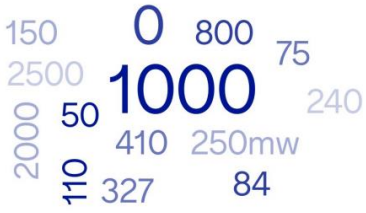


## Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum – meeting notes

10:00 - 11:00, Thursday 25 April  
Online via Zoom

[Forum Webpage](#)

[Generation Portal](#)

Agenda Item	Questions, responses / actions
<p><b>10:00 Introductions</b></p> <p>Hannah Stanley, stakeholder manager, Regen</p>	<p>Introduction to the owner operator forum for the new members of the forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set up over 7 years ago with the aim of opening a communication pathway between control room team and the asset owners and operators that manages sites in their license areas.</li> <li>- Four meetings will take place over the year and will explore areas important to delegates from an operational perspective.</li> </ul> <p>Open introductions in the room:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There was over 10GW of generation capacity represented on the call.</li> <li>- Initial areas of interest in the sessions included constraints, curtailments, flexibility provision and future connections.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="507 1025 1417 1541" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>How many MW of distribution connected energy generation does your organisation currently manage/own in the UK?</b></p> <p>17 responses</p>  </div>
<p><b>10:10 Outage planning update</b></p> <p>Danielle Greedy, control support engineer, National Grid Electricity Distribution</p>	<p>National Grid Electricity Distribution Outages for 2024 - <a href="#">Reference slides for details</a></p> <p>Current number of upcoming planned outages total approximately 2,400. The break down of these per license area as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- South West – 606</li> <li>- South Wales – 466</li> <li>- East Midlands – 751</li> <li>- West Midlands – 548</li> </ul>

	<p>As part of major works undertaken in West Midlands, NGED are installing several spare 33kV tele-controllable breakers to allow for future connections and network reinforcement. Aim to allow swifter connections to the network in the future.</p> <p>Bespoke DG site curtailment studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DSO team undertaking bespoke outage specific studies to see if curtailment / outages are required. If the outages are for a significant length of time (over a week), the DSO team can look to see if the curtailment levels can be improved or lifted.</li> </ul> <p>Questions from the session:</p> <p><b><i>Q. Is there a threshold internally for when you would consider putting a tele-controllable switch in for the 33kV network or is it a discussion with the customer if they are willing to pay for the upgrade?</i></b></p> <p>A. Both options, the West Midlands scenario allowed tele-controllable restoration of other customers, so NGED took it upon themselves to undertake the work. But there have also been other instances where it has been initiated with discussions with customers. Allows a 50% reduction in curtailment.</p> <p><b><i>Q. Is the bespoke curtailment studies a change of methodology with smarter profiles being used to ensure the sites are being used most efficiently? – previously cases where solar generation is switched on during non-daylight hours.</i></b></p> <p>A. A new capability so very early stages of development. Previously DNO assumptions for curtailment are based on worst cases. Now starting to look at operational modelling, focused more of closer to real time or accurate assumptions with operations. Eg what is a more typical profile for solar. Uses the modelling capabilities of the DSO to run bespoke studies and short term forecasting.</p>
<p><b>10:30 Portal feedback and updates</b></p> <p>Joe Davey, DSO energy management centre engineer, National Grid</p>	<p>Couple of DSO updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The National Grid DSO team published their <a href="#">DSO Strategic Action Plan</a> in March of this year. It lays out the high level of what they intend to deliver over the next two years.</li> <li>- Launched the new Market Gateway for the Distribution Flexibility Services. This digitises the process of registering assets and makes the process more efficient. The gateway is currently down for maintenance at the time of the meeting but will be available again by Friday 3 May. Enabling third party markets to provide services through the Market Gateway. Working with Piclo and Electron. <a href="#">More information on flexibility and flexible power can be found here</a></li> </ul> <p><b><i>Q. Would both platforms be available to use and do they do the same thing?</i></b></p> <p>A. They are different platforms – Market Gateway is the DSO’s platform they use to engage with Flexibility Service Provides directly. But you can now use these other third party platforms to engage with flexibility services too, it is up to you to choose. If you use the</p>

Market Gateway, you will only be selling the flexibility services to NGED and NESO. Some third party markets may provide more staking opportunities. Some other DNO's use third party platforms as their direct method of engaging.

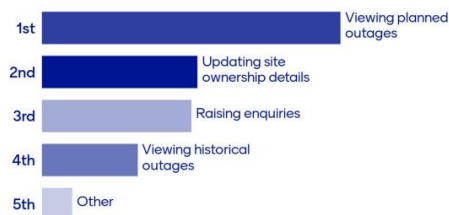
**Q. What about Flexible Power?**

A. Flexible Power is what NGED use for dispatch to handle the running of the flexibility services. It is in addition to Market Gateway, which is used for onboarding for providers eg registering, qualifying the business and assets. The next stage is to manage trading through Market Gateway, but Flexible Power will always be there.

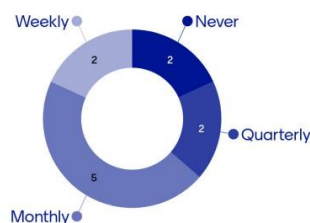
The NGED Portal:

- The portal is at end of life and so NGED will be undertaking some upgrades over 2024 and 2025 or creating a new portal so looking for feedback on what value can be added.
- The most important existing portal function is the ability to view planned outages.

**Please rank the existing portal functions in order from most to least useful**



**How often do you use the current DG portal?**



	<p>What new functionality would you be interested in?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Future flexibility requirements</li> <li>- Crime reporting – theft of cable in an area</li> <li>- Other sites outages in the surrounding areas</li> <li>- Greater details on outage cause and programs</li> <li>- Live view of ongoing outages</li> <li>- Unplanned outages and network failures</li> <li>- Programme with dates of expected tenders, outages and events etc</li> <li>- Maintenance schedule for every two or four years so you can align isolation</li> <li>- Inform the DNO of any upcoming work from the generator and request for isolations</li> </ul> <p>What does the portal offer you over the email notifications sent weekly?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Timescales greater than 8 weeks</li> <li>- Points of contact</li> <li>- View multiple sites in one place</li> <li>- Portal gives email updates for changes</li> <li>- More detail on the nature of the outage</li> </ul>
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**10:50 2024 Objective Setting**

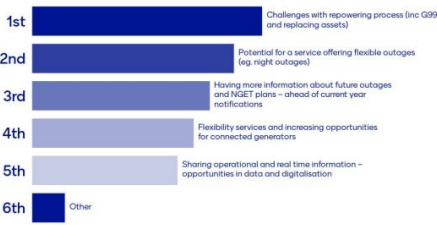
Hannah Stanley, stakeholder manager, Regen

This year, the owner operator forums will include two online check in meetings, each lasting an hour and two in-person events in Bristol and London.

The in-person sessions are looking to encourage interaction and collaboration between owner operators and NGED. Aim of this session is explore what is important to you and the operational challenges that you are facing. Feedback below:

- The most interesting area to cover is challenges with repowering followed by potential for flexible outages and then having more information about future outages and NGET plans.

**Please rank the following areas of interest for the upcoming 2024 workshops.**



Rank	Area of Interest
1st	Challenges with repowering process (inc G99 and replacing assets)
2nd	Potential for a service offering flexible outages (eg night outages)
3rd	Having more information about future outages and NGET plans – ahead of current year notifications
4th	Flexibility services and increasing opportunities for connected generators
5th	Sharing operational and real time information – opportunities in data and digitalisation
6th	Other

Are you facing any operational challenges that you would like to be raised or explored in the workshops for this forum?

- Asset failure and spares sharing
- Onboarding new rooftop sites – difficulties with assigning export MPANs

**Attendee List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Sara	Mohtashami	Grid connection manager	ABO Wind UK
Evan	Reinaldo	Junior Electrical Engineer	ABO Wind UK
Hamzah	Ahmed	Network & Infrastructure Lead	Amberside Energy
Wendy	Matthews	Senior Asset Manager	Bluefield services
Joseph	Fawcett	Asset Manager	Bluefield Services
Grace	Egan	Client Manager	Bright Renewables
Samuel	Railton	Regulatory Manager	Centrica
Guy	Rawson-Smith	Development Manager	Cragside Energy
Rachel	Hodges	Grid Connections Manager	Cubico
Nigel	Williams	Commercial Manager	Drax Energy Solutions
Chris	Jansson	UK Market Strategy & Risk Analyst	GridBeyond
Simon	Maddams	Grid Engineer	Infinis Energy Services
Aaron	Thompson	Grid Engineer	Innova
Callum	Dell	Grid Manager	Invenergy
Sahil	Cam	Associate Technical Manager	Low Carbon
Carla	Humphries	Grid Development Analyst	Low Carbon
Jack	Malone	Principal Asset Manager	Low Carbon
Kate	Teubner	Grid Development Manager	Low Carbon
Alvaro	Contreras	Head of Grid - EMEA	Lightsource BP
Joe	Davey	DSO Energy Management Centre	National Grid
Danielle	Greedy	Control Support Engineer	National Grid ED
Chiara	Guiducci	Portfolio Manager	NextEnergy Capital
Jose	Sancho	Senior Project Manager	Quintas Energy
Hannah	Stanley	Stakeholder manager	Regen
Monica	Crosa	Grid services lead	RES
Matthew	Green	Asset Manager	RES
Lizzi	Gold	Business Development Manager	RheEnergise
Barnaby	Winser	Energy Market Analyst	RheEnergise
James	Whitley	HV Manager	RWE Renewables
Marco	Rossi	SPV director	Schroders Greencoat
Daroon	Ramadani	Policy Analyst	Solar Energy UK
Andrea	Muncivi	Managing Director	Stern Energy

Kevin	Johnstone	Senior Consultant - Networks & Innovation	TNEI Services
Christian	Davies	Site Manager	Ventient Energy
Gerard	Armstrong	Managing Director	Voltwise Power Holdings
Max	Moss	Technical Asset Manager	WiseEnergy

For specific outage queries, please contact the NGED nominated person detailed on the outage notification within the Generation Portal, for general queries use the following regional emails:

**South West**

[nged.swestwalesgen@nationalgrid.co.uk](mailto:nged.swestwalesgen@nationalgrid.co.uk)  
02920332843

**West Midlands**

[nged.westmidgen@nationalgrid.co.uk](mailto:nged.westmidgen@nationalgrid.co.uk)  
08452661688

**South Wales**

[nged.swestwalesgen@nationalgrid.co.uk](mailto:nged.swestwalesgen@nationalgrid.co.uk)  
02920332843

**East Midlands**

[nged.eastmidgen@nationalgrid.co.uk](mailto:nged.eastmidgen@nationalgrid.co.uk)  
08452661722

**Date of next meetings**

- Tuesday 9 July, 14:00-17:00 – Osborne Clarke, London – [book here](#)
- Wednesday 18 September, 14:00-15:00 – Online check in – [book here](#)
- Thursday 21 November, 14:00-17:00 – Osborne Clarke, Bristol – [book here](#)