

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE
NORTHERN IRELAND AUTHORITY FOR ENERGY REGULATION (the
Authority) HELD ON THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 2006**

Authority:	Dr. Peter Matthews	- Chairman
	Mr. John Gilliland	
	Mr. Iain Osborne	- Chief Executive
In attendance		

Ofreg:	Mr. Dermot MacCann - Deputy Chief Executive
	Miss Fiona Gallen

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None. It was noted that although the new Board had been appointed, the first meeting with the new NEDs was scheduled for November.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No new declarations.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Following a brief discussion, the minutes were agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

It was recorded that the Authority Secretariat function would be transferred to a new recruit in the New Year who would have overall responsibility for NIAER communications.

5. ACTION POINTS FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING

Progress Reports – SEM, Water & Gas

It was noted that lists of all consultation papers issued would in future be attached to the various progress reports forwarded to the Board.

Minutes

In keeping with the spirit of the Better Regulation Executive's, Five Principles of Good Regulation, it was noted that summary minutes from the previous meeting would be posted on the website as soon as they have been signed off. In future a copy of the summary minutes would be sent to the NEDs along with the full minutes for approval.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

A copy of the Chief Executive's Report had been circulated to the Board in advance of today's meeting. The Chief Executive said that progress had been made in relation to a number of work streams.

Water

It was agreed that a brainstorming session would be scheduled and that the Board would be informed of the approach to take in relation to this issue.

Phoenix Natural Gas – Licence Review

The Chief Executive reported that no further progress had been made in relation to enforcement and that the "minded to" letter had yet to be issued.

Staffing

It was noted that the DID final report was due to be completed by Friday. The Chief Executive told the meeting that a HR framework was currently being drafted and that a submission would be forwarded to DFP after both DETI and DRD had been consulted. He added that he would also be contacting NIPSA to keep them informed of developments.

SEM

Following a brief discussion on SEM, the Authority noted that a clear analysis of costs for this project had been included in the cost benefit analysis.

7. NEW BOARD INDUCTION

It was agreed that the induction would take place over 21 and 22 November and that a pack containing information on their statutory duties, organisation charts and all other relevant briefing would be issued in advance. David Sterling and Jenny Pyper would be invited to attend lunch on 21st and the Heads of Branches would join the Board for lunch on 22nd.

8. VIRIDIAN TAKEOVER

The Authority noted the actions taken by the Chief Executive and endorsed them.

9. RENEWABLES OBLIGATION COMPLIANCE

The Authority endorsed the recommendation put to them and agreed that in future trivial breaches should be handled by the office.

10. NIEH BETTA REBATE

Nothing further to report.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that a Christmas drinks reception would be held on Wednesday 13 December.

12. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER MEETING

It was agreed that the next business meeting would be held on day 2 of the induction (22 November) in Queen's House.