

7th September 2021
Renewables Grid Liaison Group
Minutes of Meeting No 37

Attendees	
Utility Regulator	Roisin McLaughlin (RML) Kenny McPartland (KMP) Jody O'Boyle (JO'B) Tim Steele (TS)
Renewable NI	Rory Mullan (RM)
NIE Networks	Sinead Ferris (SF) David Hill (DH) Lisa O'Neill (LO'N) Chris Surgeoner (CS) Alex Boggs (AB)
SONI	Ronan Kernan (RK) Raymond Smyth (RS)
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 Steven Agnew (SA) (Renewable NI), Helen Gallagher (HG), 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="277 685 1385 1144"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 685 344 786">1</td> <td data-bbox="344 685 1203 786">Investigate developing “Energy Dashboard” <i>Ongoing</i></td> <td data-bbox="1203 685 1385 786">NIE Networks / SONI</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 786 344 909">2</td> <td data-bbox="344 786 1203 909">Develop Quarterly Reports <i>Ongoing</i></td> <td data-bbox="1203 786 1385 909">SONI</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 909 344 1021">3</td> <td data-bbox="344 909 1203 1021">NIE Networks to consider providing figures on Battery storage connected and committed</td> <td data-bbox="1203 909 1385 1021">NIE Networks</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 1021 344 1144">4</td> <td data-bbox="344 1021 1203 1144">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.</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1021 1385 1144">NIE Networks</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. See CWIG update</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	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
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3	<p>Renewables Status Update</p> <p>LO’N presented renewable generation clusters for Q2 2021.</p>												

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4	<p>Update on Transmission Applications</p> <p>RK presented slide on Transmission applications</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>NIE Networks/Utility Regulator</p>
6	<p>DfE – General Update/Energy Strategy Update</p> <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</p>	

No	Item	
	<p>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
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>	Renewable NI
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> <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>	

No	Item	
	<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>	
9	<p>Tomorrow Energy Scenarios Update 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>	SONI
10	<p>Operational Update</p> <p>CS presented slides regarding an update on SSG SCADA</p>	
11	<p>AOB No AOBs</p>	N/A

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