

Minutes of UR Contestability Working Group (CWG) - Meeting 4

Location	Date
SONI Offices, Belfast	5 th March 2015

Attendance:

Tanya Hedley (TH) - UR	Andrew Prinsloo (AP)
Jody O'Boyle (JO'B) – UR	Mervyn Adams (MA)
Nigel Crawford (NC) – NIE	Bob Weaver (BW)
Malcolm Robinson (MR) -NIE	Iain Wright (IW)
Eimear Watson (EW) – SONI	

Apologies:

Billy Graham (BG)	Ronan McKeown (RMK) – UR
Gorman Hagan (GH)	Stewart Hall (SH)

Copies:

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	<i>Responsibility - Action Items</i>
1. Previous Minutes	
The Minutes from Meeting 3 were approved as being accurate and passed to be published.	Noted
2. Introductions	
TH chaired the meeting and with no one new in attendance, introductions were unnecessary.	Noted
3. Matters Arising from Previous Actions	
AP confirmed Action 1 from Meeting 3 is complete JO'B confirmed Action 3 from Meeting 3 is now complete. AP/BW advised Lloyds had responded to the enquiry into ICP accreditation costs. Lloyds has stated they do not want the accreditation costs/details made available to the entire group unless they are released through the UR. TH said if the UR made the details available to the group, they would also need to be made public and published on the UR Website. AP/BW said Lloyds would not be agreeable to the details being published on the web site. TH said the UR had the costs/details for accreditation and would take them into consideration when writing the Next Steps paper.	Noted
4. Workflows Discussion	
AP open the discussion around the various Work Flows by pointing out that until the issue of an ICP or non ICP requirement was settled, it was impossible to progress with WF1. – All agreed with this point. In response to AP's point on the ICP issue, TH gave an update on the UR Consultation responses. TH said following on from the responses the UR will now produce a Next Steps paper which will provide a "minded to" position from the UR on all the outstanding issues, including the ICP accreditation requirement. The Next Steps paper will also include a time line from NIE and SONI providing an overview of changes required internally to facilitate the introduction of contestability. The Next Steps paper will be issued April/May and will be followed by a 3 month	Noted

	Responsibility - Action Items
<p>consultation period before the final version will be published. Following the publication of the Next Steps paper, in association with NIE and SONI, the UR will work through the required License Modifications. TH said at this stage, pending anything different from the time lines provided by NIE and SONI, her view would be the License Modifications would be issued for consultation around the beginning of January 2016 for a 3 month consultation period before being implemented in April 2016. Clarification was given from TH that completion of these Licence mods was not a prerequisite to the introduction of contestability.</p> <p>TH highlighted that anyone who feels they have been disadvantaged or materially effected by the License Modification on Contestability has a right to object which can cause lengthy delays to the modifications being implemented. TH also pointed out she recognised there is a lot of difficult work for NIE and SONI to prepare for the introduction contestability.</p> <p>The discussion then moved on to consider WF2, but again the views were until the Next Steps paper is issued by the UR, it is difficult to progress any of the WF's. As part of this discussion AP offered to provide to the group an example of an Adoption Certificate. IW also offered a copy of the adoption certificate provided previously to NIE for Slieve Kirk.</p> <p>A general discussion was then held around wayleave agreements. IW suggested guidance needed to be provided as to who will be responsible for getting these signed. For example, will an ICP be acting as an agent for NIE in getting the W/L signed or can they operate independently as they have done in the past? IW offered to update a previous note he had circulated to include details on potential W/L processes.</p> <p>BW offered to circulate an example of WPD's W/L policy that was issued for use in the Contestable market.</p> <p>IW then said there needs to be clarity provided on the definition of when a section of network that has been built by an ICP becomes a distribution asset. The view of the group was once the equipment is energised it will become part of NIE's or network.</p> <p>Action 1 – Example Adoption Certificates/Agreements circulated</p> <p>Action 2 – Circulate note to include potential W/L process</p> <p>Action 3 – Circulate WPD W/L process policy paper</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>AP/IW</p> <p>IW</p> <p>BW</p>
5. General Discussion	
<p>NC gave an update on NIE's position and what their next steps where. This included internal workshops to identify the impact of contestability and work required to facilitate the introduction of contestability in connections.</p> <p>EW gave an update on SONI's position and stated they were going through the similar process to NIE.</p> <p>The short term outcome from both the workshops being held by NIE and SONI is to establish a timeline detailing the lead in required for both companies to get prepared for contestability. These timelines will also be offered to the UR for inclusion in the Next Steps paper.</p> <p>The issue of refunds was raised with the point being made this rule only applies to domestic customers in N'Ireland, however there is a possibility of this being</p>	<p>Noted</p>

	Responsibility - Action Items
<p>widened to include commercial connections also. IW pointed out that already Article 22 of the Electricity Order which governs the refund requirement is broader than just referring to domestic connections as the terms used is “persons”. TH said there has already been engagement around the issue of refunds only applying to domestic connections and work is on-going looking at widening this for all new connections.</p> <p>In terms of contestability, discussion was held on how refunds would work. In GB there is currently no refund mechanism being operated by the DNO’s for assets constructed by an ICP. BW said there was a paper written on the “Second Comer Rule” which is currently going through the process of being introduced in GB which will permit refunds on network build by ICP’s. BW offer to circulate the Second Comer paper to the group.</p> <p>MA enquired about how items such as fibre optics would be included in contestable connections. MR said the laying or stringing the fibre optic isn’t the problem, it is the connection at either end that would be more of a concern, but it would probably be possible to overcome any problems with NIE providing a list of approved equipment as part of the specifications it will publish.</p> <p>Action 4 – Circulate the Second Comer paper to the working group.</p>	BW
6. Date of Next Meeting	
<p>TH suggested the date of the next meeting shouldn’t be until after the issue of the Next Steps paper, to which all agreed. The next meeting of the working group is planned for 2 weeks following the issue of the Next Steps Paper which will probably be at the beginning of May.</p>	Noted

Actions Summary From Meeting 2 on 28th January 2015

Action Number	Section	Action	Responsible	Required By
1	Previous Minutes	Amend Minutes from meeting 1 to include the point raised concerning NIE having ISO 9001 accreditation.	MR	Complete
2	WF1 Update	The group will make comment on all WF's within the next 5 days.	ALL	Complete
3	WF2 Update	Details of CDM changes to be circulated round the group	MR	Complete
4	AOB	TOR to be published on UR Website	TH	Complete
5	AOB	Provide an indication of costs from Lloyds for getting ICP accreditation	AP	Complete

Actions Summary From Meeting 3 on 12th February 2015

Action Number	Section	Action	Responsible	Required By
1	Matters Arising	Lloyds Accreditation contact details to be provided to UR	AP	Complete
2	Next Steps	Forward GB DNO connections process map to NIE	AP	ASAP
3	Next Steps	Circulate links to GB DNO published engineering specification	JO'B	Complete

Actions Summary From Meeting 4 on 5th March 2015

Action Number	Section	Action	Responsible	Required By
1	WF Discussion	Circulate an example of adoption Certificates or Agreements	AP/IW	ASAP
2	WF Discussion	Circulate note to include potential W/L process	IW	ASAP
2	WF Discussion	Circulate WPD W/L process policy paper	BW	Complete
4	General Discussion	Circulate the Second Comer paper to the working group	BW	ASAP