

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**Renewables Grid Liaison Group**

**Minutes of Meeting**

<b>Attendees</b>	
<b>Utility Regulator</b>	Tanya Hedley (TH), Ronan McKeown (RMcK)
<b>NIRIG</b>	Meabh Cormacain (MC), Mervyn Adams (MA(d))
<b>NIE</b>	Michael Atkinson (MA), Aidan Bradley (AB), Stephen Thompson (ST) Caron Malone (CM) Adrian Macauley (AM)
<b>SONI</b>	Eimear Watson (EW) Gerry Hodgkinson (GH)
<b>DETI</b>	Michael Harris (MH(arr))
<b>Solar Power Representative</b>	
<b>AD Representative</b>	Ruth McGuigan (RMcG)
<b>Ulster Farmers Union</b>	Chris Osborne (CO) Gary Hawkes (GH) Barclay Bell (BB)
<b>Apologies</b>	Dick Lewis (DL) Billy Graham (BG) Donagh O'Brien (DOB) Robert Wasson (RW) Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Alison Clydesdale (AC) Neil O'Brien (NOB)

<b>No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Dick Lewis (DL) (MA(d)) Billy Graham (BG) Donagh O'Brien (DOB) Robert Wasson (RW) Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Alison Clydesdale (AC) Neil O'Brien (NOB)	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes and actions from previous meeting</b> Minutes agreed for publication	
	<p><b>Actions from previous meeting</b></p> <p><u>Action 1</u> SONI to provide plan for Network 25. Consultation is being finalised in next 3 months and SONI will present to RGLG after internal agreement- <b>presentation to be covered under agenda item. Complete.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION- SONI to provide another update on Network 25 at next meeting</b></p> <p><u>Action 2</u> NIE to write to UR informing of delays in procurement and when the procurement is finished NIE can write to UR- BAFO stage of tap changers. <b>Action closed</b></p> <p><u>Action 3</u> Rebate Policy - NIRIG, NIE &amp; SONI to meet around this - NIE to involve NIRIG and UR in meeting with DETI regarding rebates- <b>NIE had initial meeting with UR and DETI on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2014 – discussed the challenges in introducing rebating for part of market – and fairness – NIE to feedback to industry through Project 40</b></p> <p><u>Action 4</u> DETI to provide update at next meeting when statistics report is published - to remain on agenda for update from DETI. <b>Report published. Due to be published twice yearly. No negative feedback to date. Action complete</b></p> <p><u>Action 5</u> SONI and NIE to further refine Renewables Integration</p>	<b>SONI</b>

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	<p>Status report document to reflect full changes of transfer then circulate and upload it to the internet within 10 working days- <b>complete.</b></p> <p><u>Action 6</u> NIE to update website to reflect LSG, SSG and Microgeneration connected to the network. To be updated monthly and include the last updated date on it- <b>Complete</b>  <a href="http://www.nie.co.uk/Connections/Generation-connections/Connected-Generation">http://www.nie.co.uk/Connections/Generation-connections/Connected-Generation</a></p> <p><u>Action 7</u> SONI to provide a brief at next meeting on SEA consultation process as part of Network 25. <b>complete</b></p> <p><u>Action 8</u> SONI/NIE to consider if RIDP closure report can be made public- <b>SONI confirmed that it would be better to defer the release of any information on RIDP until Network 25 is ready to go to public consultation. Complete</b></p> <p><u>Action 9</u> NIE and NIRIG to meet to discuss security payments further <b>Meetings and calls set up under project 40 - complete.</b></p> <p><u>Action 10</u> NIRIG to follow up with DETI and provide update at next RGLG meeting on cluster grace period / ROC consultation. <b>Consultation still not published - cost of grace periods being considered with DECC. DETI to ensure RGLG are made aware of consultation once issued.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: DETI to provide update at next meeting on consultation regarding grace periods</b></p> <p><u>Action 11</u> NIE to confirm the industry representatives on Microgeneration subgroup at next meeting - <b>complete</b></p> <p><u>Action 12</u> NIE to tie up with NIRIG on providing more information regarding project 40 meetings- <b>complete</b></p> <p><u>Action 13</u> NIE to provide detail on timeframe of move to G59/2 for next RGLG- <b>complete</b></p> <p><u>Action 14</u> Take a view at next meeting whether meetings should take place every other month or every quarter. <b>To be discussed under AOB</b></p>	<p>DETI</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Renewables Integration Status report</b></p> <p>Latest update of report now available and circulated to RGLG members. Also on UR and NIE websites</p> <p>SONI confirmed report to be updated every 6 months.</p> <p><u>SONI updates-</u></p> <p>Drumquin Cluster – public consultation launched last week. Sessions with councils. Preferred route selected - info now public</p> <p>NSI - SONI application is in but will not be progressed until EirGrid application has been accepted. EirGrid have submitted a draft application to An Bord Pleanála who have requested more information. EirGRid are preparing response.</p> <p><u>NIE Updates</u></p> <p>Medium term plan is updated as per report.</p>	

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	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> line Tamnamore to Omagh (via Gort) - critical piece of infrastructure to be completed in order for Gort cluster to be commissioned by Dec 2016.</p> <p>NIE has resubmitted updated costs - UR now seeking further detail around the cost changes</p> <p>NIE have issued outline plans to cluster connectees and are providing regular monthly updates to these parties to maintain communication.</p>	
4	<p><b>Network 25 Presentation</b></p> <p>SONI presentation</p> <p><b>ACTION: SONI to circulate a copy of presentation slides</b></p> <p>NIRIG asked if the 2017 enabling figure of 1000MW figure would result in the network being unconstrained. SONI confirmed that the network would still be subject to some constraints.</p> <p>NIRIG asked how feasible 1000MW would be on the network without the NSI in place. SONI confirmed the network would be capable from an infrastructure level of 1000MW but that the operability factor is a different issue and will be impacted by the NSI.</p> <p>NIRIG commented that the 1600MW target is more than double what is currently connected. NIRIG indicated that they thought the Network 25 plan should be in the public domain so industry can get behind it and also develop in areas where the grid can take the wind.</p> <p>SONI indicated that they are not waiting on Network 25 being published in order to progress the development of projects. Aim is to have Network 25 published this year but there are issues with how the combination of options can be presented clearly to the public.</p> <p>NIRIG highlighted that targets can go up or down therefore future proofing the network is preferred. NIRIG highlighted that transmission system is now being pushed to the extremes of operation and that creating clusters is creating jobs and new infrastructure.</p> <p>NIRIG asked if the development of the transmission network is something that the UR will support for the purpose of industrial regeneration. UR indicated they must operate within their license requirements which do not include industrial regeneration however this might be achieved as a windfall.</p> <p>NIE had dealt with DETI (before planning function move to SONI move) regarding funding for voltage support. NIE inquired about the latest progress of this. SONI indicated that latest talks with EU indicate they will only approve 40% of costs to reflect 40% target. SONI are working with DETI to try and increase the level to which EU will fund this.</p> <p>NIE asked for timeline for SEA review from DETI. DETI highlighted it would be the first half of 2015.</p>	SONI

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5	<p><b>Contestability in Connections</b></p> <p>The Contestability consultation is still out. Responses to this are due back at the end of February.</p> <p>Before Christmas there was an advert for a contestability working group. This group has been selected and convened last week for first time.</p> <p>A dedicated page will be provided on the UR website which will contain updates and presentations.</p> <p>A number of work streams have been identified as part of the working group.</p> <p>Contestability workshop is planned for 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015.</p> <p>NIRIG indicated that there was a good spread of representatives and knowledge in working group.</p>	
6	<p><b>SSG Update on Capacity/Safety constraints</b></p> <p>As indicated before; the number of offers released from conditionality as a result of the £2.3m investment now c100. As also stated before the offers withdrawn/not made include the totality of all the £2.3m investment.</p> <p>NIE have now had to withdraw/not make over 330 offers due to capacity/safety concerns.</p> <p>This number sub divides as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Conditional Offers withdrawn: c80</li> <li>• Number of offers which could not be made: c250</li> </ul> <p>Of these we have had responses from around 75% of customers and will be writing out again to customers.</p> <p>Drop off rate has increased slightly from 15% to over 20%. This is particularly high with very new applications (Solar in particular). This means around 80% to 85% of applicants wish to remain within the queue.</p> <p>To date 6 month extensions have been agreed with the Utility Regulator. First time extensions expire in March 2015. New extensions will be required as there is still no capacity to connect these customers or provide connection offers. NIE will be submitting a request in respect of these offers in due course.</p> <p>NIE is currently working on providing a Project 40 update report/timeline to UR.</p> <p>The next heat map update is due around end January.</p>	
7	<p><b>NIE Project 40</b></p> <p>At a high level - the amount of activity in the market in terms of connected quantities and the amount in the work pipe to be connected is very high across large and small sale generation.</p> <p>There is an order of 1200MW+ connected/ committed connect with a significant proportion of this (220MW) from SSG.</p> <p>Broadly increased momentum now being developed in most areas. Initially seven subgroups were established; as time goes on some</p>	

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	<p>of these subgroups will distil back to a smaller number.</p> <p>Cluster updates: positive progress with clusters at construction stage - Gort Tremoge &amp; Mid Antrim – and at preconstruction stage; Drumquin and Garvagh. Three other clusters Newtownstewart, Cam &amp; Kells have also been identified based on the approved SOC rules.</p> <p>NIE are focusing on critical path items in order to maintain the end 2016 delivery date target for the clusters now at construction (Tremoge, Gort and Rasharkin). NIE are in the process of updating a number of offers where those are connecting to clusters at the construction stage.</p> <p><u>Large Scale Matters</u></p> <p>Main themes of work are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cluster timelines- speeding these up – by looking for faster turnaround within the planning process, UR approval process running in parallel with planning approval and the potential for early or pre-funding of critical path items</li> <li>• Security policy and deposit levels</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> transformer - charging principles around this to be worked through - outline proposals – potential for cost reconciliation and rebating</li> <li>• New NIE/SONI cluster approval process</li> <li>• Moving forward to the consultation stage</li> </ul> <p>The cluster subgroup is the most active LSG subgroup with external stakeholders at this point. A number of other groups considering connection design rules (including reactive power) and technical issues (long cable lengths) are also underway. Good progress now being made on both of these groups.</p> <p>The consultation document for cluster charging arrangements is being developed – there is much focus on this. NIE are working to maintain momentum on this work.</p> <p>NIRIG indicated some of the work on LSG has been overtaken by imminent live offers and reaching agreement on these. NIRIG urged that although some of these issues may not seem pressing at the minute it is important to continue to focus on these.</p> <p><u>Small Scale Matters</u></p> <p>Managed connections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External review carried out – NIE have looked at what technology was available and what has been used elsewhere</li> <li>• Internal review also carried out – considering specifics of NI network and significant differences between NI and GB.</li> <li>• NIE has now arrived at advanced view of what might be an achievable option. However it is clear from our research that there are no ‘off the shelf’ options available from GB and a new solution to be developed from the ‘ground up’ is</li> </ul>	

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	<p>required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIE originally envisaged a situation which might have solved some of the High Cost Connection problems using a voltage control arrangement however the related technology is not well established. Furthermore the specifics of the NIE distribution network (i.e. lightly loaded lines of light construction) suggest this would be of little benefit.</li> <li>• The current view of a managed connection is a potential solution to address reverse power issues however this will require additional automation of the network along with some traditional reinforcements. An important workshop is planned for 25<sup>th</sup> Jan with representatives from NIRIG and UFU to provide updates to the subgroup. A consultation document is at an advanced draft stage. It is clear now that there will be a limit to what can be achieved and operated through managed connections. The research in GB</li> <li>• Engagement with the UR is now required to address the funding requirements.</li> </ul> <p>NISTA asked if there were solar representatives on the managed connection subgroup.</p> <p><b>ACTION - NIE to consider whether NISTA should be represented on managed subgroup</b></p> <p>NISTA asked if zero export connections would be impacted by this work. NIE confirmed that zero export is not currently available on substations with capacity problems however these will need to be considered as part of a managed connection. Zero export still available where capacity issues are not a problem. NIE indicated they are still working to resolve how these would function from a technical perspective.</p> <p>UFU asked what part has the Low Carbon Network Fund (LCNF) played. NIE indicated that this does not apply to Northern Ireland. UR indicated NI is separate from GB and that LCNF is funded by customers from GB and not from NI therefore NI does not have access to this. UR indicated here is an ISEP fund and heat fund but there is not a low carbon network fund. UR indicated NIE price control in place and additional funding to be considered as part of RP6.</p> <p>SONI have started looking at issues with demand forecasting with large amounts of SSG on network. SONI asked to present on this when this work has concluded. NIE indicated this will be significant if there is going to be a cap on the amount of generation that can be connected. NIE working with SONI on this.</p> <p>Update on Substation Upgrades</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement work now complete for Tap changers. As part of BAFO process, extras savings have been achieved.</li> <li>• Although there has been more work involved with oil filtration than originally anticipated, NIE hopes to still come in within budget.</li> </ul>	<p>NIE</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming of works will start in Spring and run through to mid-summer. Connections can then be energised after this work is done.</li> <li>• All the substations which required just voltage relays are complete</li> </ul> <p><u>Microgeneration Matters</u></p> <p>To date NIE have had a number of internal meetings relating to the Microgeneration subgroup to better clarify what we consider as the objectives of the group. This work is nearly finished at which point NIE will include external parties.</p> <p>NIE met with NISTA before Christmas regarding G83 process and there was good engagement around the understanding and purpose of this. NISTA representative on Microgeneration subgroup likely to be Neil O'Brien.</p> <p>There has been engagement between NIE and UR around G83 Stage 2 definition and providing further clarity on this for developers.</p>	
8	<p><b>Move from G59/1 to G59/2</b></p> <p>Key steps for this work are planned and the timeline is out to 2018</p> <p>Key steps summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gap analysis- complete</li> <li>• ENA/academic report review- complete</li> <li>• Further work underway in GB - report due in April - NIE will review this and then scope out the analysis work required based on the same risk based approach in GB</li> <li>• NIE will engage an academic institution to undertake this analysis.</li> <li>• NIE will engage with HSEC to review risk based approach</li> <li>• Review by UR and consultation</li> <li>• Agreement for required D-Code changes</li> </ul> <p>NIE working to dovetail the move to G83/2 alongside the move to G59/2 with this process where possible.</p> <p>In GB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• move from G59/1 to G59/2 started in 2006 and finished in 2010</li> <li>• move from G59/2 to G59/3 started in 2010 and was implemented in 2014.</li> </ul> <p>NIE are looking to achieve this same move in half the timescale.</p> <p>The timeline will be refined as work is underway and NIE will interact with UR on this separately.</p> <p>NISTA indicated that if G83 change is not until 2018 that this will limit the NI market as G83/1 certificates are not available. This will create serious compliance issues with NI industry.</p>	



<b>No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>NIE will look to see if there is the possibility to accept new G83 certificates and the risks associated with this. NISTA asked if self-certification could be considered.</p> <p><b>ACTION- NIE to consider if there is a possibility for a different certification for G83/1</b></p>	<b>NIE</b>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><b>ACTION- NIRIG to get new off-shore representative for RGLG forum.</b></p>	<b>NIRIG</b>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Dates of Meetings for 2015</b></p> <p>24<sup>th</sup> March 2015- location to be confirmed</p>	

## Summary of Actions

Action No.	Action Description	To be Actioned by
<u>Actions carried forward</u>		
1	SONI to provide another update on Network 25 at next meeting	SONI
2	DETI to provide update at next meeting on consultation regarding grace periods	DETI
<u>New Actions</u>		
3	SONI to circulate a copy of presentation slides	SONI
4	NIE to consider whether NISTA should be represented on managed subgroup	NIE
5	NIE to consider if there is a possibility for a different certification for G83/1	NIE
6	NIRIG to get new off-shore representative for RGLG forum.	NIRIG