

Connection Customer Steering Group

Notes from the meeting held 29th October 2019 at WPD's Gloucester Office

Present:

Mike Pezzack	RES Group	Nashwan Moqbel	Aptus Utilities
Arwel Lloyd	UCM Ltd	Nikki Pillinger	British Solar Renewables
Mark Tanner	Power Systems UK	Paul Graham	UK Power Reserve Ltd
Helen Ewing	STW	Steve McElveen	SMS Plc
Aiden Morris	AMP Energy Services Ltd	Ky Hoare	Regen SW
Lucy Taylor	Roadnight Taylor	Simon Dawson	GTC
Helen Stack	Centrica		

Alison Sleightholm-AS	WPD Resources and External Affairs Director
Nigel Turvey-NT	WPD DSO & Future Networks Manager
Paul Jewell-PJ	WPD DSO Development Manager
Ben Godfrey-BG	WPD Network Strategy Manager
Tim Hughes-TH	WPD Connection Policy Manager
Peter Young-PY	WPD Records Manager
Richard Allcock-RA	WPD Connections Policy Engineer
Vanessa Buxton-VB	WPD Connections Policy Co-ordinator
Penny Carolan-PC	WPD Connections 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:

- RIIO-ED2 Ofgems Open Letter
- RIIO-ED2 Customer Engagement Group (CEG) update
- Distribution System Operator (DSO) Update
- Brexit – Impact on WPD
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy - First EV strategy published
- DNO's Price Review R110-ED2

3. Network Charging

Stakeholder query (AM) – how aligned are the DNO's on the preferred options?

WPD-NT – it's not entirely clear on what each DNO's preferred options are but all agree that there needs to be a softening from the existing approach, e.g. the High Cost Cap is restrictive. There are also concerns

with totally shallow charge – if you don't contribute to reinforcement why would you accept an offer for curtailment for example?

We've not yet seen a timetable on how to approach issues, e.g. with existing curtailed connections and how they are treated.

Stakeholder query (NP) – will there be higher security payments?

WPD-NT – potentially and also an impact on the associated administrative burden. At smaller scale, the speed of issuing quotations at present would not allow sufficient time for putting relevant paperwork in place.

Stakeholder (NP) – what are they likely to do?

WPD-NT – we think it will have some changes to charging boundary and locational charges but not fully shallow charging. Also potentially locational by GSP rather than LV/HV locational charge.

Stakeholder query – high cost cap take up – how much does it affect connections going ahead?

WPD-NT – This isn't always known, discussions often held prior to quote being issued which stops the process in its tracks.

4. DSO & Flexibility

Stakeholder query (PG) – there's not much flexibility requirement in Wales, is that due to transmission limitations?

WPD-BG – not due to transmission, we're generally contracting with existing connected customers rather than upcoming connections affected by transmission limitations. We've seen a reduction in demand in Wales which removes the requirement for flexible solutions.

Stakeholder query (HE) – is there requirement in this area? (West Midlands)

WPD-BG BG – Not so much at present although flexible solutions may be required in the Rugeley area and potential for (Olympics?) but we're unsure if there will be much need beyond the event.

Stakeholder query (AM) – have WPD had any repeat customers?

WPD-BG – Yes. 123MW previously contracted. We extended timescales available from 1 year to up to 4 year contracts. Some users re-contracted for longer periods. Also some who signed up to a single zone to test the water then expanded into other zones.

Stakeholder query (NP) – what are the barriers to entry?

WPD-BG – some is the location of need compared to where the flexibility can be provided. Also exclusivity of contract if already under contract elsewhere, WPD requires a unique flexibility requirement, e.g. we may have a time of day need but NGET may have already contract the customer for an anytime response.

There are no technical barriers; we've removed some of the barriers seen in other contracts such as indemnities and penalties.

Stakeholder query (NP) – presumably longer contracts help?

WPD-BG – there's room for different approaches, longer term contracts work for some but there are some aggregators who didn't want to contract for longer periods.

Stakeholder query (PG) – In the table (slide 39) is that 15MW needed for 1 hour?

WPD-BG – this is 15MW availability required e.g. between 8am and 9am, we will fix a requirement and dispatch actuals which can be to a lesser extent.

The forecasts a month ahead are followed up a week ahead with more refined requirements.

Stakeholder query (HE) – Are these arrangements smooth?

WPD-BG – Depends on the location – where there is only one contracted provider it's an on or off approach. In areas with lots of flexibility on offer we'll dispatch in smaller chunks as required. Neither method will cause transient faults.

Stakeholder query (HS) – Is this market flexibility or otherwise?

WPD-BG – Mostly about market flexibility. Other solutions remain available, e.g. constrained/ANM connections. Expansion of market flexibility may reduce the need for ANM type solutions as they can contract into a market flexibility solution.

Our website includes baseline charging methodology and framework T&C's for signing up to flexibility provision. www.flexiblepower.co.uk

5. Electric Vehicle “moving forward”

Stakeholder comment (HE) – its need a licence to sell electricity, e.g. if STW wanted to put chargers on their site they can't just take it from their demand. Ofgem released guidance affecting the ability to sell electricity to EV drivers attending the site.

WPD-AS – this is effectively re-selling rather than selling.

WPD-PJ – chargers at home are lower cost, the findings from the project showed users didn't fully recharge at a station but just charged enough to get home.

6. Connections Policy Update

Stakeholder query (NP) – not the costing element (of the Mobile App) but can we facilitate more site visits to walk the site?

WPD-TH – we have connection surgeries, plus if there is a real benefit there is no reason this (site visits) shouldn't happen.

7. Mapping Update

No current actions/comment

8. ICE – Update

Stakeholder query (PG) – is ICE here to stay in ED2?

WPD-AS – we don't know. It may depend on the feedback from stakeholders. We'll put our business plan together – if there's a clear indication from stakeholders it should stay or we've exhausted the number of improvements it may be removed.

Stakeholder comment (AM) – in some instances, do what you do well and improve on it without new initiatives.

Stakeholder comment (HS) – ICE only tests that you're engaging well, not the delivery of services.

WPD-AS – it's right that it started as a focus on the engagement but it is now focussed on what's delivered as a result.

Stakeholder Query (AM) – Is Ofgem going to consult on 'ICE' to see what stakeholders think of it?

WPD-AS – Ofgem open letter on the price control has been silent on intentions. We're trying to encourage them to be pro-active in this area.

7. AOB – Additional Information.

Future CCSG meetings:

Date	Location
Date TBC February 2019	WPD Gloucester Office, Saw Mills End, Corinium Avenue, Gloucester GL4 3BH