

**11<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**Renewables Grid Liaison Group**

**Minutes of Meeting**

<b>Attendees</b>	
<b>Utility Regulator</b>	Tanya Hedley (TH), Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Ronan McKeown (RK)
<b>NIRIG</b>	Meabh Cormacain (MC), Billy Graham (BG) Michael Harper (MH)
<b>NIE</b>	Michael Atkinson (MA), Aidan Bradley (AB), Stephen Thompson (ST) Caron Malone (CM) Adrian Macauley (AM) Ian Craig (IC)
<b>SONI</b>	Eimear Watson (EW)
<b>DETI</b>	
<b>Solar Power Representative</b>	Ruth McGuigan (RMcG)
<b>Ulster Farmers Union</b>	
<b>Apologies</b>	Chris Osborne (CO) Dick Lewis (DL) Michael Harris (MH(arr)) Gary Hawkes (GH) Mervyn Adams (MA(d))

<b>No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Chris Osborne (CO) Dick Lewis (DL) Michael Harris (MH(arr)) Gary Hawkes (GH) Mervyn Adams (MA(d))	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes and actions from previous meeting</b> Minutes agreed for publication	
	<p><b>Actions from previous meeting</b></p> <p><u>Action 1</u> - SONI to provide plan for Network 25. Consultation is being finalised in next 3 months and SONI will present to RGLG after internal agreement- to remain as ongoing action.</p> <p><u>Action 2</u> - NIE Also to provide timetable for closure report to UR for RIDP- working to finalise report for October- report finalised and sent to UR- action complete and to be discussed under agenda item.</p> <p><u>Action 3</u> - NIE to write to UR informing of delays in procurement and when the procurement is finished NIE can write to UR- BAFO stage of tap changers. To be discussed under Project 40 work. To remain on agenda.</p> <p><u>Action 4</u> - SONI and NIE to provide update on Renewables Integration Status report for next meeting- complete- to be discussed under agenda item- to be covered under agenda item.</p> <p><u>Action 5</u> - SONI to confirm if they require a letter of support from UR &amp; DETI regarding EU funding- SONI confirmed no letter from UR required and letter from DETI already received. Action complete.</p> <p><u>Action 6</u> - Project 40- NIE to circulate structure of groups and who is involved- this has not been circulated to RGLG group as a whole but have engaged separately with various stakeholders i.e. UR, DETI, UFU and NIRIG. To be discussed further under agenda item. Action complete.</p> <p><u>Action 7</u> - NIE and UR to meet for update meeting on Project 40 -</p>	<p><b>SONI</b></p> <p><b>NIE</b></p>

No	Item	Action
	<p>several update meeting have taken place- action complete.</p> <p><u>Action 8</u> - NIE to provide an update to NIRIG on Project 40 - action complete.</p> <p><u>Action 9</u> - UR to provide updates on organisational structure as this develops - to be discussed under agenda item.</p> <p><u>Action 10</u> - G59 and G83 changes - NIE to provide update at next meeting - to be discussed under agenda item.</p> <p><u>Action 11</u>- Rebate Policy - NIRIG, NIE &amp; SONI to meet around this- NIE to involve NIRIG and UR in meeting with DETI regarding rebates.</p> <p><u>Action 12</u> - DETI to provide update at next meeting when statistics report is published- complete - report circulated by Michael Harris - to remain on agenda for update from DETI.</p>	<p><b>NIE/NIRIG/ DETI</b></p> <p><b>DETI</b></p>
3	<p><b>Renewables Integration Status report</b></p> <p>Latest update to this report now available and circulated to RGLG members. Will also be uploaded to the website in due course.</p> <p>Report now reflects Transmission Planning Function now with SONI. Report is now jointly prepared by NIE and SONI.</p> <p>Timelines also extended to 2020 as requested from NIRIG.</p> <p><u>Clusters</u></p> <p>Few more clusters have been included since last report.</p> <p>Spreadsheet updated to reflect predicted timescales.</p> <p><u>Medium Term Plan</u></p> <p>Kells to Coleraine work is still underway due to difficulties getting outages.</p> <p>NIRIG asked if this report could be updated to reflect what is committed to connect in addition to what is connected.</p> <p><b>ACTION- SONI and NIE to further refine document to reflect full changes of transfer then circulate and uploaded it to the internet within 10 working days.</b></p> <p>NIRIG asked where the most recent data on connected generation could be found. NIE indicated that this information is available quarterly through DETI but that a new section will be created on the NIE website with this info also.</p> <p><b>ACTION- NIE to update website to reflect LSG, SSG and Microgeneration connected to the network. To be updated monthly and include the last updated date on it.</b></p> <p>SONI indicated that there is the Connections Register on their website regarding generation connected to the grid and generation who have applied for TUoS agreements.</p>	<p><b>SONI/NIE</b></p> <p><b>NIE</b></p>
4	<p><b>Network 25/RIDP Updates</b></p> <p><u>Network 25</u></p> <p>SONI not in a position to present on this at this meeting. Work on Network 25 and SEA is underway. Report with EirGrid Executive at</p>	

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	<p>present.</p> <p>This information will be made public during SEA process. At present this work is being prepared to go out for consultation.</p> <p>NIRIG asked what impact the North South Interconnector (NSI) will have on Network 25 and how the difficulties getting permission to build this will impact Network 25 work. NIRIG asked if there were any updates from DOE planning on planning permission for NSI. SONI confirmed they have had no further updates from DOE planning as application is with PAC.</p> <p>UR confirmed that in their own engagement with DOE planning they have repeatedly highlighted the importance of the NSI.</p> <p><b>ACTION- SONI to present at next meeting on structure and timescales of SEA consultation as part of Network 25.</b></p> <p><u>RIDP</u></p> <p>Closure report now submitted to the UR with a summary of work carried out to date and how the preferred scheme was selected.</p> <p>In spring of 2013 - phase 3 of works was completed (selection of preferred scheme).</p> <p>As transmission planning responsibility now with SONI they will carry this work forward and how they intend to implement the preferred scheme will be incorporated in Network 25.</p> <p><b>ACTION-SONI/NIE to consider if RIDP closure report can be made public.</b></p>	<p>SONI</p> <p>NIE/SONI</p>
5	<p><b>SONI Off Shore Consultation - Next Steps Paper</b></p> <p>Paper was published mid October. Decision was that any offshore projects could apply for a grid connection if they had either an Exclusivity Agreement or an Agreement for Lease from the Crown Estates.</p> <p>The same rules still apply for any onshore applications i.e. planning permission is required prior to connection application.</p> <p>NIRIG confirmed that the three offshore companies welcomed the conclusions from the paper along with the extra analysis undertaken.</p>	
6	<p><b>Contestability in Connections</b></p> <p>The Utility Regulator (UR) issued a call for evidence on 9th September 2014 and held a workshop on 29th October 2014 on the topic of introducing contestability in electricity connections in Northern Ireland. UR noted that there was a lot of positive engagement at the recent workshop.</p> <p>UR are now in the process of collating responses and building consultation paper with a view to issuing it at the end of the month.</p> <p>A Contestability Working Group will be established in parallel with the review and UR have published an update on their website to invite people to apply to be on this working group. The UR will then review applications and decide who will be most appropriate to attend. Once all responses are received and reviewed the UR will</p>	

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	<p>publish details on this.</p> <p>UR have already engaged with NIE on how various work streams will be structured to ensure what is implemented will be functional.</p> <p>NIRIG asked if there would be subgroups for SSG work in particular. UR confirmed if there were subgroups that could be established where appropriate. This could potentially identify quick wins that could be achieved in shorter timescales.</p> <p>UR will include section on website with regular updates.</p> <p>NIRIG said workshop was very helpful and asked who would be chairing these workshops going forward. UR confirmed they would be chairing the workshops and have asked NIE to do minutes.</p>	
7	<p><b>Cluster Security- Payment Policy</b></p> <p>This dovetails work under Project 40 LSG work.</p> <p>The three main priorities for clusters are delivery times, agreeing how to deal with investments beyond 90MW and security payments.</p> <p>There have been several interactions to date between NIE and UR on this issue, with some inputs from NIRIG also.</p> <p>NIRIG were asked at a previous meeting to produce more information on the evidence of the impact of security payments. NIRIG indicated that it would be unlikely that they could provide this information as large degree of it is commercially sensitive.</p> <p>NIRIG to confirm if this is the case and then have further discussions with NIE on how to take this forward.</p> <p><b>ACTION- NIE and NIRIG to meet to discuss security payments further.</b></p> <p>NIE indicated it was important to get this matter resolved as it was important to expedite offers the delivery of clusters.</p> <p>UR indicated that Article 23 of The Electricity Order 1992 gives NIE powers to require security payments of full money. SONI also has similar powers.</p>	NIE/NIRIG
8	<p><b>SSG Conditional Offers</b></p> <p>Number of offers released from conditionality as a result of the £2.3m investment now c100. As stated before the offers withdrawn/not made include the totality of all the £2.3m investment.</p> <p>NIE have now had to withdraw/not make c260 offers due to capacity/safety concerns.</p> <p>This breaks down as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Conditional Offers withdrawn: c80</li> <li>• Number of offers which could not be made: c180</li> </ul> <p>Of these we have had responses from around 60% of customers and will be writing out again to those who we have not had responses from to date.</p> <p>Of those customers who have responded- around 85% have opted to remain in the queue and await a new connection offer when one</p>	

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	<p>becomes available with around 15% cancelling.</p> <p>NIE requested extensions to January 2016 for all offers. To date 6 month extensions have been agreed with the Utility Regulator. In the intervening period NIE must carry out a review of all jobs and present a full report before the end of the extension period on the position of these connections. It is likely that an additional time extension will be required.</p> <p>NISTA asked if all those offers remaining in the queue will be waiting on managed connections. NIE confirmed that this would be the case unless capacity became available through investment.</p> <p>NIRIG asked if the c100 released from conditionality by the £2.3m was the total number. NIE confirmed that there may be a few more additional offers that come through but this will be dependent on the costs for connection that customers are capable of paying.</p> <p>NIE indicated that in some areas where lower order investments were approved but still have a red substation dot due to capacity issues, that these substations are likely to be requiring high cost investment now.</p> <p>NISTA asked if the heat map was updated to reflect current position. NIE confirmed the heat map was updated in October.</p>	
9	<p><b>NIE Project 40</b></p> <p>Broadly good momentum going in most areas. Established initially 7 subgroups. As time goes on some of these subgroups will distil back to a smaller number.</p> <p><u>Large Scale Matters</u></p> <p>Main thrust is on the clustering side. Other matters e.g. Charging matters relate back to clusters also.</p> <p>A critical issue is around cluster delivery. There has been good progress on UR approvals with 3 critical clusters construction approvals achieved recently. Also 2 further clusters going through preconstruction.</p> <p>NIE are looking to see how the processes can be streamlined. NIE expects meetings with the UR and developer representatives will take place shortly.</p> <p>Grace periods for ROCs also a central point for discussion. DETI consultation on this expected before end of year.</p> <p><b>ACTION- NIRIG to follow up with DETI and provide update at next RGLG meeting on cluster grace period ROC consultation</b></p> <p>Additional information provided to NIRIG by UR - UR indicated that where cluster had been initially approved by board that it is unlikely this approval would subsequently be withdrawn.</p> <p>Ongoing discussion about 2<sup>nd</sup> transformer charging with some constructive options being suggested on how to take this forward. NIE expects the UR to confirm its position shortly.</p> <p>Generally LSG is a busy area – NIE believes the central issues are being addressed and remaining very much in focus with</p>	NIRIG/DETI

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	<p>stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Small Scale Matters</u></p> <p>£2.3m investment update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAFO stage of tenders for tap changers.</li> <li>• Outages due in Spring 2015 as there is difficulty getting these during winter.</li> <li>• NIE have spent considerable time considering recommendations from tenderers to change oil and filters- after final review NIE will discuss this with UR about any increased costs.</li> </ul> <p>Other work on SSG Project 40 matters is heavily linked to alternative methods of connection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIE now have over 220MW committed to distribution network which is considerable considering NIE minimum load of c550MW.</li> <li>• Work on managed connection is very important and NIE have been looking at comparison of the network with other DNOS and also any work in this area undertaken by other GB DNOS and where this can/cannot be replicated.</li> <li>• Two main focus areas which are capacity issues and reverse power control. Also looking at high costs connections and potential voltage related managed connection.</li> <li>• Overall solution may be a combination of both but NIE are considering the level of constraint introduced by both these options both individually and together and need to carry out further analysis on this before can go to consultation.</li> <li>• Expect to meet main industry group in next 2 weeks and will be informing evidence around different types of curtailment in near future.</li> <li>• Work still going in right direction however what the managed connection may ultimately involve is not clear at present. This will be informed by consultation.</li> </ul> <p>It was asked if there is anyone from on SSG group related at AD on subgroup. NIE confirmed not directly but UFU are on the subgroup and represent all types of developers.</p> <p>Immediate task is to complete studies to get idea on level of curtailment involved. Intention is then to share the outputs and potential outputs with a wider group – the UFU will bring forward representatives to this wider sub-group - there will be opportunities for AD community to engage in this process at this point.</p> <p><u>Microgeneration Matters</u></p> <p>To date NIE have had a number of internal meetings relating to the Microgeneration subgroup to better clarify what we consider as the objectives of the group. This work is nearly finished at which point NIE will include external parties.</p>	

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	<p>NIE indicated they were waiting on a nomination of who should be on this subgroup from NISTA. Ruth McGuigan made few suggestions, NIE to follow up.</p> <p>NIE have also responded to DETI ROC consultation with information on what is committed to connect along with what is accredited. This will feed into ROC report along with other DETI reports.</p> <p><b>ACTION - NIE to confirm the industry representatives on Microgeneration subgroup at next meeting.</b></p> <p>NIRIG commented that there is a sense that the original timetables for project 40 have slipped. Feedback from NIRIG members is that they would like meeting dates and schedules to be set out in advance - particularly to get a view of what work is required before Christmas.</p> <p><b>ACTION - NIE to tie up with NIRIG on providing more information regarding project 40 meetings.</b></p>	<p>NIE</p> <p>NIE</p>
10	<p><b>NIE Presentation on New Mapping Tool</b></p> <p>NIE recently launched a new Network Mapping tool for customers to be able to see the local overhead line network and where this is connected to the nearest substation. This provides an ideal platform for customers to be able to assess whether or not they are likely to be affected by capacity issues before applying to NIE for a connection.</p> <p>The NM Tool is hosted by Spatial NI and has a number of features including searching addresses, high level zoom and measuring tool.</p> <p>A Demo of the site was provided by Ian Craig (NIE).</p> <p>Zero export connection cannot be offered in red dot areas.</p> <p>NIRIG indicated that initial feedback very positive.</p> <p>UR also welcomed this tool from NIE.</p>	
11	<p><b>Move from G59/1 to G59/2</b></p> <p>NIE is currently looking at two areas with significant changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and;</li> <li>• D-code and G-code references</li> </ul> <p>NIE have been in contact with ENA along with the university that carried out a lot of work for DNOS around the new risk based approach. NIE are reviewing all of this information and comparing where we are now to what is proposed.</p> <p>NIE are also looking at references between distribution codes. A lot of info has been moved to G-Code and D-Code and NIE need to consider whether to implement the same changes to these (which would involve a consultation) or whether a deviation from G59/2 for NI could be implemented instead.</p> <p>NIE stated that there is still a lot of work required to assess risks and that they may engage academia to do research before a decision is made. The timeframe for this work is dependent on</p>	



No	Item	Action
	<p>engagement with academia and DETI about possible NI version of G59/2.</p> <p><b>ACTION- NIE to provide detail on timeframe of move to G59/2 for next RGLG.</b></p> <p>NIE confirmed that G59/2 still in place in GB and the DNOs are only at the outset of moving from G59/2 to G59/3. NIE is also considering the move to G59/3 which is an easier transition than move to G59/2.</p> <p>NIE confirmed G83 changes will follow on from G59 changes. This was raised as an issue from NISTA who said that the NI industries are coming across problems where G83/1 compliance certificates are not available for new technologies.</p>	NIE
12	<p><b>UR Organisational Changes</b></p> <p>Letters will be going out next week with organisation chart and info on where we are with this move.</p> <p>This info will also be going on website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tanya Hedley- Director of Compliance and Network Operations across Water, Gas &amp; Electricity- will continue to chair RGLG</li> <li>• Jody O'Boyle, Roisin McLaughlin and Ronan McKeown will report to Tanya.</li> <li>• Brian McHugh- Director of Finance and Network Assets across Water, Gas &amp; Electricity</li> </ul>	
13	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><u>Horizon renewables and NISTA</u></p> <p>Ruth McGuigan informed the group that Horizon renewables is closing and that she will be moving to Ruth moving to new company SDS Energy, and AD company.</p> <p>Ruth requested to remain involved in the RGLG forum as an AD representative. No objections raised to this.</p> <p>New NISTA representative required for RGLG.</p> <p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>NIRIG asked for earlier review of draft minutes.</p> <p>It was agreed the agenda would be circulated the week before meetings and that minutes would be circulated 10 working days after meetings take place.</p>	
14	<p><b>Dates of Meetings for 2015</b></p> <p>Tuesday morning at 10.00am- 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015.</p> <p><b>ACTION- Take a view at next meeting whether meetings should take place every other month or every quarter.</b></p>	ALL

## Summary of Actions

Action No.	Action Description	To be Actioned by
<u>Actions carried forward</u>		
1	SONI to provide plan for Network 25. Consultation is being finalised in next 3 months and SONI will present to RGLG after internal agreement- to remain as ongoing action.	SONI
2	NIE to write to UR informing of delays in procurement and when the procurement is finished NIE can write to UR- BAFO stage of tap changers. To be discussed under Project 40 work. To remain on agenda.	NIE
3	Rebate Policy - NIRIG, NIE & SONI to meet around this - NIE to involve NIRIG and UR in meeting with DETI regarding rebates.	NIE/NIRIG/DETI
4	DETI to provide update at next meeting when statistics report is published – complete - report circulated by Michael Harris - to remain on agenda for update from DETI.	DETI
<u>New Actions</u>		
5	SONI and NIE to further refine document to reflect full changes of transfer then circulate and upload it to the internet within 10 working days.	SONI/NIE
6	NIE to update website to reflect LSG, SSG and Microgeneration connected to the network. To be updated monthly and include the last updated date on it.	NIE
7	SONI to provide a brief at next meeting on SEA consultation process as part of Network 25.	SONI
8	SONI/NIE to consider if RIDP closure report can be made public.	SONI/NIE
9	NIE and NIRIG to meet to discuss security payments further.	NIE/NIRIG
10	NIRIG to follow up with DETI and provide update at next RGLG meeting on cluster grace period ROC consultation.	NIRIG/DETI
11	NIE to confirm the industry representatives on Microgeneration subgroup at next meeting.	NIE
12	NIE to tie up with NIRIG on providing more information regarding project 40 meetings.	NIE
13	NIE to provide detail on timeframe of move to G59/2 for next RGLG.	NIE
14	Take a view at next meeting whether meetings should take place every other month or every quarter.	ALL