

13th December 2022

Renewables Grid Liaison Group

Minutes of Meeting No 40

Attendees	
Utility Regulator	Roisin McLaughlin (RML) Kenny McPartland (KMP) Liam Gault (LG) Ben Harris (BH) Jody O'Boyle (JO'B) Tim Steele (TS)
Renewable NI	Jennifer Condron (JC)
NIE Networks	David Hill (DH) Lisa O'Neill (LO'N) Alex Boggs (AB) Joe Bailey (JB)
SONI	Ronan Kernan (RK) Helen Gallagher (HG)
Department for the Economy – Energy Decarbonisation Division	Koichi Samuels (KS)
NISTA	No attendee
Offshore Representative	No attendee
Ulster Farmers Union	Chris Osborne (CO) John Watt (JW)
Energy Storage Representative	No attendee
DP Energy	No attendee
Energia	No attendee
Amber Green Energy	Neil O'Brien (NO'B)
Supplier	Kevin O'Kane

No	Item																								
1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Sinead Ferris (SF) Raymond Smyth (RS) Steven Agnew (SA) Rory Mullan (RM) Connor Carville (CC)</p>																								
2	<p>Minutes/Updates from last meeting</p> <p>Minutes approved</p> <p>Actions from previous meeting</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="277 920 1385 1854"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 920 344 1021">1</td> <td data-bbox="344 920 1203 1021">Investigate developing “Energy Dashboard” <i>Ongoing</i></td> <td data-bbox="1203 920 1385 1021">NIE Networks / SONI</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 1021 344 1140">2</td> <td data-bbox="344 1021 1203 1140">Develop Quarterly Reports <i>Ongoing</i></td> <td data-bbox="1203 1021 1385 1140">SONI</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 1140 344 1258">3</td> <td data-bbox="344 1140 1203 1258">NIE Networks to consider providing figures on Battery storage connected and committed</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1140 1385 1258">NIE Networks</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 1258 344 1377">4</td> <td data-bbox="344 1258 1203 1377">DFE to consider if NIE Networks can get sight of issues raised on connection charges during consultation period.</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1258 1385 1377">DFE</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 1377 344 1496">5</td> <td data-bbox="344 1377 1203 1496">Renewable NI to provide a further update on the Dispatch Down Working Group in the Q4 RGLG meeting</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1377 1385 1496">Renewable NI</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 1496 344 1615">6</td> <td data-bbox="344 1496 1203 1615">Renewable NI to ask Energy Storage Ireland to present at the next RGLG</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1496 1385 1615">Renewable NI</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 1615 344 1733">7</td> <td data-bbox="344 1615 1203 1733">DFE to look into forming a list of working groups established under the energy strategy</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1615 1385 1733">DFE</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="277 1733 344 1854">8</td> <td data-bbox="344 1733 1203 1854">Investigate developing “Energy Dashboard” to be moved to CIWG (ongoing)</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1733 1385 1854">NIE Networks / SONI</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>	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	7	DFE to look into forming a list of working groups established under the energy strategy	DFE	8	Investigate developing “Energy Dashboard” to be moved to CIWG (ongoing)	NIE Networks / SONI
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	<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. Ongoing</p> <p>4. Koichi to take this away and come back with an update.</p> <p>5. Rory (Renewable NI) - dispatch down working group - Update in the next quarter.</p> <p>6. Jennifer Condon on behalf of Energy Storage Ireland to provide a more comprehensive presentation on the pipeline data in the first meeting in the new year.</p> <p>7. Koichi provided an update to advise that this is happening now and when it is in a shareable format they will be able to share it with stakeholders.</p> <p>8. NIE Networks & SONI - Investigate developing "Energy Dashboard" to be moved to CIWG (ongoing)</p>
3	<p>Renewables Status Update</p> <p>LON – Presented Slides Renewable Status Quarter 3 2022</p>
4	<p>Update on Transmission Applications</p> <p>HG presented update on transmission Applications.</p>
5	<p>CIWG – Consultation Update</p> <p>LON & HG Presented slides on SSG Export 5MW & Below.</p> <p>JW-Just to go back on the 33/11kV are there many of the transformers that are not capable or reverse power flow?</p> <p>LON – Yes there are still quite a few on the network. We got the money to upgrade some of them. We got to the stage where we went for approval and the regulator felt that it was not in the customer base best interest at that time to fund any further. It was probably because we were getting close to the 40% target at that time. So, there are still quite a number that are not capable of reverse power flow and can provide the exact number if needed.</p>

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	<p>JW-Just on that basis, am I right in saying that for the zero export, if the fault capacity is reached the application will be declined?</p> <p>LON – Yes, unless under RP6 we have approval to upgrade the equipment in the substations to bring the fault level rating up. If that was the case then you would receive a delayed connection. There are other occasions that we have received approval for upgrades to substations to improve fault level capability.</p> <p>JW - Is that information readily available? Is the fault level on the heat map?</p> <p>LON – Yes, you will see the fault level rating on the heat map. We can connect up to 90% of that rating at present. It will be a refusal up to 90%.</p> <p>LON – We will be consulting on a new connection process for export <5MW. An industry paper will need to be issued on the potential process change. NIEN and SONI will engage with CWIG and prepare options to be included in the paper. We do understand that this isn't great news and given that the new energy target is 80%, that everybody is wanting to reduce their energy bills/carbon footprint by installing renewable. The issue has been escalated right up to both boards in NIEN & SONI due to the severity and importance of the issue. It is important to realise that this will take time to find a process that suits everyone.</p> <p>JC - Would it be possible to circulate these slides?</p> <p>LON – Yes, these slides will be circulated.</p>
6	<p>DfE – General Update/Energy Strategy Update</p> <p>KS – we have a new head of renewable electricity which is Zoe Crowe but she could not make it this morning. We are preparing an action plan for 2023. At the moment energy strategy 2023 will come out in January and it will set out the actions that are being taken forward in 2023. We will also be reporting on progress from 2022 and two key consultations to bring to your attention are planned to be published very soon, I can't give any more detail on the exact date. There is going to be a consultation on the offshore renewable energy action plan which was action 14 of the energy strategy action plan for 2022. The target is to deliver 1 GW of offshore wind from 2030. The other consultation is on scheme design options for renewable electricity support scheme for Northern Ireland. Both of these will be coming out very soon.</p>

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	<p>JW – Renewable support scheme, have you got any idea when this will be coming out or how it will be presented?</p> <p>KS - at the moment the consultation is looking at scheme design options. In 2023 there will definitely be further stages of engagement and further consultation on what from the scheme will take. We will not know timescale until this has been designed.</p>	
7	<p>Renewable NI– Dispatch Down WG Update</p> <p>Update to be given at the next RGLG</p>	Renewable NI
8	<p>Network Development/ATR Update</p> <p>HG – The North South Interconnector – estimated connection date is now 2026.</p> <p>The Mid Antrim reinforcement – this is currently in part 2 of the grid development process. There has been ongoing stakeholder engagement and the date for this is now 2029.</p> <p>The Omagh Dromore project – This has been handed over to NIEN for construction as planned for next year.</p> <p>The options report has now been progressed for Drumnakilly Tamnamore uprating.</p> <p>The options report is about to commence for the North West reinforcements with a due date of 2030.</p> <p>The Mid Tyrone reinforcements – The environmental report is currently being progressed with a due date for the TMPP submission in 2023 with a view to getting that connected / commissioned in 2030</p>	
9	<p>AOB</p> <p>Innovation Webinar - Mailing list sent</p> <p>Energy crisis</p> <p>N'OB – This is best directed at SONI. From a small-scale generation point of view between 250kW and 1MW we had great outcomes in the last couple of years in terms of the outlying off grid</p>	NIEN

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	<p>solutions connected the good work of Lisa's team & others in NIEN but we haven't really had any success since the early part of this year and there has seemingly been a push back on considering anything under 5MW from a capacity perspective. As a small-scale industry representative is there anything on what the outlook might be and obviously this Segway's into Sinead's point that there are off grid renewables out there that are seeking access to export and is there any particular further information that I can then share with those in our sector.</p> <p>HG – Neil, I suppose the fact that you have directed this solely at SONI raises a wider issue around the communications that seem to be going out around this. The connections process and the small scale would have been part of that ACOP paper , so there has been work going on , this was a joint consultation paper and there were a number of criteria within that paper that was used and consulted on and they are the rationale that NIEN will use to decide whether or not an offer can be issued and part of that process is that NIEN asks SONI for an assessment on a couple of those criteria. Where it has got to is that a lot of the criteria is not able to be achieved so there needs to be a new connections process for Small Scale. Ourselves and NIEN have been discussing the factors that will be included in this process. This work is ongoing, so it is not necessarily a SONI decision or piece of work, but I do understand that is how people are receiving the message. There is a lot of discussion going on and we are all trying to move this forward.</p> <p>N'OB – Do you think the outcomes of this and the new process will be anytime soon or will it be many months away?</p> <p>HG – I think it would be unfair to say as it will be both organisations view on what can happen and what kind of measures can be implemented. There are a lot of discussions and we also need to have discussions with the regulator.</p> <p>LON – From an NIEN point of view where a customer wishes to gain export, there must be both distribution and transmission capacity. NIEN determine if there is distribution capacity and we seek confirmation from SONI if there is Transmission capacity. Where we can't provide export we explain where the constraint is and we explain the process to the customer. With SONI we have a next steps paper drafted between the two companies and it is now just getting external communication so everyone will be on the same page and this is where we are keen to get to. In the not so distant future we will be able to share more.</p> <p>SF – We are seeing a lot of activity in zero export. Zero export is certainly a route that a lot of companies that obviously have demand will go. Export connections led to a lot of issues with capacity as export tending to lead to the need to reinforce the</p>

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	<p>network. The behaviour of self-consumption is something we are seeing a lot of industries in the current climate going down that route.</p> <p>N'OB – I appreciate the answers. The access to grid export is something from a financial point of view helps them to raise money on the small-scale side it's not necessarily that they want it or all of it. Its seen as another route to market for financial reasons. I appreciate the answers and its certainly one of those particular things that I remember 5-10 years ago when this group started that we were on the solar side and the tens of thousands of small scale , micro scale which presented tremendous obstacles for SONI & NIEN and we always got through those and I suppose have people that are feeling worthy on their ability to make their small contribution to solving our energy situation and are then scratching their head. I will be able to now respond better each time we are asked.</p> <p>JW – can we have an update on SCADA?</p> <p>DH – The programme for small scale generators is ongoing, it's probably been a lot slower progress than we had hoped for a number of reasons but it is progressing. We had set a deadline for December 22 for all sites to be complete but for those reasons we are not going to make that date. At present we are engaging with the installers, all of the generators had to engage with installers so we are currently discussing with installers the dates for all the outstanding sites. We will not be taking any action for generators that haven't connected SCADA by the end of the year as long as we have a date for when their installer intends to have the site completed. For any sites that haven't either engaged or continued to engage with installers and therefore do not have a plan to remedy the non-compliance then we will engage with them separately to deal with the non-compliance.</p> <p>JW – so a small percentage are not engaging?</p> <p>DH – yes, it was a small percentage but when we complete this round of discussions with the installers we will have a clear picture. If they continue not to engage then it will have to be dealt with through the non-compliance programme. We have had really good engagement so far and the delays so far haven't been down to generators they have been down to two things. One has been supply chain issues for the RTUs that are required has been delayed due to the worldwide shortage on computer equipment. As well as that, although we had nine installers indicated that they would bring forward solutions at the start of the programme, in reality only three installers have solutions. Those three installers have all developed very good solutions that work perfectly well.</p>

Summary of New Actions

Action No.	Action Description	To be Actioned by
NA		

Summary of Carried Actions

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