

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2015**  
**Renewables Grid Liaison Group**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

**16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016**

<b>Attendees</b>	
<b>Utility Regulator</b>	Tanya Hedley (TH) Jody O'Boyle (JOB) Naoimh McGovern (NMcG)
<b>NIRIG</b>	Mervyn Adams (MA(d)) Meabh Cormacain (MC)
<b>NIE Networks</b>	Michael Atkinson (MA), Aidan Bradley (AB), Adrian Macauley (AM) Stephen Thompson (ST) Nigel Crawford (NC)
<b>SONI</b>	Eimear Watson (EW), David McGowan (DMcG), Andrew Gordon (AG), Gerry Hodgekinson (GH(od))
<b>DETI</b>	Alison Clydesdale (AC)
<b>Solar Power Representative</b>	Neil O'Brien (NOB)
<b>Offshore Representative</b>	Kieran O'Malley (KOM)
<b>Ulster Farmers Union</b>	Chris Osborne (CO) Gary Hawkes (GH)
<b>Energy Storage Representative</b>	Michael Harper (MH)
<b>Apologies</b>	Caron Malone (CM) Dick Lewis (DL) Roger Henderson (RH) Billy Graham (BG) Damian Bettles (DB) Michael Harris (MH(arr))

<b>No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Dick Lewis (DL) Roger Henderson (RH) Billy Graham (BG) Damian Bettles (DB) Michael Harris (MH(arr))	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes and actions from previous meeting</b> Minutes agreed for publication	
	<b>Actions from previous meeting</b> <u>Action 1</u> SONI and NIE Networks to provide update at next meeting on progress of load forecasting project – <b>to be updated under agenda item</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Renewables Integration Status report</b> <u>SONI Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSI ROI. Waiting for An Bord Pleanála to give date for formal hearing – have requested further detail from Eirgrid. NI. DOE considering releasing the files back to the planning appeals commission. Weekly management meeting between SONI and Eirgrid.</li> <li>• Omagh-Tamnamore Line. 83% of landowners have consented to wayleaves. First 90 spans from Tamnamore have Article 40 consent.</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Gort cluster will need the section of line built from Tamnamore to Gort.</p> <p>DETI will be involved and landowners have been given 21 day notice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drumquin cluster- consultation on route last week. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) due for sign off soon. NIE and SONI identifying different items to try and speed up development. EIA and planning application will then be submitted to Fermanagh and Omagh by SONI</li> <li>• Brockaghboy- pre construction continuing on schedule.</li> <li>• Garvagh, Kells, Newtownstewart, Drumquin &amp; Gort extensions all in progress at planning/design stage.</li> <li>• Small scale load forecasting – Phd student from Queens appointed. Previous Action.</li> <li>• It was previously stated that Network 25 analysis work would complete in 2015, now extended to 2016. Needs to reflect outcome of DETIs review of Strategic Energy Framework.</li> <li>• Developing plan as how best to take through consultation. Primary purpose to secure strategic environmental assessment of the plan so it supports individual projects and won't hold them back by the production of Network 25. Intention is SEA when it comes out in 2016 will support the taking forward of those projects.</li> <li>• Status report will updated for next meeting.</li> </ul> <p><u>NIE Networks Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kells – Coleraine now 85% complete. No further work until 2016. May be linked to outages for Rasharkin. Updates to follow.</li> <li>• Tamnamore phase 2- complete.</li> <li>• 3 clusters (Rasharkin, Tremoge and Gort) progressing through civil works at construction phase. Expected civil works to complete early 2016. Remaining works stretch completion dates Rasharkin – Sept 2016, Tremoge - Nov 2016, Gort – Dec 2016 (dependant on energisation of 3<sup>rd</sup> line)</li> </ul> <p><u>Transmission Reinforcements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earlier Medium Term Plan summarised and now not regarded as the optimal solution particularly in the North corridor with the reduction of projected 600MW offshore to 200MW.</li> <li>• Development needs yet to be determined.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Taking account of all the committed works and new</p>	<p><b>SONI</b></p>

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	<p>wind (c800MW) that has appeared could lead to potential development of 275kV.</p> <p>If not considering new wind (c800MW) then 110kV reinforcement may suffice.</p> <p>275kV may ultimately be required but will take considerable length of time. 110kV may be needed to allow timely connections as part of stepped solution.</p> <p>Current Medium Term Plan achieves (1000MW with limited constraints). Pinch point beyond this is Kells – Mid Antrim. Plan to get this to Grid Development team in early/mid 2016.</p> <p>Expectation that the next phase of the medium term plan to be produced over the next few of months.</p>	
4	<p><b>Contestability in Connections</b></p> <p><u>UR Update</u></p> <p>Draft implementation guidelines for contestability in both transmission and distribution published on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015 for consultation. Comments to were received by 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015. Four responses received and have been shared with NIE and SONI. Guidelines currently being finalised along with a recommendation report.</p> <p>NIE and SONI reviewing timelines. Phase 1 implementation May 2016. Limited to connections greater than 5MW.</p> <p>Workshop held on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2015</p> <p>UR aiming to develop licence modifications for NIE and SONI for Phase 2 of implementation plan.</p>	
5	<p><b>DETI Update on consultations</b></p> <p>Consultation document issued on 30th September on early closure of NIROC for on-shore wind. Consultation closed on 14<sup>th</sup> October. Around 500 responses.</p> <p>Minister put a Minded to Position to the ETI committee on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015. ETI committee raised some queries that are currently being addressed.</p> <p>ETI committee have requested a meeting with the DECC/ Secretary of State. No confirmation as yet.</p> <p>DECC Energy Bill is currently back in the House of Commons and is progressing and it is very likely that clauses will be put into the bill that will effectively protect GB consumers.</p> <p>Gary Hawkes stated that there is currently a judicial review applied for by Ulster Farmers Union and Simple Power (possibly others) that may affect the timeline.</p>	

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6	<p><b>SONI Presentation</b></p> <p>Transmission Constraints Analysis - David McGowan and Andrew Gordon</p> <p>Intend to finalise scenarios by 4th Dec 2015. Deep check model in Dec 2015. Reporting of results by end of Q1 2016.</p> <p>Presentation to be circulated.</p>	SONI
7	<p><b>NIE Networks update on applications without planning permission</b></p> <p>The current quantum of connected and committed generation is c1500MW.</p> <p>There has been c880MW of applications received since August 2015. This is made up of 50 large scale applications (830MW) and 250 small scale applications (50MW). These applications broadly impacted over the entire network.</p> <p>When considering the c880MW of recent applications it must be in context of a very congested distribution network and increasingly congested transmission network.</p> <p>Considerable effort has been made to ensure precise queue order maintained.</p> <p>The current process for assessment is sequential. It was apparent that this would not work for a very large volume arriving at the same time.</p> <p>Following discussions between NIE/SONI/UR an extension of time has been agreed for the issue of offers. A joint statement has been released.</p> <p>A detailed plan is to be developed by NIE and SONI as to how to progress the work. An industry workshop is to be set-up for Dec 2015 (possibly week starting 14<sup>th</sup>). Later confirmed as Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Dec at Stormont Hotel - 2pm</p> <p>NIE and SONI are meeting on a regular basis.</p> <p>A question was raised regarding queue position and whether those with planning approval should move above those without planning approval. It was NIEs view that its position on this matter was unlikely to change.</p> <p>NIE was asked if it had the resources in place to connect those applications that had been already accepted before the closure of NIROC. NIE stated they had significantly increased staffing levels from last year and were confident, although nothing was ever guaranteed, they could meet the required connection dates. Subject to agreeable landowners for necessary legalities.</p> <p>Neil O'Brien (Amber Green) asked a question regards allowing zero export as a way to allow further micro generation to connect. He stated that there was frustration with the lack of progress. NIE</p>	

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	<p>responded that with the current levels of penetration any generation, whether exported or not, added to the capacity issues.</p>	
<p><b>8 &amp; 9</b></p>	<p><b>SSG Update on Capacity/Safety constraints/ NIE Networks Project 40</b></p> <p><u>Primary Substations</u></p> <p>£2.3M investment in 40 initial substations now complete.</p> <p>Second wave of investment (36 substations) due for completion by summer 2016. Released approx. 150 projects for further investment. These connections will not be made until the substation works are complete.</p> <p>Small number of non-wind applications still to process (15-20). Should be complete over the next two weeks.</p> <p>Prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept deadline approx. 90 wind applications were processed with a high percentage requesting an offer of which a majority accepted. Approx 60 non-wind were issued.</p> <p><u>Pre-Construction</u></p> <p>All the jobs currently in pre-construction are expected to be connection before end March 2017. Subject to agreeable landowners for necessary legalities.</p> <p>NIE confirmed there has been a significant increase in staffing levels - wayleave resource (+80%), NIE have engaged an external survey company.</p> <p>Working with DETI the Article 40 process has been streamlined from 2-3 months to 3-4 weeks.</p> <p>YTD a 50% increase in jobs completed compared to 2014.</p> <p><u>Project 40</u></p> <p>Large scale - limited progress since last meeting as focus has been on methodology to deal with large quantity of current applications.</p> <p>Clusters – outstanding work relates to charging principles, recent applications and future contestability. Intention to convene cluster group in the new year.</p> <p>Long cable connections – extensive work carried out at almost at conclusion. Intention is to publish results in early 2016.</p> <p>Small scale managed connections – substantive engagement with industry and regulator, pilot scheme under way. Regardless of the early closure announcement NIE are proceeding with work to find a solution.</p> <p>Procurement exercise to get under way shortly but it is hoped to run in parallel to some extent with the pilot scheme. Q2 2016 still the earliest expected offer date.</p>	

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	<p>Gary Hawkes (UFU) – supports strongly the continuing of the managed connections programme.</p> <p>Meabh Cormacain (NIRIG) – raised question on cluster group and cost sharing regarding rebating. NIE stated that they need to get the cluster sub-group and proposals moving again. Recent large volumes of applications have diverted efforts. Intention to convene cluster group in the new year and include rebating as part of this.</p> <p>Neil O'Brien (Amber Green) – enquired about levels of non-compliance. NIE stated that the levels of non-compliance have improved. NIE to provide figures.</p>	<b>NIE</b>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Move from G59/1 to G59/2</b></p> <p>Discussions held with Academic Institution early November and initial indications were that the review of G59 would take approximately 12 months to complete.</p> <p>NIEN have engaged the Academic Instruction to complete these studies and the agreed approach is to complete the analysis in two phases.</p> <p>Phase I - Sensitivity analysis for large Scale generation investigating ROCOF and Frequency Settings.</p> <p>These studies are required to support the DS3 project and increasing non synchronous penetration of generation to 75%</p> <p>It is estimated that these studies will take between 4 to 6 months to complete.</p> <p>Phase II - Sensitivity analysis for small scale generation, taking into account smaller generators on 11kV circuits</p> <p>Frist review meeting to be held in December and a further update available for the next meeting.</p> <p>These studies will support the work for the replacement document (G59/2, G59/3 or RfG).</p>	
<b>12</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Gary Hawkes (UFU) inquired if NIE have any consideration in their planning for storage devices.</p> <p>NIEs position is there aren't any firm plans at present. Storage devices may become something that is of interest in the next few years but at the moment it does not seem to be at a price point where it is a viable.</p> <p>As part of the consultation process for RP6 interested parties were asked to bring forward any proposals.</p>	
<b>13</b>	<b>Date of Meeting for 2016</b>	

<b>No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2016	



## Summary of Actions

<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Action Description</b>	<b>To be Actioned by</b>
<u>New Actions</u>		
<b>1</b>	Renewable integration status report update next meeting + slide show	<b>SONI/NIE</b>
<b>2</b>	Presentation to be circulated	<b>SONI</b>
<b>3</b>	G83 values to be progressed	<b>NIE</b>