

12th November 2013

Renewables Grid Liaison Group

Minutes of Meeting

Attendees	
Utility Regulator	Tanya Hedley (TH), Sarah Friedel (SF) Jody O'Boyle (JOB)
NIRIG	Michael Harper (MH), Meabh Cormacain (MC), Mervyn Adams (MA(d)), Billy Graham (BG)
NIE	Gerry Hodgkinson (GH), Michael Atkinson (MA), David de Casseres (DdC), Aidan Bradley (AB), Stephen Thompson (ST)
SONI	Gareth McLoughlin (GMcL)
DETI	Michael Harris (MH(arr))
Solar Power Representative	Ruth McGuigan (RMcG)
Apologies	Robert Wasson (RW) Dick Lewis (DL)

No	Item	Action
1	Apologies Robert Wasson NIE and Dick Lewis (SONi)	
2	Minutes and Actions from previous meeting	
	<p>Action 1: – FAQ – all information to be provided during the course of week start 11th November</p> <p>Action 2: - Renewable Integrated Status report – Updated report was circulated. To be considered under the appropriate item on the agenda.</p> <p>Action 3 – UR to contact SONi re: Off-Shore consultation – completed</p> <p>Action 4 Payment Security - NIE have held meeting with NIRIG. NIE have also met with UR - Points emerging: [1] During construction payment security remains unchanged as any change would result in risk to customer [2] After Construction payment Security - NIE & UR position has not been agreed. Meeting required between with NIE, UR & NIRIG.</p> <p>Action 5 – Small Scale Generation – urgent meeting to be held with NIE and UR to discuss 33kV investments – meeting completed and submissions made</p>	NIE/UR/NIRIG
3	Renewables Integration Status Report <p>NIE explained that limited revisions had been necessary to the report</p> <p>UR queried that a number of completion reports were still referenced</p> <p>NIE explained that this resulted from prioritisation of capacity and the fact that in respect of the Omagh Tx's; whilst the units had been replaced there remained a final payment to suppliers that would not be paid until 2014.</p> <p>UR also flagged up the need to include the 33/11kV transformer investment programme in the report.</p> <p>Any changes to be provided to report by Friday 15th Nov</p>	SONi/NIE

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4	<p>Cluster Offers</p> <p>Updated offers have been sent out except for those linked to Drumquin. Further discussion around those relating to Drumquin Cluster</p>	
5	<p>Generation Connection – FAQ process</p> <p>SONi confirmed FAQ information is almost complete - it is planned to be sent out in week start 19th November</p>	SONi
6	<p>Offshore Consultation</p> <p>Consultation closed in the summer (MC). Review of legal position suggests NIE & SONi Licence extends out to 12 nautical miles</p> <p>UR to write to NIE & SONI and ask them to review their documentation in this regard – in week start 18th November – to confirm position on 12 nautical miles.</p> <p>This has resulted in the likelihood of contestability being introduced. UR plan to start working towards contestability in 2014</p>	
7	<p>Small Scale Generation</p> <p>Presentation provided by NIE to cover items on G83 and Conditional Offers</p> <p>NIE proposing alignment of G83 limits to ESQCR as current G83 limits do not meet ESQCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current limits @ 6.5kW single phase and 20kW three phase • New limits to align with ESQCR – 16A per phase equates to 3.68 single phase – 11.04 three phase • Decision likely in next few weeks – NIE will communicate this widely to developers • A transition period of 2/3 months is likely to apply • For applications above the new limits the Statement of Charges fees will apply - G59 & G83 (stage 2) will take their place in the generation queue • NIE confirmed Gap analysis to be undertaken to see what would be required to move from G59/1 - G59/2 and G83/1 – G83/1-1 G83/2 <p>NIE highlighted risks of multiple supply points</p> <p>Question was raised around the distance between two supply points beyond which a farm can have a second meter operating in export only mode. Question also raised around NIE guidelines.</p> <p>NIE confirmed that guidelines were in place with all NIE planning engineers but interaction with developers is required before a decision may be made as each site has unique aspects which must be considered during a site visit.</p> <p>NIRIG indicated agreement with NIE's position – but suggested NIE should provide information before the developer makes a submission to planning.</p>	<p>NIE</p> <p>NIE</p>

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	<p>Suggestion that NIE might provide information around guidelines i.e. site specific information and things to be looked at as part of 'Frequently asked Questions' on website</p> <p>NIE confirmed that feasibility studies would consider the specifics of meter related proposals.</p> <p>NIE confirmed there are two scenarios where a second supply point has been requested:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where a farmer wants to have his own generator – DARD grant conditions 2. When the land is rented out to others to developer <p>All members to think of any questions they would want answered on NIE's FAQ's. NIE to consider for inclusion.</p> <p>NIE agreed to consider any potential to reduce G59 application turn around times as well as feasibility study turn around times</p> <p>DETI asked if DARD were aware of the matters relating to multiple supplies and the impact on developers acquiring grants - NIE confirmed discussions underway since 2012 with DARD – however no evidence yet that the developers are being alerted at early stage of process. DETI to raise this issue with DARD</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>NIE</p> <p>DETI</p>
8	<p>Conditional offers</p> <p>Investment to increased headroom capacity at 40 substations now approved by the Utility Regulator</p> <p>NIE in the process of procuring equipment including relays and tap changers and prioritising substations to be worked on</p> <p>Procurement of tap changers is likely to take well into 2014</p> <p>Timeline 12 months put forward by Utility Regulator may be challenging to achieve given procurement issues around tap changers currently under review</p> <p><u>Heat map</u> - NIE explained that in a red area you still may get a connection at a relatively cheap cost albeit it is much more likely that connection costs will be high and remaining headroom to the 33kV very limited in these locations</p> <p>NIE highlighted that the Heat Map only relates to generators who wish to export and does not apply the same when generators are only displacing on site load</p> <p>NIRIG asked how export might be prevented. NIE confirmed that control schemes might be used to bring on additional load in conjunction with back up protection i.e. Reverse Power Controllers.</p> <p>NIRIG asked if the investment could be shown on the heat map. NIE confirmed that investments approved to date enable limited additional headroom at certain primary substations but that the queue to these substations meant that not all those waiting connection would be catered for making it difficult to reflect the status of primary substations on the Heat Map</p> <p>Solar Representative asked if the new G83 can be applied to the</p>	<p>NIE</p>

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	<p>inverter rather than the PV. NIE confirmed that work is being done to assess this.</p> <p>Solar Representative asked about plans to change the thresholds for G83 Fit and Inform. NIE noted that they intended to confirm the timetable within 2-3 weeks and expected it to be an order of 2 -3 months before the new arrangements would come into force.</p> <p>Solar Representative highlighted that there may be a supply issue with materials and equipment</p> <p>NIE agreed to confirm the date of the new G83 limit timeline within a week of the meeting to the Utility Regulator - with the Utility Regulator to publish this information on the UR website</p> <p>NIE confirmed that it would announce the changes through NIE's website and mail shots</p> <p>Solar Representative indicated that if G83 limits reduced, there may be more G59 applications and asked if NIE might reduce timelines noting that in UK application timeline are 2-3 weeks</p> <p>NIE noted that different charging mechanisms in the UK and that NIE's time lines meet its Licence obligations</p> <p>Solar Representative further suggested that NIE not being G59/1 resulted in costs to developers of some £2000. NIE confirmed that work / analysis is ongoing towards moving to G59/2. This move to G59/2 will require modifications to the D-code.</p> <p>NIRIG also noted that NIE have done a lot of work to process the high level of applications and suggested that NIE should highlight more visibly the work that has been achieved</p>	<p>NIE</p> <p>NIE/UR</p> <p>NIE</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Smart ANM</p> <p>MA gave an update - procurement now complete contract awarded to Smarter Grid Solutions</p> <p>Data currently being prepared for them to identify any head room in the area. It is expected that the work will take an order of 6-8 weeks to complete once data has been transferred.</p> <p>The Smarter Grid Solutions work will highlight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headroom and associated load factor degradation • Control mechanism required • Cost of implementation <p>An update will be provided in early 2014 to all industry stakeholders</p> <p>The Utility Regulator confirmed that they are not currently looking at 33kV investments as this falls in the CC remit</p> <p>The CC initial provisional CC response just published has a section on 33kV network investment for small scale – asking for responses by 29 November</p>	<p>NIE</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Rebate Policy</p> <p>NIRIG received a letter from DETI to say that, as NIE and NIAUR agreed that the proposed changes to the 1992 Regulations to</p>	

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	<p>extend the rebate policy are not workable, the Department could not proceed with the consultation.</p> <p>NIE confirmed that moving to rebating for the entire non-domestic customer base had very significant implications</p> <p>NIRIG indicated strong disappointment that this consultation was not going ahead.</p> <p>NIRIG suggested that NIRIG and the Utility Regulator should write to DETI saying that we do not agree with DETI response</p> <p>To re-open this discussion DETI need evidence on the impact change to inform a consultation.</p> <p>In respect of Clusters - work required to deal with expansion of a cluster – but this may not require rebate and is not central to the rebate issue</p> <p>DETI indicated willingness to re-open discussion – and will decide next steps based on response from NIRIG and the Utility Regulator</p>	<p>NIRIG/UR</p> <p>DETI</p>
9	<p>Future Representation at RGLG meetings</p> <p>Meeting noted that Chris Osborne is falling on the distribution list. NIE believe Gary Hawkes had been copied as alternative but will include Chris Osborne again from now on</p> <p>UFU wanted SSG investments of renewables with in CC. Utility Regulator stated that this should be raised to CC and not this forum</p>	<p>NIE</p>
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>The Utility Regulator stated that people should respond to CC draft determination</p> <p>Utility Regulator to have briefing this time next week, first come, first serve (register) basis</p> <p>Separate Committee</p> <p>NIE questioned forum where strategic issue decision take place</p> <p>Utility Regulator suggested it is not right for this operational forum – and take strategic issues should be taken to DETI</p> <p>Update on D-code Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses required by 21 November • Clarification required around Wind Farm Power Station Setting Schedule approvals • D-code panel – changes affect small scale – however no Small Scale response 	
12	<p>Date for next meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 14 January – 10:00 am</p>	

Summary of Actions

Action No.	Action Description	To be Actioned by
1	Clusters - after Construction payment Security - Meeting required between with NIE, UR & NIRIG.	NIE/UR/NIRIG
2	Renewables Report – more work to complete data on G83 levels	SONi/NIE
3	Generation Connection – FAQ process - FAQ information to be sent out in week start 19 th November	SONi
4	G83 limits - decision on timeline to introduce new arrangements likely in next few weeks – NIE will communicate this widely to developers	NIE
5	NIE confirmed Gap analysis to be undertaken to see what would be required to move from G59/1 - G59/2 and G83/1 – G83/1-1 G83/2 – meeting to be updated on progress	NIE
6	All members to think of any questions they would want answered on NIE's FAQ's. NIE then to consider for inclusion.	All
7	NIE to consider any potential to reduce G59 application turn around times as well as feasibility study turn around times	NIE
8	DETI to raise with DARD matters relating to multiple supplies and the impact on developers acquiring grants	DETI
9	Timeline 12 months put forward by Utility Regulator may be challenging to achieve given procurement issues around tap changers currently under review	NIE
10	NIE to update on progress on work to assess inverter vs the PV	NIE
11	NIE agreed to confirm the date of the new G83 limit timeline within a week of the meeting to the Utility Regulator - with the Utility Regulator to publish this information on the UR website	NIE/UR
12	NIE to confirm G83 changes through website and mail shots	NIE
13	Update on ANM to be provided in early 2014 to all industry stakeholders	NIE
14	NIRIG and the Utility Regulator to write to DETI saying indicating they do not agree with DETI response	NIRIG/UR
15	DETI to decide next steps on Rebate issues - based on response from NIRIG and the Utility Regulator	DETI
16	UFU – Chris Osborne to be included on circulation list	NIE