



Contestability Working Group - Conf Call			
Subject: Contestability Working Group		Date: 27/04/22	Time: 15:00
Attendees:	Title	Representing	
Chris Kingston	CK	EW	
Kenny McPartland	KMP	UR	
Jody O'Boyle	JOB	UR	
Nigel Crawford	NC	NIEN	
Nigel Watkin	NW	NIEN	
Graham Caldwell	GC	NIEN	
Michael Boyle	MB	NIEN	
Sarah Friedel	SF	SONI	
Dave Thornton	DT	NIEN	
Apologies:			
Circulation: External			

Item	Main discussion points
1	<p>KMP- Welcomed the group to the meeting. Set out the agenda which ran through of the various topics for discussion document that was previously sent around the group as well as a new version of the work plan. KMP handed over to DT to begin.</p> <p>Updated work plan DT- Talked through the new work plan (Version 4) with the scope of works to open contestability.</p> <p>The main change is now phase 1 (overhead) & 2 (underground) have been merged. Once underground and overhead and underground tasks (phase 1&2) are complete, plant tasks (phase 3) should be more straightforward to complete.</p> <p>DT confirmed the darker blue line in the work plan is the progress as of the 27th April, NIEN will continue to update this work plan for each meeting.</p> <p>JOB- UR will have to put out an update/information date later in the year once end dates are known (looking like end of Q3/Q4), but anything drafted, UR will bring forward to the group.</p> <p>Discussion Points</p> <p>Access to NIEN Equipment for Final LV connection - Meetings are ongoing within NIE Networks to establish the legal and procedural matters relating to the final LV connection. This includes;</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access agreement and adoption agreement will be separate - What conditions are precedent before granting ICPs access to the distribution system - Process of notification that the ICP may commence the final LV connection - Action in the event of unsuccessful post energisation commissioning tests. <p>KMP noted there is no representation from LRQA, KMP to share this document to those members for them to provide input.</p> <p>DT asked the group if there was unsuccessful connection or equipment failure etc NIEN propose if anything goes wrong, NIEN will step in. CK- Agreed this is how it should work.</p> <p>Changes to the NIEN Statement of Connection Charges (SoCC). NIEN considering if there are any additional charges which should be introduced in relation to the expansion of contestability to include final LV connections. DT highlighted various costs NIEN may incur that may need to be incorporated into the SoCC, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training & authorisation of ICP staff - Availability of NIEN staff to facilitate inspections outside of working hours - Disconnection if an unsuccessful connection occurs - Unplanned customer disconnections initiated by ICPs live working - Assistance to ICPs in cable identification (exceptional circumstances) <p>JOB – Be useful for UR to have a draft of amended SoCC from NIEN as early as possible to UR, this can also be discussed amongst the CWG.</p> <p>CDM</p> <p>NIEN's Contestable Connection Terms and Conditions state that, in relation to the Contestable Works, the Customer shall be "the Client" for the purposes of the CDM Regulations.</p> <p>NIEN have given consideration as to whether or not any changes to the CDM roles are required by the ICP undertaking work on the Distribution System when making the final LV connection. It is NIEN's view that the ICP will assume the roles of Principal Designer & Principal Contractor with NIE Networks becoming a named Designer.</p> <p>DT asked the groups how they see this working when the work involves NIEN and the ICP and the ICP is the principal contractor, any experiences of this in GB?</p> <p>CK offered to make some enquires on this.</p>

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	<p>Trials</p> <p>As part of the introduction of contestability in final LV connections in GB, trials took place in three DNO areas.</p> <p>NIE Networks is giving thought to conducting similar trials in Northern Ireland and would like to hear the views of the CWG with regard to such a proposal.</p> <p>CK- Feels that using trails makes sense from the ICP's point of view.</p> <p>DT highlighted that in NIEN meetings there has been discussions about the LV final connections being contestable, NIENs understanding currently is that at beyond the point of connection (e.g. reconfiguring, modifications), any work on the distribution system prior to the final LV connection being made is non contestable.</p> <p>NIEN for the next meeting to draw up a note on this.</p> <p>JOB- This sounds reasonable to UR, as long as members have the opportunity to discuss this and it is clearly defined.</p>
2	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NIEN to amend V4 of the work plan for next CWG.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CK will make some inquiries in relation to the principal contractor and how this will work when this is the ICP. - NIEN provide a note on reconfiguring, modifications etc that may be deemed non contestable. - KMP to share working paper with LRQA
3	<p>Attachments</p> <div data-bbox="408 533 459 595">  </div> <p>Expansion of contestability V4.pdf</p>