

18th March 2014

Renewables Grid Liaison Group

Minutes of Meeting

Attendees	
Utility Regulator	Tanya Hedley (TH),
NIRIG	Michael Harper (MH), Meabh Cormacain (MC), Mervyn Adams (MA(d)),
NIE	Gerry Hodgkinson (GH), Michael Atkinson (MA), David de Casseres (DdC), Aidan Bradley (AB), Stephen Thompson (ST) Caron Malone (CM) Adrian Macauley (AM)
SONI	Eimear Watson (EW)
DETI	Michael Harris (MH(arr))
Solar Power Representative	Ruth McGuigan (RMcG)
Ulster Farmers Union	Gary Hawkes (GH)
Apologies	Dick Lewis (SONi) Robert Wasson (RW) Jody O'Boyle (JOB) Billy Graham (BG) Richard Love (RL) Chris Osborne (CO)

No	Item	Action
1	Apologies Dick Lewis (SONi) Robert Wasson (RW) Billy Graham (BG) Richard Love (RL) Jody O'Boyle (JOB) Chris Osborne (CO)	
2	Minutes and actions from previous meeting Minutes from previous meeting agreed subject to a few revisions- to be reissued	
	<p>Actions from previous meeting</p> <p><u>Action 1</u>- Clusters -NIE met with UR and subsequently made submission to UR. Recent engagement with UR suggests that outcome of CC process required to complete this. Leave on agenda</p> <p><u>Action 2</u>-Renewables Report: Item to remain on agenda –closed</p> <p><u>Action 3</u>-G59 and G83 Changes: - to be updated under agenda item 8</p> <p><u>Action 4</u>-G59 and G83 Changes: to be updated under agenda item</p> <p><u>Action 5</u>-G59 and G83 Changes: to be updated under agenda item</p> <p><u>Action 6</u>-Multiple Supplies: closed</p> <p><u>Action 7</u>33kV Investment Tap Changers: update under agenda item</p> <p><u>Action 8</u>- 33kV Investment Prioritisation: update under agenda item</p> <p><u>Action 9</u>- NIE to provide update on ANM study at workshop on 6th February- workshop took pace- closed</p> <p><u>Action 10</u>- Annual Constraints: SONI to check the generator output reduction consultation - (GOR)- annual constraint reports now finished- hope to issue soon- closed</p> <p><u>Action 11</u>- Rules for Queue Entry Date: SONI to confirm to UR that entry date to SONI listing for FAQ allocation is based on Connection Application date.- correct that FAQ listing based on</p>	

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	<p>application dates- closed</p> <p><u>Action 12-</u> Clarification of UR Next Steps Paper- closed</p> <p><u>Action 13-</u> Clarification of UR Next Steps Paper - closed</p> <p><u>Action 14-</u> SONI Consultation on Next Steps Paper: SONI to provide timetable for consultation for end of March- closed</p> <p><u>Action 15-</u> Rebate Policy; NIE & NIRIG to agree scope of potential agreement on this issue and revert to DETI with an agreed plan.- draft scope to send out (NIRIG)- open</p> <p><u>Action 16-</u> NIE to update on conditional offers - update under agenda item- closed</p>	
3	<p>Renewables Integration Status report</p> <p>NIE confirmed that next update to this report due in June 2014. No significant changes to be captured but currently a small increase in total connected generation.</p> <p>NIE noted that quite a lot of agenda items are spent dealing with SSG issues rather than higher level targets and achieving these. It was agreed to maintain focus on this</p> <p>RIDP is a process which has resulted in a vision for connecting renewables; the next stage is the Network 25 plan alongside some individual investments. This will also need to incorporate outcome of CC and need to take forward pre-construction requirements.</p> <p>NIE provided updates at the NIRIG forum at end of Jan 2014; Currently c15% renewable connected, explaining the 2017 targets and the next stages of investment.</p> <p>NIE noted that it is worth finding out where we are in terms of measuring renewables.</p> <p>DETI commented that on Friday they received Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) draft to look at figures for renewables connected. They have produced a draft paper which is to be issued to NIE and SONI very soon. Currently at about 18% over last 12 months. This will become available on website.</p> <p>NIRIG pointed out there doesn't seem to be a discussion forum to address issues like the continued absence of interconnector, where the industry is going in terms of meeting 40% target, dealing with planning blockages. NIE echoed this concern</p> <p>NIE noted that there is growing concern amongst stakeholders around achieving 2020 targets and that new plans need to be put in place. There is also some expectation that RGLG is main forum overseeing delivery of this.</p> <p>DETI explained that SEIDWG hasn't met in over a year however they are unsure what value has been added. They noted that AA Ricardo has won tender to do work on reviewing the 40% target. This work has started already and they will be contacting stakeholders to do this work. There is a 6 month timeline with the final report expected Aug 2014. This will feed into wider SEF review</p> <p>ETI committee have now also started a review of grid (strand 3 of Renewables study). The TOR for this study are available on web</p>	

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	<p>and they are seeking oral evidence in May with a view to final report in Oct 2014.</p> <p>DETI highlighted that if people not contacted directly they should be aware that the report is ongoing</p> <p>ACTION- DETI to provide update at next meeting</p> <p>ACTION- DETI to circulate links to RGLG attendees</p> <p>NIE provided updates to the North South interconnector Project (NSI) and the Renewables Integrated Development Plan *RIDP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSI Planning Update: article in press today that EirGrid submission is waiting to proceed. There is a concern that a Government in ROI may include the interconnector in his review on Electricity Planning. EirGrid are awaiting a decision on this. NIE cannot take their planning application forward until the application in South is in play. This is very much a matter of concern and is becoming more crucial both for security and Renewables as a lot of plans assume it would be in place by now. • RIDP update - this piece of work has determined its preferred scheme. This now needs to be integrated into totality of NI as part of Network 25 plan. NIE currently working with SONI on this. Individual pre-construction proposals will be submitted to UR or approval. Currently doing an SEA of plan. <p>ACTION - NIE to provide plan for RIDP/Network 25 at next meeting on preferred scheme (short presentation)</p> <p>ACTION - NIE Also to provide timetable for closure report to UR</p> <p>NIRIG indicated they would be concerned around further delays with planning function transferring to SONI</p>	<p>DETI</p> <p>DETI</p> <p>NIE</p> <p>NIE</p>
4	<p>Rebate Policy</p> <p>NIRIG raised this issue with NIE. NIRIG took an action to summarise their expectations - these are currently in draft form. At the recent meeting with NIE they undertook to forward these to NIE and UR for consideration.</p>	
5	<p>SONI Off Shore Consultation - Next Steps Paper</p> <p>Draft consultation together- to be released at end of March.</p> <p>NIRIG asked what the timescale is for the consultation paper- SONI agreed to confirm this at next meeting.</p> <p>NIE raised the point about offshore generators potentially being able to submit a grid connection application without planning permission and that this would be clarified in the paper.</p>	
6	<p>Competition in connections</p> <p>This has been included in UR forward work plan for next year.</p> <p>NIRIG have already sent info to UR on what has been happening in this area in the rest of UK & ROI.</p> <p>UR noted it would need to see final CC determination to progress</p>	

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	this. UR to update as this progresses	
7	<p>Cluster Security- Payment Policy</p> <p>NIE confirmed this is about plan to retain security deposit during construction stage- payment security post completion.</p> <p>Need to wait on final CC outcome on cluster charging however this shall not change the current approach in the meantime</p> <p>The CC has indicated the final report is due W/C 24th March. DETI will then have 2 weeks to consider the report.</p>	
8	<p>Small Scale Generation</p> <p><u>Conditional offer Status</u></p> <p>NIE had already issued some offers at last meeting; most of those who got conditional offers changed to non-conditional have paid deposits and are advancing to pre-construction. A new batch has just been released and further work still required in this area.</p> <p>Still working through number of High Cost Connections (HCCs) as NIE seeking decisions from people to remove them from generation queue and assign capacity. Work is still underway on this and shall continue for some time.</p> <p>£2.3m investment is made up of two types of work; changing of relays only and changing of both tap changer and relays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relays: Plan together which takes from April- Dec for changing relays. This contract is currently at tender award stage with expected 8 wk delivery on materials. NIE hope to start the first 3 substation around April and in the meantime use some existing relays currently in stock to start these • Tap changers: it will probably be around September before this work starts however it affects a smaller number of substations. NIE will issue this as a turnkey tender to build and install. Tender award due in May with a 3 month construction phase to the end Sept. Outages will be limited on single transformer substations so in some cases it may be Spring/Summer before work is complete. NIE have prioritised work this work and are making good progress. <p>NIRIG asked how long outage durations are. NIE confirmed this is usually 2/3 days but can last up to 5 in some cases.</p> <p>NIRIG asked if NIE have taken the impact of these shutdowns on 33kV side and the potential constraints. NIE confirmed outages are only on transformers not the 33kV network will result in different power flows through the transformer.</p> <p>Solar Rep asked is this work is to facilitate wind turbines. With the ROC review imminent people are worried they will not get connected before the review of ROCs which could affect economic viability of projects. Have NIE considered how many people will miss deadline?</p> <p>DETI indicated that this would be considered in the change of ROCs. DETI indicated that for LSG ROC review there was a grace period and that they would be considering this again, they just need</p>	

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	<p>to confirm what the criteria would be.</p> <p>NIE confirmed that construction of some projects can vary from weeks up to a year depending on how much work required.</p> <p>NIE also confirmed that a Deposit is not collected from conditional offers.</p> <p>Solar Rep made reference to an applicant who accepted their offer last year and the wayleaves for the job have still not been applied for- therefore they have paid their deposit a year and half before 2015 deadline.</p> <p>NIE confirmed that there are extreme difficulties getting wayleaves with landowners at present.</p> <p>UFU raised concern that if there is a delay on wayleaves or financial connection it has the potential to ruin a business plan because the risk is too high. Change in ROCs needs to take into consideration the situation we are in at present because it would be terrible to leave so many people in a worse situation.</p> <p>Solar concerned that the NIEA are not speaking to planning department This results in substantial investment before even meeting grid connection issues and customer could then be meeting ROC change issues.</p> <p>DETI confirmed that legislation required them to undertake a review of the ROCS however this doesn't necessarily mean a reduction in them. They will also realistically need to look at a grace period for any changes as it cannot be open ended.</p> <p>ACTION- NIE to write to UR informing of delays in procurement and when the procurement is finished NIE can write to UR.</p> <p><u>Study into Smart ANM options</u></p> <p>NIE held a workshop on 6th Feb with industry to feedback initial findings. These initial findings suggest if we reduce output from generators then this does this allow more to connect however these early findings suggest there may not be huge potential.</p> <p>NIE has already tested views on acceptable reduction capacities from industry and will be running a further workshop on 25th March where NIE shall bring consultants and industry together and pressure test results.</p> <p><u>G83 changes update</u></p> <p>NIE have established a working party to scope out work required to move from G59/1 to G59/2</p> <p>There are a number of legal differences between NI and mainland, e.g. differences between D-codes and NIE need to compare and analyse differences. Working group established at early March with aim to qualify differences between docs within 6-8 weeks. Need to engage with ENA to publish NIE proposals as part of their recommendations. NIE are also looking at a change to current document</p> <p>Outcome will follow on with review from G83/1 to G83/1 in tandem</p>	<p>NIE</p>

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	<p>or after</p> <p>UR asked about timetables, NIE indicated 18 months in mainland so a similar timescale would be required however a change to the ENA document might speed this up</p> <p>ACTION- formal confirmation of timetable to be provided for next meeting by NIE</p>	<p>NIE</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Organisational Changes</p> <p><u>NIAUR</u></p> <p>UR announced undergoing organisation change. Timing at end of CC process and prior to start of PC 15.</p> <p>It will be a phased approach as there are a number of technical issues to be handed over a period of time.</p> <p>Networks Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanya Hedley has taken up the role of Director of Water • Brian McHugh will take over as Director of Electricity. Brian has worked at UR around 8 years and has been Director of Gas for 5 years. He has been involved in the Phoenix CC process and also worked on gas to West project. Brian to attend next meeting in July. • Jody O'Boyle is to remain manager of electricity networks and shall start to report to Brian over time • Both electricity and gas will align more closely to the Ofgem structure <p>Markets team (retail & wholesale):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be lead by Jo Aston and Kevin Shields <p>Corporate function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be lead by Donald Henry <p>Idea is that the restructuring shall have no impact on work or external engagement of organisation</p> <p><u>NIE-SONI- (Transfer of Planning)</u></p> <p>Scope of the transfer is defined as transmission planning and shall extend to securing of planning permission for transmission developments. SONI shall become responsible for securing planning permission and NIE shall take over by way of construction.</p> <p>NIE currently has 2 groupings- electrical planning and project development- both groups shall move to SONI and retain N.Ireland focus.</p> <p>At practical level NIE and SONI are working through the process and have revised TIA as interfaces have changed. This has been through consultation and the new TIA is to be implemented at the end of April.</p> <p>NIE are currently carrying out certain activities either funded through developers or allowances - SONI will pick these up and pay NIE what they have spent with residual monies staying with</p>	

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	<p>SONI.</p> <p>Network 25 will become a SONI plan. NIE will work closely with SONI on the planning standards - NIE will issue consultation however SONI will pick up the plan and respond to consultation.</p> <p>Transmission connections- SONI will accept connections NIE had planned how to connect and NIE will move to just pricing something that has been planned by SONI.</p> <p>NIRIG pointed out that historically there was close engagement with planners and NIE around timetables of applications and they don't want issues where this interaction is lost. This needs to continue to enable fast turnaround and fast response</p> <p>UFU raised concerns about further delays due to this change. Other organisations issue a code number which allows customers to get updates as people like more information but less verbal contact.</p> <p>NIE confirmed nothing changes with distribution applications and only transmission investment affected.</p> <p>NIRIG asked if there could be info put on websites (both NIE & UR) about the transfer of changes and staff involved - UR confirmed a letter would be sent out to stakeholders</p> <p><u>NIRIG</u></p> <p>Gary Connolly who has been chair of NIRIG for 4 years stepped down in January 2014. Patrick McClughan has been elected as the new chair. Patrick may attend the next meeting to give visibility</p>	
10	<p>AOB</p> <p>NIRIG raised an issue that at the last joint grid code meeting a 200ms response time to frequency events was discussed. They were dismayed at the fact this came out as part of a 200 page document and NIRIG were unsure of the implications at the time. NIRIG are now getting feedback from a number of OEMS that they will have difficulty achieving this and it is leading to an anti-competitive situation.</p> <p>NIRIG undertook to submit to the grid code committee their concerns and the extent of the OEMS who fell into category. A draft response is currently ready.</p>	
11	<p>Date for next meeting</p> <p>Date to be agreed in late July 2014</p>	

Summary of Actions

Action No.	Action Description	To be Actioned by
1	DETI to update at next meeting	DETI
2	DETI to provide links to NIE to include in minutes	DETI
3	NIE to provide plan for RIDP/Network 25 at next meeting on preferred scheme (short presentation)	NIE
4	NIE Also to provide timetable for closure report to UR	NIE
5	NIE to write to UR informing of delays in procurement and when the procurement is finished NIE can write to UR.	NIE
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