

Connection Customer Steering Group

Notes from the meeting held 11th June 2019 at WPD's Birmingham office

Present:

Alex Spreadbury	B&Q	Nashwan Moqbel	Aptus Utilities
Arwel Lloyd	UCM Ltd	Nikki Pillinger	British Solar Renewables
Duncan Cockburn	BT	Paul Graham	UK Power Reserve Ltd
Helen Ewing	STW	Steve McElveen	SMS Plc
Rob Wild	STW	Zach Bullock	Amey
Hugh Taylor	Roadnight Taylor	Simon Dawson	GTC
Mark Boyce	UCSM		

Alison Sleightholm	WPD Resources and External Affairs Director
Tim Hughes	WPD Connection Policy Manager
Bruce Pollard	WPD Consents & Wayleaves Manager
Peter Young	WPD Records Manager
David Burnford	WPD Mapping Technical Manager
Richard Allcock	WPD Connections Policy Engineer
Penny Carolan	WPD Connection Policy ICE Co-ordinator

1. Introduction

Alison Sleightholm introduced the agenda for the day.

2. Director's Update

Alison Sleightholm gave an overview of the top key areas for WPD and the wider electric industry.

The key areas:

- Targeted Charging Review
- Significant Code Review
- Open Networks
- Distribution System Operator (DSO)
- WPD Flexible Power activity
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy - First EV strategy published
- DNO's Price Review R110-ED2

WPD Action: Invite Ben Godfrey – WPD Network Strategy Manager to the next CCSG in October 2019 to update the group on EV and Flexibility.

3. Legal and Consents

Bruce Pollard provided an update/progression report on Legal and consents specifically the ICE Initiative – “Improve transparency in legal & consents” – ICE action 2018-2019.

Bruce updated on the newly implemented process – collaborative partnership protocol.

The process involves our lawyers (Geldard’s) sending a 20 day report to the customer’s lawyer and the WPD wayleave specialist receiving a 20 day legal report on the progress of the individual scheme indicating any potential issues or the proposal is on track.

Improvement proposal on the process was asked for comment at the CCSG 11.06.19. The proposal was for our lawyers – Geldard’s to ask the customer lawyers for the customer consent, in the form of a consent letter on the first initial instruction. To gain consent in written format approving to send the 20 day report directly to the client/customer.

CCSG stakeholder fed back that they agreed it would be “worth a try”

The 20 day report does go to the WPD wayleave specialist at present, but a CCSG suggested “the 20 day report would also go to the WPD project manager to keep the customer informed”

Bruce would look into the proposed CCSG suggestions and would implement, if no significant issues, Bruce agreed to keep the CCSG updated.

4. Mapping Data

Peter Young and David Burnford introduced Mapping Data following feedback from stakeholder engagement in February 2019 feedback. The request was “provide greater granularity in WPD’s Data Portal (online geographic network mapping information)”.

As part of the ICE initiative 2019/20, Peter and Dave came to the CCSG to gain knowledge on the stakeholder request. Dave presented the Mapping Data available at present and asked for feedback following the presentation on any other requirements /expectations.

Stakeholder feedback –

1. The possibility of more intelligent data provided for LV, also LV data export.
2. Print size availability-Dave WPD did explain about OS governing but agreed to investigate and feedback.
3. Stakeholder -Steve McElveen SMS asked if the schematic line diagram could have the ability to trace a feeder/highlight feeder.

5. Capacity Reservation and Allocation

Tim Hughes provided an update on changes made to the way in which capacity, allocation and reservation is allocated.

The improved processes are to develop procedures that will allow the fair allocation of capacity to customers when they apply for new electricity connections serving larger multiple domestic and/or commercial premises.

Tim explained the consultation and the implementation process, with the imminent internal staff training the process is to be started 1st August 2019.

One stakeholder queried - How does WPD monitor the 24 month from acceptance project progression checkpoint?

How is the customer contacted about the 24 month project progression checkpoint?

Tim Hughes WPD explained that WPD CROWN system will have additional prompts to manage these milestones. The responsible team will proactively contact the customer.

6. ICE – Looking Forward

Richard Allcock updated on the ICE report “Looking back, looking forward 2019” and Richard gave an overview of the Ofgem next steps for the 2019 report and timetable. An update on the ICE report in the next CCSG meeting 29.10.19.

7. AOB – Additional Information.

Website Addresses

- WPD Flexible Power flexibility map - www.westernpower.co.uk/network-flexibility-map
- WPD Electric Vehicle strategy - www.westernpower.co.uk/connections-landing/connections-useful-information/electric-vehicles

Future CCSG meetings:

Date	Location
29 th October 2019	WPD Gloucester Office, Saw Mills End, Corinium Avenue, Gloucester GL4 3BH