

21st May 2019

Renewables Grid Liaison Group

Minutes of Meeting No 29

Attendees	
Utility Regulator	Roisin McLaughlin (RML) Aidan Girvan (AG) Jody O'Boyle (JO'B) Orla Gray (OG)
NIRIG	Meabh Cormacain (MC)
NIE Networks	David McDonald (DMcD) Lisa O'Neill (LO'N) David Hill (DH) Emma Cunningham
SONI	Helen Gallagher (HG) Louis Fisher (LF) Ronan Kernan (RK)
Department for the Economy - Energy Decarbonisation Division	Kelly McKenna (KMK)
NISTA	No attendee
Offshore Representative	No attendee
Ulster Farmers Union	John Watt (JW) Gary Hawkes (GH)
Energy Storage Representative	No attendee
DP Energy	Sara Armstrong (SA) (Via Phone)
Energia	No attendee
Amber Green Energy	Neil O'Brien (NO'B)

No	Item	Action																																	
1	Apologies Rory Mullan (RM)																																		
2	Minutes/Updates from last meeting Minutes approved Actions from previous meeting <table border="1" data-bbox="261 618 1401 2027"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="261 618 341 663"></th> <th data-bbox="341 618 1158 663"></th> <th data-bbox="1158 618 1401 663"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 663 341 831">1</td> <td data-bbox="341 663 1158 831"> Provide update on 2018 generation connected and committed slide. <i>On May meeting agenda - Completed</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1158 663 1401 831"> NIE Networks </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 831 341 1039">2</td> <td data-bbox="341 831 1158 1039"> Further update on the changes being introduced to NI due to the adoption of G98 and G99 standards once the new processes are implemented in D Code. <i>Presentation once complete for next meeting - Completed</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1158 831 1401 1039"> NIE Networks </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1039 341 1173">3</td> <td data-bbox="341 1039 1158 1173"> Discuss with Energy Suppliers the prospect of joining the RGLG group – <i>On May meeting agenda - Completed</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1158 1039 1401 1173"> UR </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1173 341 1308">4</td> <td data-bbox="341 1173 1158 1308"> Universities to be contacted to discuss presenting to the group.- <i>Completed</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1158 1173 1401 1308"> UR </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1308 341 1442">5</td> <td data-bbox="341 1308 1158 1442"> Sensitivity analysis on current figures to be circulated within group - <i>Completed</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1158 1308 1401 1442"> SONI </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1442 341 1554">6</td> <td data-bbox="341 1442 1158 1554"> Investigate developing “Energy Dashboard” - <i>Ongoing</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1158 1442 1401 1554"> NIEN/SONI </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1554 341 1688">7</td> <td data-bbox="341 1554 1158 1688"> An update on the access to Generation information. - <i>Ongoing</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1158 1554 1401 1688"> NIE Networks/UR </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1688 341 1823">8</td> <td data-bbox="341 1688 1158 1823"> A timeline on the answer to access to Generation information - <i>Ongoing</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1158 1688 1401 1823"> NIEN/UR </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1823 341 1935">9</td> <td data-bbox="341 1823 1158 1935"> Updated ToR for CIWG to be presented to RGLG <i>On May meeting agenda - Completed</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1158 1823 1401 1935"> NIE Networks/SONI </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1935 341 2027">10</td> <td data-bbox="341 1935 1158 2027"> RGLG invitations to be sent out for 2019 - <i>Completed</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1158 1935 1401 2027"> UR/NIE Networks </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				1	Provide update on 2018 generation connected and committed slide. <i>On May meeting agenda - Completed</i>	NIE Networks	2	Further update on the changes being introduced to NI due to the adoption of G98 and G99 standards once the new processes are implemented in D Code. <i>Presentation once complete for next meeting - Completed</i>	NIE Networks	3	Discuss with Energy Suppliers the prospect of joining the RGLG group – <i>On May meeting agenda - Completed</i>	UR	4	Universities to be contacted to discuss presenting to the group.- <i>Completed</i>	UR	5	Sensitivity analysis on current figures to be circulated within group - <i>Completed</i>	SONI	6	Investigate developing “Energy Dashboard” - <i>Ongoing</i>	NIEN/SONI	7	An update on the access to Generation information. - <i>Ongoing</i>	NIE Networks/UR	8	A timeline on the answer to access to Generation information - <i>Ongoing</i>	NIEN/UR	9	Updated ToR for CIWG to be presented to RGLG <i>On May meeting agenda - Completed</i>	NIE Networks/SONI	10	RGLG invitations to be sent out for 2019 - <i>Completed</i>	UR/NIE Networks	
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3	<p>Renewables Status Update</p> <p>NIE Networks confirmed that at the end of Q1 2019, there is 1,652MW renewables connected to date, with 1,872MW of renewables connected or committed.</p> <p>SONI– Emphasis on Information Sharing. A link to renewable data has been added on the SONI website for anyone to access</p> <p>NIE Networks –Regarding information sharing, will be adding a new capacity map to the website which will cover demand and generation, and will show fault level capacity. This will be shared with a number of stakeholders for review before going live. Aiming to go live by September 2019. NIE Networks will provide a demo at the next RGLG.</p> <p>It was asked if would be postcode based. NIE Networks explained that it will bring the area up and will show the user the nearest primary/BSP substation to them. Each substation will have information in terms of capacity at distribution level for load, generation and fault level.</p> <p>It was asked if the capacity map will negate the need for feasibility studies or will these still be available.</p> <p>NIE Networks confirmed that the map will give people a feel for the general status but queue information will not be shown. If customers want detailed info on a connection they should still apply for a feasibility study.</p> <p>Amber Green Energy noted that queries to NIE Networks are responded to very quickly by Andrew Cupples and was very helpful</p> <p>NIE Networks pointed out that the renewable chart is completed and is available at https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/connections/generation-connections/useful-resources</p> <p>There was a query raised in relation to when the next update will be available on reaching the 2020 RES-E target in Northern Ireland. It was advised that the data will be published in June 2020 with the data being based up to March 2020. It is expected that NI will meet this target.</p>	<p>NIE Networks</p>
4	<p>Update on Transmission Applications</p> <p>Current Applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50MW large scale battery application at Castlereagh has now been sent to NIE Networks • Gas Storage at Islandmagee <p>Number of offers issued and a few accepted to date, there is still movement in generation.</p>	

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	<p>NIE Networks agreed that generation is also still moving on NIE Networks side and to note that there has been a recent change to NIE Networks Generation applications to take account of the RfG changes, to be discussed in more detail later in meeting.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Consultation Update</p> <p>SONI & NIE Networks issued a draft paper to Connections Innovation Working Group regarding whether NIE Networks should issue non-firm offers or refuse applications where there is lack of capacity. In the CWIG paper NIE Networks and SONI have offered 3 options and explained what the impacts are of each. The working group provided feedback on the paper which SONI and NIE Network are currently considering.</p> <p>Aim is to have final version of paper finished by June 2019 and hold a workshop shortly afterwards.</p> <p>The decision paper is hoped to be issued by end of September 2019</p> <p>NIRIG asked SONI about, constraint and curtailment.</p> <p>SONI advised that the analysis is at nodal level, eg average of 10% in West of country, however some nodes may experience much higher constraints. SONI stated that there would be an opportunity for further discussion via the consultation paper and workshop.</p> <p>Discussion were had regarding non-firm offers and if they could they be offered up to a specific capacity limit (MWs)/ open forever / put in place for certain length of time i.e. until a new energy policy is put into place.</p> <p>How much more generation do we allow, do we agree a figure between everyone? If there is a future target, network needs to be worked on to get there. Should non-firm offers be issued in the meantime?</p> <p>SONI / NIE Networks and SONI will decide what option to take, based on the feedback received from the consultation.</p>	<p>SONI & NIE Networks</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>DfE – General Update</p> <p>NIRO grace period fully closed in March 2019. NI Audit office will be doing a report to be issued in 2020, covering 5 key themes including</p>	

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	<p>NIRO funding, AD regulation (waste management), regulator relationships between public bodies, off grid and zero export generators.</p> <p>Cornwall Insights has been appointed to do research into the future of renewables; they will present a draft report this Friday (24th May) and aim for the final report to be completed for the end of June.</p> <p>It is unlikely that a strategy will be in place by 2020, but there may be a consultation this Autumn on general way forward and the initial thinking of the department.</p>	DFE
7	<p>Contestability Update</p> <p>NIE Networks explained that contestability is now very much business as usual, just under 50 contestable connections energised to date. There are 32 registered ICPs in NI.</p> <p>SONI advised that there is a liability issue with TIA but they are close to a solution. Will be a requirement to change one article which will require UR approval and consultation.</p> <p>NIE Networks also confirmed that progress is being made and update will be available in September.</p>	NIE Networks & SONI
8	<p>Network Development/ATR Update</p> <p>SONI UR's consultation on TDP finishes this Friday (24th May 2019) version will hopefully be ready in a few months; draft has already been developed.</p> <p>NIRIG asked whether TDP and UR can release consultation simultaneously. UR confirmed this isn't possible.</p> <p>SONI provide an update on network development: Kells/Rasharkin environmental report complete. A TMNP will be submitted, then a consultation exercise will take place. Hopefully this will happen before the end of summer.</p> <p>SONI provided an update also that Tomorrow Energy Scenarios (TES) are NI specific and have different government requirements to adhere to. SONI are working with UR, NIE Networks and DfE and there will be a meeting on 3rd June 2019. More stakeholder engagement is to be done.</p> <p>There are three initial scenarios regarding decarbonisation and how it will impact demand. The consultation on these will be done late summer 2019. SONI suggested that they would do a presentation at next RGLG meeting. There will be engagement before it is published.</p> <p>NIRIG queried why it was three scenarios as Eirgrid has four. SONI confirmed that Eirgrid has recently reduced this to three.</p>	SONI SONI

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9	<p>Operational Update</p> <p>RoCoF Update</p> <p>Presentation by NIE Networks.</p> <p><u>Large Scale Generation</u></p> <p>NIE Networks confirmed that all LSG connections have been compliant with RoCoF update from mid December. This equates to 1120MW of generation. Total of 68 LSG sites.</p> <p><u>Small Scale Generation</u></p> <p>NIE Networks advised that letters went out 1st June 2018. SSG owners are required to make changes by 30th September 2019. c1500 letters sent out. As of today NIE Networks have 1264 acknowledgements, equating to 371MW of generation. NIE Networks continue to reach out to the non-responders.</p> <p>The total SSGs to date completed is 834, equating to 260MW of generation. On track to get majority completed by September – Wind generators have lead the way with RoCoF changes so far, they make up the majority of updates, followed by Diesel, Biogas and then PV.</p> <p>Reminder letters have been issued, information evenings have taken place and there was presence at the Balmoral Show. Final reminder letters will go out in July.</p> <p>NIE Networks have received over 600 emails to the dedicated G59 inbox so far. In October, letters will be sent out to those that have not complied giving a 6 month notice before they may be de-energised.</p> <p>NIRIG asked what impact will this have on SNSP?</p> <p>NIE Networks informed that the increased RoCoF trial may allow SSG to go above 60%. TSO to look at make-up of the non-compliant generation. NIE Networks will monitor compliance.</p> <p>Ulster Farmer Union suggested that they could do another advert in their paper to remind farming community.</p> <p>NIE Networks advised that they probably will place another advert</p> <p>UR & DCRP have confirmed that all SSGs have to comply with D-Code. Initial discussions happening with Ofgem regarding subsidy payments to non-compliant generators.</p> <p>NIE Networks advised regarding concerns raised over availability of contractors to carry out the work required, NIE Networks will offer staff to make changes on behalf of customers' contractors to ensure they meet the deadline. Fee will be involved.</p> <p>UFU stated they are trying to make people aware that this is the 'bottom line' and that all information has been communicated sufficiently by NIE Networks. They also asked if NIE Networks planned to carry out any more information evenings? NIE Networks advised that at present there isn't unless there is a demand for it.</p>	

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	<p>EU Codes – Slides</p> <p>All generators connected after 27th April must comply with new settings See slides for more information.</p>	
10	<p>General Update and Membership</p> <p>UR advised that Queen’s Uni have been contacted regarding inclusion in group and that the Energy Working Group (EWG) want two suppliers to be involved with RGLG. Suppliers currently have access to RGLG minutes online. They asked the question if current members of RGLG feel it is appropriate for suppliers to be involved? If so, would just one representative be best or two.</p> <p>General feeling was that much of the RGLG meetings would cover topics that may not be relevant to suppliers.</p> <p>NIRIG commented that If there is an interest in the issues that RGLG covers then that’s ok, but there may be more appropriate forums for suppliers. If RGLG members think the presence of suppliers would take away from the aim of the meetings then it may not be appropriate.</p> <p>SONI – No objection but some concerns that we may head in different directions and could lose focus if suppliers are present. Is there a need for another group to be established involving the whole industry?</p> <p>UR advised it is up to the chair of the group to ensure discussions don’t go off topic at meetings.</p> <p>NIE Networks had no objection, but unsure of the relevance of these meetings for suppliers.</p> <p>Ulster Farmer Union stated there would probably be some information within meetings that suppliers should know.</p> <p>SONI – Smartgrid will require suppliers to be aware of what’s happening, however unsure if this group is the place for it.</p> <p>General consensus: No objections but some slight concerns regarding relevance of meetings for suppliers. May be worth inviting a representative to one meeting initially as an observer.</p>	UR
11	<p>Dates of 2019 Meetings</p> <p>3rd September and 3rd December at 10am at the UR Offices.</p>	

Summary of Actions

Action No.	Action Description	To be Actioned by
1	Investigate developing “Energy Dashboard”	NIE Networks /SONI
2	NIRIG to provide examples of how information is shared in GB.	NIRIG
3	Capacity Map demo (on September Agenda)	NIE Networks
4	Update on CIWG (on September Agenda)	NIE Networks /SONI
5	Update on Cornwall paper	DfE
6	Contestability Update – TIA Amendments (on September Agenda)	SONI
7	Update on TDP consultation	SONI
8	Update on TES (on September Agenda)	SONI
9	Update on Supplier attendance	UR