

16th June 2015

Renewables Grid Liaison Group

Minutes of Meeting

Attendees	
Utility Regulator	Tanya Hedley (TH), Ronan McKeown (RMck) Jody O'Boyle (JOB),
NIRIG	Meabh Cormacain (MC), Billy Graham (BG)
NIE	Michael Atkinson (MA), Aidan Bradley (AB), Caron Malone (CM) Adrian Macauley (AM)
SONI	Eimear Watson (EW)
DETI	
Solar Power Representative	Neil O'Brien (NOB)
Offshore Representative	Damian Bettles (DB)
Ulster Farmers Union	
Apologies	Dick Lewis (DL) Chris Osborne (CO) Stephen Thompson (ST) Mervyn Adams (MA(d)) Michael Harris (MH(arr)) Robert Wasson (RW) Gary Hawkes (GH)

No	Item	Action
1	Apologies Chris Osborne (CO) Stephen Thompson (ST) Mervyn Adams (MA(d)) Michael Harris (MH(arr)) Robert Wasson (RW) Gary Hawkes (GH)	
2	Minutes and actions from previous meeting Minutes agreed for publication	
	<p>Actions from previous meeting</p> <p><u>Action 1</u> SONI to produce timetable for NSI- to be updated under agenda item 6</p> <p><u>Action 2</u> NIE to consider if there is a possibility for a different certification for G83/1- to be updated under agenda item 8</p> <p><u>Action 3</u> NIE & SONI to update Renewables Integration Status Report- complete</p> <p><u>Action 4</u> SONI and NIE to provide update at next meeting on project to look at MW on SSG on network and add to renewables integration status report- complete</p> <p><u>Action 5</u> DETI to check if DECC have consulted with SSG in Northern Ireland and pass on details- to be carried forward</p> <p><u>Action 6</u> NIE to engage with DETI to scope out what needs to be included in impact assessment. UR willing to attend- NIE and DETI had a meeting on this, NIE and UR have met also</p> <p><u>Action 7</u> UR to circulate tracked changes version of terms of reference changes - complete</p> <p><u>Action 8</u> All current members to take 2 weeks to comment on proposed changes to ToR and return to UR- to be covered under agenda item 10</p>	DETI

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3	<p>Renewables Integration Status report</p> <p>Report updated for June 2015 by NIE and SONI. Some updates to include ongoing review on ROCs also.</p> <p><u>SONI Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garvagh connection arrangement has been determined-costing to be completed • 3 further clusters submitted to SONI by NIE, Newtownstewart, Kells and Cam. NIE and SONI in close contact over these. SONI will determine point of connection • Tamnamore 3rd line and Brockaghboy transmission connection updated in report with timelines <p><u>NIE update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term Plan complete- removed from report • Kells to Coleraine- due to finish 2015 (outage dependant) • Clusters timeframes have also been updated in the report. Note that Gort cluster requires 3rd line to be completed. <p>NIRIG asked if the timeframes for transmission development projects assumed for the 2014 SONI Generator Output Reduction (GOR) report are different to current assumptions and if so how would they affect the GOR results.</p> <p>SONI responded that they are in the process of updating FAQ models and have requested internally that the GOR report is also updated to take account of any changes in assumptions. New GOR report and FAQs will then be issued to everyone in due course when this is updated.</p> <p>FAQ report update expected after Summer; GOR- no timeline at the minute but hopefully 2015.</p> <p>ACTION- SONI to provide update at next meeting on timeframes for the updated GOR report.</p> <p><u>JOINT SONI & NIE LOAD FORECASTING PROJECT</u></p> <p>PHD project will start in September. Scope to be finalised for next meeting.</p> <p>Updates will now be included in Renewables Integration Status Report</p>	SONI
4	<p>Contestability in Connections</p> <p>UR published proposed next steps paper on 11th May, and shortly after this published annexes which were SONI and NIE timelines.</p> <p>UR will be having bi-lateral meeting with SONI and NIE to try and push these timelines forward.</p> <p>UR continues to work with contestability group to assist NIE and SONI in implementing contestability and publishing guidelines</p> <p>Responses for next steps decision paper due 19th June- expect to publish this paper end June.</p> <p>NIRIG stated that the NIE timeline for the implementation of limited</p>	

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	<p>contestability did not work for small scale generation activities. To be eligible for the current incentive regime projects have to be connected by the end of March 2017, an August 2016 date for implementation of contestability is too late for small scale generation projects to avail of this facility.</p> <p>NIRIG restated the proposal to implement a restricted scope (cables and substations) as a first phase of contestability for small scale generation. NIRIG suggested this could be done in a much quicker timescale than that currently proposed by NIE since the specifications should be more or less existing and accreditation should be straightforward. NIRIG added that if contestability could be made work for small scale generation then it could be more easily established for demand connections. If something like this didn't happen to get things started, NIRIG couldn't see how contestability could actually happen in practice in a market as disparate as demand connections. NIRIG said that if we didn't move from the current direction this would be a real missed opportunity to establish a working contestable connections market in N Ireland.</p> <p>NIE has been in talking to UR since last meeting and have discussed NIE putting into place contestability before license changes are in place. This is a complicated process and UR does not want to redraft licence changes twice.</p> <p>NIRIG stated they will respond formally to consultation by Friday. As an industry they had wanted to see some flexibility of accreditation and alternatives to Lloyd's accreditation process. There is a time and cost element to Lloyd's accreditation which can be quite onerous. NIRIG concerned with this as GB looks like RO will be closed a year early. Given this, there are developers in GB trying to get turbine contracts signed up sooner to avail of grace periods which could lead to a knock on effect here in NI as there will be a high demand for ICPs to do this work in GB first. NIRIG stated that Achilles could offer an alternative accreditation process and will provide further detail in response. To avoid delays in delivering contestable connections- NIRIG would like to see various options considered as soon as possible.</p> <p>NIRIG also think there could be more useful discussions around the point of connection. NIRIG think this could be quite limiting; will explain this in further detail in response. NIE highlighted the point of connection has significant implications to clusters- any changes would need to be well thought through to make sure this has no impact on cluster rules.</p> <p>UR noted next working group is 30th June.</p>	
5	<p>DETI Update on consultations</p> <p>NIE emphasised how the criteria around grace period is equally as important as the grace period itself. NIE have had numerous interactions with DETI on the criteria in last few weeks. The extent to which there is any flexibility around absolute criteria is important but at this point NIE is not sure how this will turn out.</p> <p>NIRIG also highlighted this in their consultation response to DETI.</p>	

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	<p>NIE and NIRIG recognised that there has been considerable effort from DETI to improve the NI process.</p> <p>NIRIG stated that there is a lot of uncertainty about when these decisions will be made and there are massive concerns that there could be no CFD. Some sources have speculated there will be a decision reached at executive in coming weeks. The executive has already in principle approved the Cfd and this would be potentially be a u-turn.</p> <p>DETI passed on their apologies and were not available to provide an update on this.</p>	
6	<p>SONI Update on Network 25 and NSI</p> <p>Network 25</p> <p>Network 25 updates are provided in the Renewables integration Status Report. At the minute SONI are still planning for public consultation and statutory consultation on SEA this year.</p> <p>The ongoing DETI consultation is looking at different renewables targets which will have an effect on Network 25.</p> <p>It is unknown at present how this might impact what is consulted on and the timeframe for this.</p> <p>NIRIG have raised concerns that changing one policy will have knock on effects on their policies.</p> <p>NSI</p> <p>On the 1st June, the addendum to the planning application was submitted. This will be advertised in coming weeks by DOE. Schedule for recommencement for public inquiry is unknown at present however.</p> <p>On the 9th June EirGrid submitted their application. Their Public Inquiry is expected in October this year</p>	
7	<p>SSG Update on Capacity/Safety constraints</p> <p>NIE have now had to withdraw/not make c430 offers due to capacity/safety concerns.</p> <p>This number sub divides as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Conditional Offers withdrawn: c80 • Number of offers which could not be made: c350 <p>At present around 77% of applicants wish to remain within the queue. NIE continuing to seek time extensions from UR on the offers in the queue.</p> <p>NIE intend to start a filtering/screening exercise on those who are waiting in the queue to determine which would be high costs. High costs coupled with managed connection may make some projects unviable.</p> <p>DECC review on small scale FIT will have impact on those in queue. This will not be complete until end 2015, expect to tie in with review DECC are completing for UK FIT.</p> <p>Heat map last updated end Feb- NIE expect next update in July.</p>	

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	<p><u>Progress of £2.3m</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tap changer and relay programme for replacement of 19 tap changers/relays is on schedule. • Programme started early May; tap changers and relays now complete at Ballykelly, and Bishops court, with Loughestown Main due to complete Friday. • Programme to be completed by mid-October 	
8	<p>NIE Project 40</p> <p>At a high level - the amount of activity in the market in terms of connected quantities and the amount in the work pipe to be connected is very high across large and small sale generation.</p> <p><u>Large Scale Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work has looked at commercial issues around charging; however there is still a formal dispute on second transformer charging ongoing. Expect position on this to become clear soon • NIE have been using P40 to get a better formula to accelerate project timelines. Monthly internal meeting and email updates with developers Quarterly meeting with cluster developers • Work on Omagh-Tamnamore 3rd line is a critical path item which links to Gort cluster. • Pre-ordering poles for clusters etc. has been received well by industry. <p><u>Small Scale Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIE has been engaging with UR around another tranche of substations for investment along with monies for managed connection pilot. • There have been much interaction on this- there is an expectation that output from this process will emerge in the short term. • UR stated that they are working to RP5 price control which was set by CC and the License mods are still not in place. NIE has been seeking clarity in how this price control would work in relation to these monies. UR has written to NIE and there have been further questions on this. UR is to write again to NIE shortly on this providing the appropriate assurances. NIRIG raised concerns that 3 months to agree this is a long time. • Next P40 meeting will be in early July and NIE hope to provide a position statement at this meeting on conventional investments and pilot work related to the above • NIE have arrived at a position where they urgently have to proceed with Managed connection pilot to understand if these will be viable. If we assume the approval process will conclude imminently this will enable NIE to work through 	

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	<p>analysis of potential release of projects from conventional investment and move forward with managed connections evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For various reasons the throughput at preconstruction has become problematic. Difficulties relate to the increased work content of jobs then resulting in higher survey and wayleaves content plus increasing resistance on the ground from landowners to consenting / permissions (in some cases related to LSG and Tamnamore to Omagh 3rd line). NIE are taking significant strengthening measures to increase delivery capacity and work throughput in this area in terms of both management and resources on the ground. • Regarding the jobs in suspense- it is unlikely that there will be solutions for all 430 projects. Aidan Bradley will move shortly to work with particular focus on these projects current in suspense. • A dedicated SSG delivery manager role is being introduces. Survey, wayleaves and legalities capacity to be strengthened given the work content of jobs has increased. • Importantly there will be a point in next number of months where NIE will outline timelines for applications at different stages and cut-off dates where incoming applications would not be expected to meet March 2017 energisation. <p><u>Microgeneration Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of Microgeneration applications has surged due to the impending ROCS changes. NIE continue to increase resourcing to match the demand for connections • NIE and NISTA to work closely together to plan briefing meeting to Microgeneration developers in coming months. • NIE has completed own internal review of use of G83/2 inverters with a number of options considered going forward. Most likely scenario is for G83/2 inverters to be installed using G83/1 protection settings, currently investigating how this can be achieved and certified by the manufacturer. There may be a need to request derogation to the D-Code. This action will be picked up by the project 40 Microgeneration update • NISTA said it is welcome to hear internal activities going on. As an industry they can't get hands on inverters, they hope this process will be speedy. NISTA have lost considerable time in industry due to rush to get connected by September- however there is robustness in industry that micro PV will continue after October. Numerous companies have received funding options for numerous offers at 3ROC limit. Have worked considerably with RoI, which present a large opportunity for sector. • NISTA felt there was a positive engagement with NIE at a meet held in April. 	

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9	<p>Move from G59/1 to G59/2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic institution that is completing the network analysis for the GB DNO review of G59/3 has identified potential islanding scenarios where multiple DG's are connected to a circuit which require further investigation. • As a consequence, the GB DNO report is delayed, resulting in the institution delaying the Network analysis for NIE. However, the additional studies being undertaken for the GB system may benefit the analysis required for the Northern Ireland network. • Indications are that the Network Analysis for NIE will begin, subject to approval, Q4 of 2015. • Levels of saturation in NIE network are very different to UK. If GB is already having islanding problems, then any learning that can be taken from GB will be welcome. 	
10	<p>RGLG Membership</p> <p>UR proposed amending the ToR based on request received for DSUs, AGUs and Storage to be represented.</p> <p>NIE and NIRIG have responded on this and these responses have been circulated to group.</p> <p>Both NIE and NIRIG indicated they did not see value in AGUs and DSUs joining but had no objections to storage being included as it could help to facilitate renewables on the network and is therefore in keeping with the group's focus.</p> <p>As a group it was agreed that membership can be increased to include Storage but not AGUs/DSUs.</p> <p>SONI highlighted that compressed air energy storage is not renewable- to consider further.</p> <p>ACTION- UR to send final version of revised ToR to group and upload to the website</p>	UR
12	<p>AOB</p> <p>NIRIG asked if there was a timeframe for impact assessment of rebating policy. From an industry point of view- most of the issues relating to rebating which might be solvable might relate to cluster method.</p> <p>ACTION- NIE to confirm timeline to consider at a high level the impact of re-bating.</p> <p>NIE indicated that whatever is agreed will need to be reconciled with cluster method.</p> <p>UR raised the recent summit with minster and press release put out. A new date has been set for end July and the same parties are to be involved.</p> <p>UR placement student has produced paper on impacts of Small</p>	NIE

No	Item	Action
	and MG on network. ACTION- UR to circulate placement students final paper to group	UR
13	Dates of Meetings for 2015 Tuesday 8 th September - UR offices	

Summary of Actions

Action No.	Action Description	To be Actioned by
<u>Actions carried forward</u>		
1	DETI to check if DECC have consulted with SSG in Northern Ireland and pass on details-	DETI
<u>New Actions</u>		
2	SONI to provide update at next meeting on timeframes for the GOR report update.	SONI
3	UR to send final version of revised ToR to group and upload to the website	UR
4	NIE to confirm timeline to consider at a high level the impact of re-bating.	NIE
5	UR to circulate placement students final paper to group	UR