

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

**Renewables Grid Liaison Group**

**Minutes of Meeting**

<b>Attendees</b>	
<b>Utility Regulator</b>	Tanya Hedley (TH) Jody O'Boyle (JOB) Kieran McCann (KMcC)
<b>NIRIG</b>	Mervyn Adams (MA(d)) Andy McCrea (AMcC)
<b>NIE Networks</b>	Aidan Bradley (AB) Adrian Macauley (AM) Stephen Thompson (ST) Ian Craig (IC) Brian Pope (BP) Brian Moorehead (BM)
<b>SONI</b>	Eimear Watson (EW) David McGowan (DMcG) Andrew Gordon (AG) Gerry Hodgkinson (GH(od))
<b>DETI</b>	
<b>Solar Power Representative</b>	Neil O'Brien (NO'B)
<b>Offshore Representative</b>	
<b>Ulster Farmers Union</b>	
<b>Energy Storage Representative</b>	
<b>Apologies</b>	Roger Henderson (RH) Billy Graham (BG) Michael Harris (MH(arr)) Alison Clydesdale (AC) Chris Osborne (CO) Gary Hawkes (GH) Michael Harper (MH) Michael Atkinson (MA) Nigel Crawford (NC)

<b>No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes and actions from previous meeting</b> Minutes agreed for publication	
	<b>Actions from previous meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Action 1</u> SONI/NIE Renewable integration status report update next meeting + slide show. To be updated under agenda item <i>Completed</i></li> </ul>	

No	Item	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Action 2</u> SONI to circulate Transmission Constraints Analysis presentation <i>Completed</i></li> <li>• <u>Action 3</u> NIE to produce details of non-compliance of G83 Stage 2 connections NIE stated that level of non-compliance sits at about 100 sites. Continuing with assessment on how to resolve and engaging with installers. <i>Completed</i></li> </ul>	
3	<p><b>Renewables Integration Status report</b></p> <p><u>NIE Networks Update</u></p> <p>Status report updated and will be circulated.</p> <p>Presentation by NIEN and SONI – <i>Renewable Integration</i></p> <p>End 2015 - Large Scale 659MW (c35 schemes) Small Scale 122MW (c600 schemes) Micro <u>65MW</u> (c12,000 schemes) 846MW</p> <p>SEF Target for 2015 of 20% has been exceeded (23.7%)</p> <p>Medium Term Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 110kV Kells – Coleraine largely complete, expected completion summer 2016</li> <li>• Tamnamore phase 2- complete.</li> <li>• Omagh-Tamnamore Line. Construction works started. Landowner issues being dealt with by SONI and NIEN – weekly meetings taking place.</li> <li>• 3 clusters currently under construction - Rasharkin, Tremoge and Gort. 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> <li>• Magherakeel cluster complete.</li> <li>• Drumquinn and Garvagh at pre-construction stage</li> <li>• Newtownstewart, Cam and Kells development on-going</li> <li>• Further cluster development dependant on “Batch” outcome.</li> </ul> <p>Applications post August (12<sup>th</sup>) 2015</p>	NIEN/SONI

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	<p>846MW connected 720MW committed <u>890MW</u> “Batch” applications c2400MW</p> <p>Critical developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in policy in August 2015</li> <li>• Early closure of the NIRO – DETI consultation end Sept 2015</li> <li>• Large influx of applications – 300 (LSG+SSG) = 890MW</li> <li>• High level of saturation of distribution and transmission network</li> <li>• Delay in issuing quotations until SONI and NIE Networks can work through the best approach to release offers</li> </ul> <p>Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tamnamore</li> <li>• Rasharkin</li> <li>• Tremoge</li> <li>• Gort</li> <li>• 3rd 110kV Line Tamnamore-Gort-Omagh</li> </ul> <p><u>SONI Update</u></p> <p>Network Status Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curraghmulkin and Drumquin planning application submitted on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016. Pre-construction works ongoing.</li> <li>• Garvagh, Cam and Kells – connection arrangements being progressed between NIE and SONI</li> <li>• Newtownstewart cluster still to be planned. Will be considered in context of the “batch” applications.</li> <li>• North/South. In June 2015 NI SONI have submitted the addendum to the 2013 submission for NI. DOE have consulted and planning file returned to PAC. Date to be set for enquiry.</li> </ul> <p>Eirgrid submitted their planning application in June 2015. Public oral hearing in March 2016.</p> <p><u>NIE Networks SSG Update</u></p>	

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	<p>In 2015 delivered c300 SSG projects to construction..</p> <p>c400 in March 2017 delivery workpipe.</p> <p>C120 at construction. Some access problems being faced due to recent weather conditions.</p> <p>NIEN currently working with DETI on how the 'grace period' due to grid delays will operate i.e. what detail NIEN will need to provide for developers to be eligible. Once finalised NIEN will issue appropriate letters.</p> <p>It was noted that Ofgem have just completed their consultation in GB and have identified what they require.</p>	
4	<p><b>Transmission Reinforcements</b></p> <p>Well through the review of RIDIP and studies for next phase of reinforcement.</p> <p>Studies being conducted in two phases - committed generation followed by the generation that applied for connection after the requirement for planning permission had been removed. Due to the uncertainty of that further quantum this is being studied at various levels (20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, 100%).</p> <p>This feeds into next stage of approvals in Q2 &amp; Q3 2016, Network 25 consultation and NIENs RP6 Transmission plan.</p> <p>Presentation at next RGLG on study results</p>	SONI
5	<p><b>SONI Curtailment Results</b></p> <p>Presentation by SONI (Andrew Gordon and David McGowan).</p> <p>Northern Ireland Constraints Report 2016-2024.</p> <p>Draft results to be discussed with industry (Mid March) prior to publication.</p>	
6	<p><b>Contestability in Connections</b></p> <p><u>UR Update</u></p> <p>Contestability Working Group meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016.</p> <p>Draft implementation guidelines for contestability in both transmission and distribution published on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015 for consultation. Comments were received by 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015. Four responses received and have been shared with NIE and SONI.</p> <p>Further work still required on shared connections, review and agreement of TIA, charging methodologies.</p> <p>Guidelines currently being finalised along with a recommendation report.</p> <p>SONI to publish recommendation report and guideline document by 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016</p>	

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7	<p><b>DETI Update on consultations</b></p> <p>No DETI members present.</p> <p>(TH) Members are not aware of any decision on NIRO closure</p> <p>Notification of clauses in UK Energy Bill in relation to the proposed exclusion of NIROCs from all generation after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 in NI by UK suppliers .</p> <p>(MA(d)) NIRIG via Renewable UK seeking clarification around qualification dates. The Energy Bill modification is not explicit regards the Sept/Oct cluster dates.</p>	
8	<p><b>NIE Networks update on applications without planning permission</b></p> <p>The NIE/SONI consultation document at advanced stage. Going through internal review. Intention is to release by 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.</p> <p>A workshop will be held during the consultation period. The date of this workshop will be in the consultation document.</p> <p>NIEN acknowledged that numerous interested parties were enquiring at to when the consultation would be released but stated that the situation was extremely complicated. The introduction of the ‘batch’ approach has raised many new complexities. NIEN/SONI will develop proposals in the consultation paper rather than just detailing the issues.</p> <p>AMcC asked if it was still the intention to have connection offers out by the end of May. NIEN (AB) stated that this was not the case. Under the current timeline, which has to include the consultation period and the analysis of responses, we will not be in the position make offers by May.</p> <p>MA(d) asked if there would be a further derogation. NIEN stated this would be required. The UR stated (TH) that the derogation to May was to allow NIEN and SONI to consult on the process and develop a programme on how to move forward. At this point in time the UR was going to wait and see what was submitted in relation to that.</p> <p>SONI added (EW) that the final solution and length of time required is very dependant on the final number of applications.</p> <p>AMcC asked if the closure of the NIRO would add a further level of complexity. NIEN agreed it would and questions such as “would the delay in the issue of connection offers count as a grid delay” will need to be answered by DETI and Ofgem.</p>	NIEN/SONI
9	<p><b>SSG Update on Capacity/Safety constraints</b></p> <p><u>Primary Substations</u></p> <p>Second wave of investment (36 substations) – equipment has been ordered, some of which received by NIE Networks and the work programme for installation is between March and October 2016.</p>	

No	Item	Action
	<p>Connection Offers have been issued and pre-construction works are underway for projects affected. As with previous substation investment projects the generator will not be able to commission their project until the substation works have been completed.</p>	
10	<p><b>NIE Networks Project 40</b></p> <p><u>Project 40</u></p> <p>NIRIG (MA(d)) had met with NIEN (MA) to identify Project 40 items that were still headline items – Clusters ,2<sup>nd</sup> Transformer, Rebate Policy, Long Cables. MA(d) asked that an update be provided.</p> <p>Clusters – next meeting still to convene. Date to be confirmed.</p> <p><u>Managed Connections</u></p> <p>Consultation Paper – publication of responses imminent.</p> <p>Pilot scheme – site installation has taken place, technical issues have delayed commissioning.</p> <p>Managed Connections Workshop – mid/end March - date to be announced.</p> <p>The position of the NIRO is a key factor in progression of Managed Connections. The delay in DETI decision on NIRO closure is unhelpful as applicants aren't able to make a final decision. This also affects those in the current 'batch' of new applications.</p> <p><u>Micro Generation</u></p> <p>Non-compliance issue has been covered under Action 3. NO'B stated that in the last few weeks there had been quite a bit of communication between their members, NIEN and DETI. It was acknowledged that there was enhanced communications and some progress. Main issue was G83 delays in processing. No new issues to report.</p>	<p><b>NIE</b></p> <p><b>NIE</b></p> <p><b>NIE</b></p> <p><b>NIE</b></p>
11	<p><b>Move from G59/1 to G59/2</b></p> <p>NIE Networks have commissioned Academic institution to carry out this risk analysis. Academic institution is currently carrying out these studies in a similar process to that completed in GB.</p> <p>This research will be broken up into 2 phases</p> <p>Phase 1 will examine the risks associated with moving LSG G59 settings. This is due to be completed Q3 2016</p> <p>Phase 2 will examine the risks associated with moving SSG G59 settings. This is due to be completed Q4 2016.</p> <p>On completion of each Phase NIE Networks to engage with HSE(NI) to determine if the associated risks.</p> <p>Amended protection settings are to be included in the D-Code.</p> <p>NIE Networks continue to meet with the Academic Institution on a monthly basis.</p> <p>NIEN stated that it would 2017 (as previously reported to RGLG)</p>	

No	Item	Action
	before completion. Currently GB is moving away from G59/3. It is NIENs intention by 2017 to catch up with GB and have a consistent document across GB and Northern Ireland.	
12	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>NIRIG (MA(d)) raised a question around over installation / MEC. NIRIG are in the final stages of preparing a paper to present to NIE. They cited the UK and ROI models which have no limit and up to 120% of installed capacity respectfully.</p> <p>It was their opinion that NIEN should follow the UK model and the over-installation paper details the rational.</p> <p>NIRIG have a concern there isn't clarity of how this over-installation would be applied for and that the 'batch' closure date will have passed before this is clarified.</p> <p>The UR (TH) asked if it was NIRIGs belief that an increase in capacity at this stage would still qualify for RoCs. MA(d) stated that a solar/mixed scheme would still be possible but other schemes that would require, for example, the installation of an additional turbine just to fill out the envelope (MEC) would not. It's about getting value back for the assets that you have paid for.</p> <p>The UR (TH) asked if there was any legal basis on how the ROI came up with a figure of 20%. SONI (EW) believed this not to be the case, instead being based on engineering judgement.</p> <p>NIEN (AB) stated the draft over-installation paper presented was very detailed. Some of the issues raised have been considered within the NIEN/SONI consultation process and NIEN would take on board the matter of closure dates. NIEN will attempt to include something that will take into account applications of this particular type. However, it needs to be considered in the context of an already saturated network. NIENs position is that the NIEN/SONI consultation paper won't address all the issues raised in the over-installation paper but will address how we will deal with that type of application in the proposed new "batch" process</p> <p>MA(d) asked if the published version of the over-installation paper would be included in the NIEN/SONI consultation.</p> <p>SONI (EW) stated that numerous issues need to be considered for this issue – Grid Code, Planning Standards, SEM Committee Priority Dispatch, Forecasting.</p> <p>The 'batch' closure date would not be set until the consultation process is complete. This provides opportunity for further applications.</p> <p>NIRIG to provide published version of over-installation paper.</p>	NIRIG



No	Item	Action
13	Date of Next Meeting	NIE

## Summary of Actions

Action No.	Action Description	To be Actioned by
<u>New Actions</u>		
<b>1</b>	Status report updated and will be circulated.	<b>SONI/NIEN</b>
<b>2</b>	Transmission study results	<b>SONI</b>
<b>3</b>	Issue Consultation Paper	<b>SONI/NIEN</b>
<b>4</b>	NIEN to provide update on Clusters, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Transformer, Rebate Policy, Long Cables.	<b>NIEN</b>
<b>5</b>	NIEN to convene Cluster group for update	<b>NIEN</b>
<b>6</b>	NIEN to publish Managed Connections consultation paper	<b>NIEN</b>
<b>7</b>	NIEN to arrange Managed Connection Workshop	<b>NIEN</b>
<b>8</b>	NIRIG to circulate over-installation paper	<b>NIRIG</b>
<b>9</b>	NIE to circulate next meeting date	<b>NIEN</b>