

Connection Customer Steering Group

Notes from the meeting held 21st October 2020 via Zoom

Present:

Olly Frankland	Regen SW	Alex Spreadbury	B&Q
Helen Ewing	Severn Trent	Paul Graham	Sembcorp Energy UK
Hugh Taylor	Roadnight Taylor Ltd	Simon Dawson	GTC
Jordan Earlye	Aptus Utilities	Charles Deacon	Renewable Connections
Mark Tanner	Power Systems UK	James Barker	Electrical Testing Ltd
Edd Kenney-Herbert	Tesla		

Alison Sleightholm	WPD Resources and External Affairs Director	Peter White	WPD DSO Development Engineer
Tim Hughes	WPD Connections Policy Manager	Dave Wornell	WPD Senior Business Analyst
Vanessa Buxton	WPD Connections Policy Engineer	Cuan Rowlands	WPD Graduate Engineer
Penny Carolan	WPD Connections Policy Coordinator	Peter Aston	WPD Primary System Design Manager
Kate Sheehan	WPD Connections Policy Coordinator	Paul Jewell	WPD DSO Development Manager

1. Introduction

Tim Hughes welcomed everyone and introduced the agenda for the day.

2. Director's Update

Alison Sleightholm gave an overview on how WPD is supporting the Government in developing plans for a UK wide Green Recovery from Covid-19.

Plans include;

- Motorway Service Areas
- EV Charging Hubs
- Net Zero ready off-gas homes
- Net Zero ready smarter grids and homes
- Enterprise Zones / Garden Cities
- Accelerated asset replacement
- Accelerated rural works
- Active Management rollback for firmer connections

Alison ran through a brief update of how WPD are preparing our network for the electrification of transport, including details of current and future innovation projects allowing EV drivers to charge their vehicles at a time and place suitable to them.

Alison presented an update on where WPD currently stand within the DSO Flexibility market.

To date in 2020 we have been able to defer £26.4m of conventional asset build across three areas, for an annual operating cost of £550k

Our latest tender sought over 300MW of flexibility services and we now operate 220MW of generation turn-up and demand turndown through commercial contracts.

WPD continue to be leaders in DSO flexibility services.

Stakeholder Comment (Olly Frankland)

Still a lot of diesel and gas getting these contracts. We have been pushing for carbon reporting in these markets. See www.regen.co.uk/building-flexibility-markets-for-a-net-zero-electricity-system
AS – Yes, we do need to consider carbon output and make this an inclusive process.

Rounding up the Directors Update, Alison gave an overview of WPD's Digitalisation Strategy and the three supporting elements of the action plan;

- Improved data management
- Increased network insight and operation
- Presumed open data

More information is available on our digitalisation roadmap



3. G99 – How the process is working

Peter notified the group of the lifting of the NGENSO restriction on thermal plant connecting in South Wales.

Other more local issues may cause restrictions; <http://www.westernpower.co.uk/our-network/statement-of-works>

Peter discussed the ACLOM Change Programme where customers with generation connected prior to February 2018 are to update LOM settings from vector shift to a ROCOF.

Eligible Customers need to be compliant by August 2022. Incentive payment available to amend settings and a Fast Track scheme available.

WPD are undertaking an engagement exercise to inform customers about the change programme and incentive.

Information on the Accelerated Loss of Mains Project can be found at www.ena-eng.org/ALOMCP/

Queries relating to ALOMCP can be directed to wpdalomcpdelivery@westernpower.co.uk

Peter provided an update on G99. Pete's presentation included

- A brief introduction and background to G99
- Exemptions (customers who had purchased major plant items prior to 17th May 2018 and who notified the DNO by 17th November 2018). Currently 18 customers granted exemption.
- Content of G99
 - www.energynetworks.org/industry-hub/resource-library/erec-g99-requirements-for-connection-of-generation-equipment.pdf
- Compliance requirements
 - Many different types of evidence available to demonstrate compliance

- G99 Application statistics
 - LV – 341 connected sites
 - 11kV - 33 connected sites
 - 33kV – 3 connected sites
 - Near 10MW connected and a similar number for sites accepted not yet connected
- Implementation – WPD continue to build knowledge of the G99 complexities

Pete confirmed WPDs next steps are

- Plan to improve internal knowledge and process for G99.
- Continuation of work with Customers to help build their knowledge
- Provide additional documentation where required

Stakeholder Question (Olly Frankland)

Do you have any further information on the proposals currently in with the ENA to increase the G98 current limit from 16A per phase to 32A per phase? Is it likely to go through?

Peter advised he does not have information but will try to find out.

WPD Action – Peter Aston: *find out information on the proposals to increase current limit and share with the CCSG members*

Stakeholder Question (Paul Graham)

Can you touch on any distinctions between requirements for storage and synchronous plan for type C and D?

Peter advised there are differences and he can provide an overview offline. Many applications are going through the process for the first time so it have been learning the process.

WPD Action – Peter Aston: *provide an overview of the differences between the requirements for storage and synchronous plant*

Stakeholder question (Olly Frankland)

Any idea of the additional costs to connect under G99 for customers? Is this a barrier to uptake?

Stakeholder Comment (Paul Graham) – elements that were £10k under G59 are now up to £20k for G99. It has probably doubled the cost of the verification process.

Stakeholder comment (Charles Deacon) – there are additional costs but they are passed on to EPC as they are due to the requirement to be compliant.

Stakeholder question (Charles Deacon)

How flexible is the testing process, e.g. where wind is unpredictable?

Stakeholder comment (Paul Graham) – there are type tested invertors available.

Peter Aston advised that whilst the process is more expensive for customers it is more resilient to performing as well as it can.

4. Targeted Charging Review (TCR) Update

Dave Wornell presented an update on the TCR.

OFGEM published the decision on the TCR in November 2019. TCR involves moving residual charge from the unit rates in CDCM and capacity charge rates in EDCM to a fixed charge per site.

Non-domestic customers will be split into four bands for each tariff group.

- Half Hourly LV & LV Sub
- Half Hourly HV
- Half Hourly EHV

Domestic Customers will not be split into banded categories.

Unmetered supplied customers will continue to be charged residual on a pence per unit basis.

The nationally created bands will be based on 40th, 70th & 85th percentiles, and will be rounded to the nearest integer.

Connections where demand is used for generation or storage only will NOT be subject to residual charging.

TCR will become effective from **April 2022**.

More Information on Targeted Charging Review can be found via the following links

Change Proposal – www.dcusa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/DCP-359-Change-Proposal-Form-v1.0.pdf

Decision Document – www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2020/09/dcp359_d.pdf

Stakeholder question (Alex Spreadbury)

Capacity refresh in the control period – is this each 5 years? Is there a disincentive to utilise capacity in between?

Dave advised that if changing capacity significantly there is an opportunity to change the charging bands, it's written into DCUSA. Customers can speak to us directly to request the change.

Stakeholder question (Alex Spreadbury)

DCUSA is not something the average customer is familiar with yet. Who is on the committee?

Dave advised the committee will be a variety of individuals but there is no committee as yet. Further information can be provided offline.

WPD Action – Dave W: *discuss with Alex to determine what further information needs to be provided on the process and the committee.*

WPD Question (Tim Hughes)

As a consumer, how am I going to be made aware of this?

Dave advised that customers would see the DUOS charges change. There is no leeway, DCUSA have directed that the changes will apply from 2022.

Stakeholder question (Paul Graham)

What sort of change for an average domestic customer?

Dave advised that average customers would not see any difference. If they use more than the average the overall charges drop. If they use less then they will see an increase although most customers do not understand DUoS charges.

Stakeholder comment (Alex Spreadbury) - Commercial customers who do not have their own LLF (offices, gyms, shops) will see a difference. There will still need to be some level of understanding of DUoS charges.

WPD Action Dave W - will take this feedback to the industry group and ask how the changes can be communicated to individual customers.

5. Electric Vehicles – Charging

Peter White presented WPD's Net Zero targets and our plan for achieving these to the group.

- Home - Legislation changed for every new build will be fitted with 7.4kW single-phase charger (currently delayed due to Covid-19).
- Work – as fleets decarbonise, we expect to see concentrations of charging at work locations. Additional transformers will be installed to cater for the increase in demand.
- Destination Charging (retail car parks) - consideration needs to be made to seasonal/tourist demand. EV charging load could triple in high season.

Other issues to consider – HGV emission legislation means BEV HGVs will be on the road by 2025. Predictions are 200,000 BEV HGV vehicles are required to meet target resulting in 20,000 high-powered rapid chargers required for HGV's.

Majority of UK electric infrastructure is built on private land. WPD are working on a proposal to put forward to the ENA LCT group to find a suitable solution for the installation of equipment required to cater for the increased network capacity required for the volume of high-powered EV chargers the country will require to meet the de-carbonisation of transport 2050 Net Zero target.

The proposal once completed by WPD will then be evaluated by the ENA LCT Group and then forwarded to BEIS, OLEV and Ofgem with a view of becoming an industry standard.

Stakeholder comment (Edd Kenney-Herbert)

WPD have been great on this wayleave work, thank you. Definitely leading the way compared to other DNO's.

Stakeholder question (Olly Frankland)

Is there any V2G in Electric Nation – Powered Up?

Peter advised there is (there were 5 off V2G units in the first Electric Nation project, part 2 Electric Nation Powered up will have 100 off V2G chargers that will be monitored). At the moment, the only system that can allow V2G to happen is CHADeMO, whilst it is not currently available for CCS (Combined Charging Systems)

Stakeholder comment (Hugh Taylor)

Concerned the deployment of renewables could be stopped if EV charging plant is treated in the same way as telecoms plant. Landowner perception would be worried about reliability and this

approach to EV could have significant unintended consequences. It needs to be framed the right way for DNO's needing powers to install electrical plant – de-link from being a specific requirement, e.g. EV.

Peter had mentioned telecoms as an example but takes this comment on board and will also share concerns with Bruce Pollard.

Stakeholder question (Olly Frankland)

Would require changes to the energy bill, which is potentially lengthy process?

Peter advised talks are already underway with Ofgem, BEIS and OLEV and they are aware of the issue. If agreement with all parties on a model is made, they will take it as a way forward.

Stakeholder comment (Hugh Taylor)

There is concern from NFU etc that rural areas will be left behind for EV and will be keen to engage in a positive way.

Peter advised he hadn't mentioned the effect on net zero on heating, with around 1M customers in WPD's region reliant on oil/LPG with 1Ø supplies. Will need to convert to heat pumps which will trigger 1Ø OHL to be upgraded to 3Ø. As heating and transport is decarbonised we can install new transformers to the upgraded 3Ø system to meet the demand.

Stakeholder comment (Hugh Taylor)

This is the kind of information rural groups will be incredibly keen to hear. Concern will remain over rural businesses, e.g. farm shops, pubs etc, with a perception they'll be disadvantaged.

Stakeholder comment (Edd Kenney-Herbert)

There's more likely to be off road parking in rural areas to likely to find EV ownership easier. It's important to keep trade bodies on side, e.g. NFU.

Stakeholder question (Alex Spreadbury)

Do part of the proposed changes put some of the burden of obtaining land rights on the customer applying?

Peter advised that instead of going for our own 99 year lease/wayleave we would piggy back on the customer's lease. If they lose the lease, we get first refusal on the new leaseholder. This doesn't relate to cable routes on third party land, only at the premises to be connected.

Stakeholder question (Olly Frankland)

Is there a timeframe for 3Ø introduction as a design standard for domestic properties?

Paul Jewell advised that, with the consultation now closed, we are preparing our new design standards. He hopes to have them available for new designs at the end of the year, with the usual caveats for ICP and quoted works which will likely spread 3 or 6 months into 2021.

6. Connections Strategy – RIIO-ED2

Tim Hughes provided an overview and timeline for the Sector Specific Methodology Consultation for RIIO-ED2.

ED2 will see the end of ICE. OFGEM propose to introduce an incentive framework to improve service standard for major connections customer.

OFGEM have proposed a new methodology that will

- Ensure a degree of standardisation in DNO approaches
- Ensure progress made in RIIO-ED1 serves as the minimum expected levels of service provided in RIIO-ED2
- Move from a purely qualitative assessments of performance to a more quantitative measure.

As part of the new proposed methodology, DNOS are to put forward a Connections Strategy setting out how they will deliver quality services for major connections.

DNO Connections Strategies should align with three high-level principles and associated baseline standards;

Connection Principles	
Connection Principle 1	Support connection stakeholders to make informed decisions by providing accurate, comprehensive and user-friendly information
Connection Principle 2	Deliver value for customers by ensuring simplicity and transparency at all stages of the connections process
Connection Principle 3	Facilitate the delivery of timely and economical connections that meet customers' needs

Tim invited Stakeholder views/comments on how ICE should evolve under RIIO-ED2.

Alison emphasised how important Stakeholder feedback is to WPD on developing our new Business Plan.

Customer Action: feedback on improvements or deliverables for WPD or the industry as a whole to undertake either in the short term under ICE or in the long term under RIIO-ED2

6. Brief Ice Update

Penny Carolan, provided an update on ICE.

Looking Back and Looking Forward report published in May 2020 and available on our website www.westernpower.co.uk/ice

WPD received four consultation responses. Feedback was mainly positive although there were some concerns. We are discussing these with the relevant stakeholders to understand how they may be addressed.

Our October submission will also include four new initiatives, three of which derived directly from the consultation process.

- Common Information Models
- Real-Time Power flow data access
- Unmetered Connection Offers
- Digitalisation programme updates

7. Summary and Next Steps

Tim thanked the CCSG members for attending and invited general feedback.

Feedback form issued via email at the end of workshop – 21/10/20

Future CCSG meetings:

Dates	Topics
Wednesday 24 th February 2021	TBC
Wednesday 23 rd June 2021	TBC
Wednesday 27 th October 2021	TBC

Major Connections Customer Event

Dates	Venue	Topics
Wednesday 25 th November 2020	Virtual Workshop via Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connections Strategy for RIIO-ED2• Strategic Investment during ED2• Supporting the Transition to Net Zero• Digitalisation & Data

Please [Click here](#) to register for the 'Connections Workshop'.