoperability requirements? Please explain your answer.

Question E2: Are the proposed requirements in the TI API Technical Specification clear, complete and workable? If not, please identify the relevant section, explain the issue and its impact, and propose a correction.

Question E3: Have you identified any additional changes to the API Technical Specification necessary to support TI Phase 1b? If so, please identify the relevant section, explain why the change is required, its potential impact and your proposed resolution.

Question E4: Do you agree with moving the specified existing TI Phase 1a interoperability requirements into the new Category 2 TI API Technical Specification? Please identify any requirements that should be included or excluded and explain any implementation, governance or compliance impacts.

Introduction

1. This annex sets out the proposed new TI API Technical Specification for TI Phase 1b.

2. It is a new REC Category 2 artefact that provides governance for the detailed technical arrangements that enable TI Users and RTI Users to interact with TI Energy Suppliers to facilitate the TI arrangements.

3. The development of this new document recognises the increased technical complexity of TI Phase 1b, and our aim to clearly state the technical obligations that TI Energy Suppliers and RTI Users must comply with. This means that all requirements will be set out in REC Category 2 documents (i.e. REC Schedule 35, EMDS and the new TI API Technical Specification). Including information in a REC Category 2 document allows formal obligations to be placed on TI Energy Suppliers and RTI Users, with REC Category 3 (in this case the TI Developer Portal) being used to provide technical and operational guidance.

4. In addition to the requirements for TI Phase 1b, we propose to take this opportunity to include some existing TI Phase 1a requirements, that are part of a REC Category 3 artefact[1] in this new TI API Technical Specification. This relates to the use of ETag and gzip mechanisms and specifying the HTTP response codes permitted for each TI Phase 1a market message. In doing so, we are not updating the TI Phase 1a design or amending the approach.

5. This means that there will be a new consolidated TI API Technical Specification document covering TI Phase 1a and 1b requirements.

6. This annex does not cover TI Energy Supplier and RTI User interactions with the CCS in relation to account holder verification. Parties should review the design summary in Annex B and RECCo's consultation on the CCS arrangements[2] to understand the detailed end-to-end process.

[1] In TI Phase 1a we introduced a REC Category 3 TI API Technical Specification. As set out in Annex G, this is being renamed as the REC Developer Portal. It will continue to provide TI technical guidance for developers and will bring together this content for both TI Phase 1a and 1b.

[2] Consumer Consent Solution consultation

Scope of new TI API Technical Specification

7. The new TI API Technical Specification describes the following technical interoperability arrangements between TI Users / RTI Users and TI Energy Suppliers:

    a. the mechanism for interacting with TI Energy Supplier endpoints and associated validation;

    b. the API operational characteristics including filtering, error handling and file compression;

    c. the mechanism for registering for and receiving TI SSF Notifications in accordance with the TI Shared Signals Framework; and

    d. the error codes to be used when API validation fails.

Enduring Governance

8. Implementation of the changes set out within this annex will be delivered through the Secretary of State's section 245 Energy Act powers. Following implementation, any subsequent changes to the TI API Technical Specification are expected to follow the standard change process set out set out in REC Schedule 5 Change Management (Section 7 to 22), although the Secretary of State may use their powers where considered necessary.

9. As noted above, some of the content is being moved from the current TI Phase 1a API Technical Specification REC Category 3 artefact, where RECCo, as the 'Responsible Provider' will raise changes, consult with impacted parties where required, and determine if any future updates should be made. We consider that including the relevant information from TI Phase 1a into the new Category 2 document (which is subject to the standard change process) allows for improved party engagement and input into any future changes. REC Category 2 documents also permit any party to raise a change, for example to propose an innovation to the TI arrangements.

Appendix 1: TI API Technical Specification

See separate published document