

# Connection Customer Steering Group

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## Notes from the meeting held 24th October 2017 at WPD's Gloucester office

### Present:

Alex Spreadbury – B&Q	Steve McElveen – SMS Plc
Dave Overman – GTC	Amy Brimmicombe – Regen SW
Helen Ewing – Severn Trent	Hugh Taylor – Roadnight Taylor Ltd
Graham Pannell – RES Group	Neil Liddell-Young – Severn Trent
Richard Park – Green Frog	Chris Jenkins – Power Systems UK Ltd
Simon Dawson – GTC	Arwel Lloyd – Utilities Connections Management Ltd
Steve Gist – TUSC Ltd	Dave Ratcliffe – Devon & Cornwall Business Council

Robert Symons – WPD Chief Executive  
Alison Sleightholm – WPD Regulation & Government Affairs Manager  
Tim Hughes – WPD Connection Policy Manager  
Richard Allcock – WPD Connection Policy Engineer  
Vanessa Buxton – WPD Connection Policy Co-ordinator  
Graham Halladay – WPD Network Services Manager  
Bruce Pollard – WPD Consents and Wayleaves Manager  
Faithful Chanda – WPD Innovation and Low Carbon Networks Engineer

### 1. Introduction

Alison Sleightholm introduced the agenda for the day.

### 2. Chief Executive's Update

Robert Symons gave an update on WPD's DSO transition (WPD's DSO Strategy is available to view [here](#)), WPD's Broader Measure performance, WPD's ICE Looking Forward Looking Back report and associated potential ICE penalty (decision summary available to view [here](#)). This was followed by a Q&A.

### 3. Incentive on Connections Engagement Update

Alison Sleightholm presented an update to WPD's ICE incentive report submission – we have an option to resubmit plans formally in October. We have gone through the plan in detail, looked at the feedback within the penalty consultation and listened to feedback at an ICP event held in June to identify proposed changes for the October resubmission (available to view [here](#)).

Stakeholder actions:

- Review the new actions and let us know if anything else should be included
- Provide feedback to identify focus areas for the 2018/19 ICE submission
- Provide examples of areas of inconsistency to enable us to tackle them

#### **4. Legals and Consents**

Bruce Pollard has been working on improving the legals and consents processes and thanks those who contributed in the consultation process. Information on the website has been updated (available to view [here](#)). Bruce also provided an update on the Collaborative Partnership Protocol aimed at improving the interaction between WPD's and Customer's lawyers to speed up the process.

WPD actions:

- Finalise and publish the contact details section, enabling map selection to provide contact details for the relevant consents and wayleaves representative
- Continue website improvements including customer access to information on legal process status.

#### **5. Energy Storage Applications**

Tim Hughes provided an update on the application process when storage equipment is included either from the outset or added to existing applications. Energy Storage will be treated as a source of generation and therefore it will be important for applicants to adhere to engineering recommendations G83/G59. The ENA provide a standard application form for ES >75A and a simplified application form for ES <75A. If storage equipment is to be installed a 'Further Information' form shall also be completed that will assist WPD to understand the operational characteristics of the proposed connection.

WPD is shortly to introduce a fast-track application process for storage applications that meet certain criteria. Applications that would normally be considered under the formal G59 process and liable to a 45 working day response will now be acknowledged within 10 working days.

WPD actions:

- Update guidance and policy on fast track applications for specified energy storage equipment

#### **6. Next Generation Networks**

Faithful Chanda provided an update on WPDs wider view of storage, innovation and future networks. Storage is a tool we are looking at for aiding keeping the lights on, managing additional electric vehicles, heat pumps and domestic storage without investing in significant network reinforcement. The innovation team are investigating what the network requires to be an active network, e.g. monitoring, ability to react in real time, communication with customers.

#### **7. Wrap up – Summary and Next Steps**

Alison Sleightholm summarised the output from the day and the plans for future meetings.

Future CCSG meetings:

	Suggested breakout session topics from CCSG members:
13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CCSG member presentation</li> <li>- Milestones in offers – update on results of new milestones</li> <li>- DSO updates</li> <li>- Innovation updates</li> <li>- DUOS charging</li> <li>- Losses strategy/policy</li> </ul>
26 <sup>th</sup> Jun 2018	
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2018	