

7th December 2021
Renewables Grid Liaison Group
Minutes of Meeting No 38

Attendees	
Utility Regulator	Roisin McLaughlin (RML) Kenny McPartland (KMP) Jody O'Boyle (JO'B) Tim Steele (TS)
Renewable NI	Rory Mullan (RM) Steven Agnew (SA)
NIE Networks	Sinead Ferris (SF) David Hill (DH) Lisa O'Neill (LO'N) Chris Surgeoner (CS) Alex Boggs (AB) John Boden (JB)
SONI	Ronan Kernan (RK) Raymond Smyth (RS) Helen Gallagher (HG)
Department for the Economy – Energy Decarbonisation Division	Paul Rose (PR)
NISTA	No attendee
Offshore Representative	No attendee
Ulster Farmers Union	Chris Osborne (CO)
Energy Storage Representative	No attendee
DP Energy	No attendee
Energia	No attendee
Amber Green Energy	Neil O'Brien (NO'B)
Department for Economy	Paul Rose (PR)
Supplier	Kevin O'Kane – Budget Energy (KO'K)

No	Item																		
1	<p>Apologies David Hill (DH) , Andy McCrea (AMcC) ,</p>																		
2	<p>Minutes/Updates from last meeting Minutes approved</p> <p>Actions from previous meeting</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="264 757 1374 1451"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 757 328 857">1</td> <td data-bbox="328 757 1190 857">Investigate developing “Energy Dashboard” <i>Ongoing</i></td> <td data-bbox="1190 757 1374 857">NIE Networks / SONI</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 857 328 976">2</td> <td data-bbox="328 857 1190 976">Develop Quarterly Reports <i>Ongoing</i></td> <td data-bbox="1190 857 1374 976">SONI</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 976 328 1095">3</td> <td data-bbox="328 976 1190 1095">NIE Networks to consider providing figures on Battery storage connected and committed</td> <td data-bbox="1190 976 1374 1095">NIE Networks</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 1095 328 1214">4</td> <td data-bbox="328 1095 1190 1214">DFE to consider if NIE Networks can get sight of issues raised on connection charges during consultation period.</td> <td data-bbox="1190 1095 1374 1214">DFE</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 1214 328 1332">5</td> <td data-bbox="328 1214 1190 1332">Renewable NI to provide a further update on the Dispatch Down Working Group in the Q4 RGLG meeting</td> <td data-bbox="1190 1214 1374 1332">Renewable NI</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 1332 328 1451">6</td> <td data-bbox="328 1332 1190 1451">Renewable NI to ask Energy Storage Ireland to present at the next RGLG</td> <td data-bbox="1190 1332 1374 1451">Renewable NI</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1. SONI commented that the work on an enduring connections policy and energy strategy is ongoing. This is a work in progress and aligns with the work on the “Energy Dashboard”.</p> <p>2. SONI advised this is now published on their website</p> <p>3. LO’N advised that NIE Networks have investigated whether it will be possible to provide the breakdown of battery connected and committed. NIE Networks believe this is possible but changes would be required to internal reporting to make this readily available.</p> <p>4. LON - to follow up on this action with Paul</p> <p>5. Rory (Renewable NI) - dispatch down working group - Update in the next quarter.</p>	1	Investigate developing “Energy Dashboard” <i>Ongoing</i>	NIE Networks / SONI	2	Develop Quarterly Reports <i>Ongoing</i>	SONI	3	NIE Networks to consider providing figures on Battery storage connected and committed	NIE Networks	4	DFE to consider if NIE Networks can get sight of issues raised on connection charges during consultation period.	DFE	5	Renewable NI to provide a further update on the Dispatch Down Working Group in the Q4 RGLG meeting	Renewable NI	6	Renewable NI to ask Energy Storage Ireland to present at the next RGLG	Renewable NI
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	<p>6. Bobby to present from Energy Storage Ireland</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Renewables Status Update</p> <p>LO'N presented renewable generation clusters for Q3 2021.</p> <p>JW - Are you finding a lot more applications for generation at the minute?</p> <p>LON - From April we started seeing an increase in applications for small scale generation and that level has continued, with most of the applications being for zero export and repowering of SSG generation. Due to the levels of applications we now have a new HV designer. Large scale we have seen a peak in feasibility studies being requested.</p> <p>John Watton - Is there any update on the heat map?</p> <p>LON - The heat map is covered by another part of NIEN. I have been discussing with them about getting the heat map updated as it is due an update.</p> <p>JW asked if transmission capacity information would be made available.</p> <p>LON advised that transmission capacity headroom is determined by SONI but that SONI are in the process of publishing the TDP and it would give 110kV headroom for generation. Which will give the overall picture.</p> <p>A customer can use the heat map to determine whether there is distribution capacity and then go to the TDP to find out if there is transmission capacity. When volumes allow it, NIE Networks will have a high level look at customer capacity queries to determine if there is capacity or not without having to carry out a formal feasibility. When work volumes are high however the response time may be longer or we will advise that an application will have to be submitted and if it is determined there is no capacity then the customer will be advised and fully refunded.</p> <p>JW – Believes that the G99/NI is overwhelming for the farmer community.</p> <p>LON - The application form is the ENA standard and is being used in GB but we are aware that it is overwhelming. We plan to get the application online , would determine what questions you need to completed based on previous answers.</p>

No	Item
	<p>JOB – NIEN had mentioned earlier about customers repowering and rather than exiting the market. Are you seeing more and more of your customers going down the repowering route rather than exiting the market?</p> <p>Steven Agnew - It's a good question, maybe anecdotally certainly in the smaller scale a lot of repowering. I haven't done any detailed analysis across the board so I can not give a comprehensive answer on it. Certainly, amongst our small scale group that has largely been their focus.</p> <p>LON - In small scale the repowering has happened well before the end of their lifetime. It's more to actually increase their capacity factors with the new turbines that are available on the market. In terms of large scale we are now getting questions about existing wind farms that are coming to the end of their lifetime. It is very likely that the turbines that are going to come to us first to repower are the ones that are deeply embedded in our distribution network and don't have direct connections into BSP.</p> <p>JOB - I presume that the new generators are RFG compliant as well?</p> <p>LON - yes, in small scale it depends on the type of generators installed previously and the new. In some cases the generator will be able to remain G59/NI while in others the new generator will need to be G99/NI. In large scale, the sites repowering are looking to increase MEC and therefore will need to be G99/NI compliant.</p> <p>JW- How many MW does NIE Networks expect to disconnect before 2030 due to projects coming to the end of their life time.</p> <p>LON - We have asked for this to be checked internally.</p>
4	<p>Update on Transmission Applications</p> <p>RK presented slide on Transmission applications</p> <p>HG - This is ultimately from the connections register that is published on our website. The main addition from the last RGLG is two additional applications at Kilroot for two steam units. They would work in conjunction with two other units & would give more flexibility around plant which would be welcome in terms of capacity flexibility from the SONI.</p> <p>LON - We currently have two applications with SONI and are in the process of paying the application fees. These are for two new clusters.</p>

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	<p>How do we find out where NIEN is planning to put clusters?</p> <p>LON - Due to the sensitivity of the applications we will advise industry on the vicinities of the two clusters once we have paid the application fees. This will be announced via the generation mailing list.</p>	
5	<p>CIWG – Consultation Update</p> <p>NIE Network advised that the UR and NIE Networks had not reached agreement on wording within the SOCC relating to the Non-Firm Transmission market access process.</p> <p>RM asked if the UR had any concerns regarding the wording going into the SOCC.</p> <p>UR advised that they had no objections to the wording relating to the process to be included in the SOCC.</p> <p>NIE Networks and the UR to agree suitable wording to allow the process to go live.</p> <p>RML-We have had the submission from NIEN , we would hope that the submission can be approved today.</p> <p>SF - The way we have left this with everyone is that once we have approval that the new greater than 5mw non firm process will come into effect one month after we publish our updated statement of connection charges so that everybody is aware at the same time.</p> <p>SF - at the last CIWG we discussed the terms of reference for the group and really what the CIWG is meant to be. The CIWG is about how do we get connections 80% renewables, how do we meet the electrification of heat & transport but I think we are all waiting for the energy strategy as being the framework as to what the terms of reference will be. We have left the CIWG in anticipation for the energy strategy and then once this is out we see the CIWG as having a huge influence in terms of what needs to happen to get to where we need to get to 2030 targets.</p> <p>LON - does the UR want to give an update on the TOR for RGLG?</p> <p>UR- RML - The terms of reference will also need to be checked for the RGLG. We should maybe do this alongside the CIWG terms of reference.</p>	<p>NIE Networks/Utility Regulator</p>
6	<p>DfE – General Update/Energy Strategy Update</p>	

No	Item
	<p>PR talked to some initial outcomes of the Energy Strategy Options Consultation which closed on 2 July 2021. He apologised that slides could not be shared as the Department is in a sensitive period of the strategy development process and it was not therefore possible to release detail prior to Ministerial and Executive consideration. It was advised that the consultation received 283 responses, 253 of which were submitted via Citizen Space. A further 30 were received via e-mail/letter and did not follow the questioning format and so while their content has been taken into account for qualitative purposes, they have not been included in the statistical information provided in the update.</p> <p>PR ran through some of the demographics for the responses in terms of type of respondent i.e. vulnerable domestic, domestic, business (small), business (large) and energy sector; location (county); age range; urban/rural split; and gender identity. Points of note were the largest proportion of responses came from the energy sector, closely followed by domestic consumer; the vast majority of respondents were located in Co Antrim; no-one under the age of 18 responded to the consultation; the urban/rural split was fairly even; and just over 50% of the responses came from those identifying as male.</p> <p>PR highlighted some of the main points provided in response to the power-related questions in the consultation (12, 14, 35-43, 66-70 and 74). It was clear that while there was significant degree of positivity towards the proposals in the consultation, with agreement levels falling into the 70, 80 and 90% thresholds for most questions, there was a varied range of views on what policies might include or how they might be delivered depending on type of respondent.</p> <p>PR advised that a full summary of the consultation responses will be published alongside the strategy. He advised that the intention is for the strategy itself to be a fairly high level document which will be accompanied by an action plan and revised scenarios. He further advised that the strategy is well on its way to finalisation, subject to Executive agreement.”</p> <p>SF – How will the themes be worked through? Will it be working groups?</p> <p>PR – Strategy itself will be accompanied by action plan & further summary. New scenarios to be sought out.</p> <p>PR – Issues raised through connection charges</p> <p>LO’N – Will NIE get earlier sight of issues raised?</p> <p>PR – To take this back to strategy team to see if this can be done.</p>
	DFE

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7	<p>Renewable NI– Dispatch Down WG Update</p> <p>On hold until next meeting.</p> <p>RM to also forward RGLG meeting request to Energy Storage Ireland to present on the possible barriers to market for Battery Storage.</p> <p>Bobby - Energy storage Ireland presentation regarding battery storage.</p> <p>LON – In terms of co-location, we treat the battery as a generator and it must have its own MEC. The other potential blocker is that the TIC can only be 120% of the MEC, however this is being reviewed by NIEN & SONI which will hopefully provide an outcome on this for the new year. In terms of shared MEC in republic of Ireland, what is their stance on MEC?</p> <p>Bobby - it's a similar barrier in the republic.</p> <p>Rory - Am I right in saying that the fact that each project has to have an MEC is actually driven from the market structure?</p> <p>Bobby - Its not just any one single barrier, I'd say for hybrids there are a few things that need to be tackled as you say it's a grid market & operations at the same time</p> <p>LON - in terms of the legal, NIEN will have a connection agreement with one party. That party can have a private arrangement with another party but NIEN will not be party to that. In the past, NIEN have seen that projects that are ROC accredited are reluctant to add any more generation incase it impacts their ROCs. Has this barrier been removed?</p> <p>Bobby - I can't speak on that one specifically. The republic example with the recent RES consultation so they were very clear on the metering of assets on a col located site that there is not brown energy being used to claim ROCS.</p>	<p>Renewable NI</p>
8	<p>Network Development/ATR Update</p> <p>Ballylumford – returned from NIE Networks, SONI will be processing within next month.</p> <p>Belfast Met project – reinforcement into city centre – preparing for EV</p> <p>Omagh Dromore restring – NIE Networks advised design returned Q2 2022</p>	

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	<p>Coolkeeragh – restring 2022</p> <p>Mid Antrim upgrade – carried out stakeholder engagement – preferred option selected TNPP submission prepared</p> <p>Moyle upgrade – Limited to 300 – progressing need & option report, will develop into preferred option in the new year.</p> <p>Voltage support – on hold until they see how Coleraine progresses.</p> <p>North / West reinforcement – TDPNI out in the next few months, review over investment plan. HVDC – Between North West & East Agivey Coleraine /Limavady area 275kV towards Omagh, working through initial studies no preferred option yet.</p> <p>RK - provided presentation -TDPNI 2021 is being completed at the minute and will be going for SONI consultation in January 2022.</p> <p>Question - How does this overlap into the shaping strategy? Does the shaping strategy feed into the TDPNI?</p> <p>RK- No for now but will be in future.</p>	
9	<p>Tomorrow Energy Scenarios Update</p> <p>RS – TES was published last month and the new TDP coming out that will reflect what was found in the TES</p> <p>SONI to present the TDP at the next RGLG</p> <p>HG - Update on the Industry forum Monday 13th December that is the one associated with the road map published on 10th November. The aim of the workshop is to give an overview to the various work streams.</p>	SONI
10	<p>Operational Update</p> <p>CS presented slides regarding an update on SSG SCADA</p> <p>JB - SCADA - currently 19 % of small-scale capacity that requires SCADA has had SCADA/reactive power installed and tested. Testing is expected to increase significantly - 50 sites have ongoing installations but have not reached the testing stage for commissioning - will lead to a bit of an increase at the beginning of next year. Delays in RTU supplies being delivered have had an</p>	

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	<p>impact. In terms of getting in contact with customers, we have two letters to be issued. One will be sent to those who have engaged with us in the program who have appointed an installer, however that installer has not demonstrated a SCADA solution that is appropriate. Another letter will be sent to the small number of customers who have not engaged with us on the program. We have also made customers aware that the deadline for SCADA installation will be the 31st December 2022. In Chris' last update he referenced a number of information evenings to provide an opportunity for those that need opportunity to talk to us regarding SCADA. These have now taken place.</p>	
11	<p>AOB Innovation Webinar - Mailing list sent</p>	NIEN

Summary of New Actions

Action No.	Action Description	To be Actioned by
1	DFE to consider if NIE Networks can get sight of issues raised on connection charges during consultation period.	DFE
2	Renewable NI to provide a further update on the Dispatch Down Working Group in the Q4 RGLG meeting	Renewable NI
3	Renewable NI to ask Energy Storage Ireland to present at the next RGLG	Renewable NI

Summary of Carried Actions

Action No.	Action Description	To be Actioned by

1	Investigate developing “Energy Dashboard” (ongoing)	NIE Networks / SONI
2	NIE Networks to continue to work on providing a quarterly battery stats graph to go along the quarterly renewable stats graphs	NIE Networks
3	NIE Networks to publish the ‘go live’ date of the process which will allow applicants to get distribution generation offers in areas where there is no capacity.	NIE Networks