

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020**

**Renewables Grid Liaison Group**

**Minutes of Meeting No 35**

<b>Attendees</b>	
<b>Utility Regulator</b>	Roisin McLaughlin (RML) Kenny McPartland (KMP) Jody O'Boyle (JO'B) Tim Steele (TS)
<b>Renewable NI</b>	Steven Agnew (SA)
<b>NIE Networks</b>	Karen O'Doherty (KOD) Ailish McLaughlin (AML) Chris Surgeoner (CS) Rossita Maclean (RM)
<b>SONI</b>	Ronan Kernan (RK)
<b>Department for the Economy - Energy Decarbonisation Division</b>	No attendee
<b>NISTA</b>	No attendee
<b>Offshore Representative</b>	No attendee
<b>Ulster Farmers Union</b>	John Watt (JW) Chris Osborne (CO)
<b>Energy Storage Representative</b>	No attendee
<b>DP Energy</b>	No attendee
<b>Energia</b>	No attendee
<b>Amber Green Energy</b>	Neil O'Brien (NOB)
<b>Department for Economy</b>	Paul Rose (PR)
<b>Supplier</b>	Kevin O'Kane – Budget Energy (KOK)

No	Item	Action						
1	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Rory Mullan (RM) (Renewable NI)  Sinead Ferris (SF) (NIE Networks)  David Hill (DH) (NIE Networks)  Helen Gallagher (HG) (SONI)  Raymond Smyth (RS) (SONI)  Kevin O'Neill (KON)(SONI)</p>							
2	<p><b>Minutes/Updates from last meeting</b></p> <p>Minutes approved</p> <p><b>Actions from previous meeting</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="280 786 1385 1010"> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 786 344 891">1</td> <td data-bbox="344 786 1203 891">Investigate developing "Energy Dashboard" <i>Ongoing</i></td> <td data-bbox="1203 786 1385 891"><b>NIE Networks / SONI</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 891 344 1010">2</td> <td data-bbox="344 891 1203 1010">Develop Quarterly Reports <i>Ongoing</i></td> <td data-bbox="1203 891 1385 1010"><b>SONI</b></td> </tr> </table>	1	Investigate developing "Energy Dashboard" <i>Ongoing</i>	<b>NIE Networks / SONI</b>	2	Develop Quarterly Reports <i>Ongoing</i>	<b>SONI</b>	
1	Investigate developing "Energy Dashboard" <i>Ongoing</i>	<b>NIE Networks / SONI</b>						
2	Develop Quarterly Reports <i>Ongoing</i>	<b>SONI</b>						
3	<p><b>Renewables Status Update</b></p> <p>AMcL presented and confirmed that 1,684MW of renewables has been connected to date and a further 343MW committed. Bringing the figure to just over 2GW of connected and committed renewables.</p>	<b>NIE Networks</b>						
4	<p><b>Update on Transmission Applications</b></p> <p>RK presented slides on the status of current applications. There has been no change to the list since the last meeting. Though RK noted that Drumkee battery was connected in November with Mullavilly battery due to connect within the month.</p>	<b>SONI</b>						
5	<p><b>CIWG - Consultation Update</b></p> <p>KO'D provided an update on the non-firm consultation. Informed on result of request for derogation to UR – NIE will apply for extension requests on an individual basis following communication with customer. Derogation cannot be granted without specific application. For NIE Networks to maintain the integrity of the queue will require consistent application of the extension process across</p>	<b>SONI &amp; NIE Networks</b>						

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	<p>all jobs. Decision paper is expected to be published Q4 2020. Statement of Connection Charges to be reviewed by UR.</p> <p>JO'B noted that SEMC will be consulting on Article 13 of the Clean Energy Package concerning compensation of re-dispatching of market generation units, noting that the firmness of the unit may impact level of compensation. but wasn't sure when it was due to be issued – potentially Q1 2021.</p> <p>SA noted this would be well received by industry and thanked KO'D/team for the hard work.</p>	
6	<p><b>UR – Clean Energy Package Update</b></p> <p>No update.</p>	
7	<p><b>DfE – Energy Strategy Update</b></p> <p>PR advised the aim is to get the Policy options paper to go to consultation in March 2021 following which the Energy Strategy will be developed and published in November 2021, subject to ministerial agreement. The Clean Energy Package will feed in to this. Working groups are expected to have completed working policies by January.</p> <p>JW highlighted recent negative press surrounding renewables and upcoming inquiry. Asked how farmers/landowners can be incentivised to invest in the current climate. PR commented new strategies and routes to market are to be developed going forward. Outcomes of NI audit office report would be investigated and feed into future support mechanisms. JW commented that accurate and positive information should be circulated in the public domain. PR agreed and mentioned that communications is to form part of the Energy Strategy to dispel myths around renewables. CO mentioned that UFU would like to be involved in working groups, some concern over the future of wind and AD plants. SA commented that KPMG have now been commissioned to do another audit across more projects with more data points. First draft is expected by Christmas. NO'B stated that information should be set straight and the discussion is required on the matter. Unsure whether the appetite for fiscal rewards will change/is changing already.</p>	<p><b>DFE</b></p>
8	<p><b>Renewable NI – Dispatch Down WG Update</b></p> <p>SA still working on figures but expects full update to cover 2020 in next meeting.</p>	<p><b>Renewable NI</b></p>
9	<p><b>Network Development/ATR Update</b></p> <p>RK advised Kells-Rasharkin second circuit funding request has been sent to UR. Omagh-Dromore is with NIE for detailed design. Preparing to submit to UR North Antrim upgrade by the end of 2021. Removal of export restriction for Moyle interconnector expected by</p>	<p><b>SONI</b></p>

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	2024. Network Development 2020 – 2029 consultation out on 11 <sup>th</sup> December. Another consultation will be available in the new year after first consultation is reviewed by UR.	
10	<p><b>Tomorrow Energy Scenarios Update</b></p> <p>System Need Assessment expected to be published early January 2021.</p>	<b>SONI</b>
11	<p><b>Operational Update</b></p> <p>CS presented slides on SSG SCADA rollout.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 630 SSG to be equipped with SCADA</li> <li>- SCADA provides remote visibility and control (alarms, measurements and reactive power control)</li> <li>- Distribution Code Issue 1 (2010) outlines responsibility of Generators to install and cover costs of SCADA hardware</li> <li>- Collection of high resolution data will help with planning, upgrading and forecasting. Allowing more flexible connection offers in future</li> <li>- Reactive power control will enable control of voltage levels and improved quality of supply.</li> </ul> <p>Generators are to be issued with notification letter 5<sup>th</sup> December. Expected to acknowledge notification and appoint verified SCADA installer by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021. SAT certificate will be issued to customer following testing by NIE Networks.</p> <p>RML asked how long the project is expected to go on for. CS replied expected timescale of two years possibly with an additional six months.</p> <p>PR asked how much capacity is encompassed in the roughly 600 generators included. Chris checked and verified that this is 222MW.</p> <p>KO’K asked how the use of SCADA will help with forecasting. CS explained that by using the high resolution data and correlating it with wind and solar radiance data it should be possible to predict network flows from renewables a week ahead/day ahead.</p>	<b>NIE NETWORKS</b>
12	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>JO’B mentioned that the UR is fielding a letter from a “community group” that is raising queries as to whom has sat on (and is to sit on) the RGLG, and response to that correspondence is being formulated by the UR. The UR intends to raise the matter of further membership (or invites for membership) with the RGLG at a future RGLG meeting. RML stated that any issues that could be covered in the new year can be sent to RM or JO’B before Christmas.</p> <p>KO’D enquired about the role and scope of RGLG and intentions for the new year. RML suggested that conversation is required to cover this. Noted that other forums have arisen since RGLG started and RGLG has been useful this year for information flow. NO’B</p>	<b>N/A</b>

No	Item	Action
	mentioned that the information/discussions are useful when working with SSG developers/applicants. Bringing together public and private sectors, farming and business communities is beneficial. RML proposed members consider what RGLG is for before the next meeting.	
13	<b>Dates of 2021 Meetings</b> - To be discussed early in new year	<b>UR/NIE Networks/SONI</b>

### Summary of New Actions

Action No.	Action Description	To be Actioned by
1	Members to feed back to RML and JO'B before Christmas in relation to potential topics/items for discussion to best utilise the RGLG meetings in 2021	<b>RGLG Members</b>
2	Dates of 2021 Meetings to be discussed and scheduled early in new year	<b>UR/NIE Networks/SONI</b>

### Summary of Carried Actions

Action No.	Action Description	To be Actioned by
1	Investigate developing "Energy Dashboard" (ongoing)	<b>NIE Networks / SONI</b>
2	Develop Quarterly Reports	<b>SONI</b>