

Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum – meeting notes

14:00-16.00, 28 January 2021

Introduction

Western Power Distribution established a forum in July 2016 for Distributed Generation (DG) owner/operators to discuss issues in relation to outages and constraints under its Incentive on Connections Engagement (ICE) work plans.

The attendee list and meeting notes for the January 2021 meeting are set out below.

There is a dedicated webpage for the forum [here](#).

The generation portal for outage information is available [here](#).

For day-to-day outage queries, please contact the WPD nominated person detailed on the 4-week generator report or via the following emails:

- South Wales and South West: wpdswwestwalesgen@westernpower.co.uk
- East Midlands: wpdeastmidgen@westernpower.co.uk
- West Midlands: wpdwestmidgen@westernpower.co.uk

Date of next meeting: 28 April 2021

Delegate List:

First name	Last name	Organisation
Jakub	Kozlowski	Alpha Real Capital
Hayley	Muir	Belltown Power
Anneliese	Appleton	Bright Renewables
Peter	Roberts	BSR Group
Rowan	Hewson	ecotricity
Daniel	Withers	Ecotricity Generation Limited
Helen	Hardaker	Green Nation
Gary	Bell	Imerys
Chiara	Guiducci	Lightsourcebp
Matthew	Hanley	Neuville Grid Data
Steve	Pugh	PSH Operations
Richard	Guy	Quintas Energy
Olly	Frankland	Regen
Hannah	Stanley	Regen
Matthew	Green	RES
Andrew	Boulton	Ventient Energy



Andy	Ling	Ventient Energy
Christian	Davies	Ventient Energy
Kevin	Dodd	Ventient Energy
Russell	Hill	Ventient Energy
Clayton	Taylor	Ventient Energy Services
Michael	Nash	Wise Energy
Sebastien	Dot	WPO UK Services Ltd
Peter	Aston	Western Power Distribution
Danielle	Greedy	Western Power Distribution
Gwyn	Jones	Western Power Distribution

Key action areas	Views	Actions
<p>Covid-19 update Gwyn Jones – Control Centre Manager, WPD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPD following Covid-19 guidelines in Wales and England. There have been minimal number of positive cases across WPD staff. The WPD control room has not been impacted. To mitigate risk to the control room has been using four sites rather than two. This will be continuing into 2022. WPD reassured customers that there a significant stock of equipment (e.g. switchgear) 	
<p>Improving industry and WPD communications to address outages/constraints Danielle Greedy – Outage Planning Engineer, WPD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPD are working on 2021/22 outage plans. Details of any National Grid outages have now been included on the WPD generation portal for your sites. WPD are continuing to work on the 132kV outage plans, which include all the planned outages from April 2021 to March 2022. These will be available on the portal from the end of January 2021. Where possible these have been merged to reduce the impact on DG customers. WPD 33kV outages are being put together for April 2021 to March 2022. These will be available on the portal by the end of February 2021. An estimated 2000 planned outages are in the current plans for April 2021 to March 2022. Planned outages in the portal can be marked as “Provisionally approved”, which means that further studies are required but the outage should go ahead. Full approval will be grant four weeks ahead of a planned outage and any reasons for the change will be available on portal and four week report email (sent out weekly every Friday). WPD have updated the generation portal and four-week report, creating a reason for change field to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If customers have any queries regarding planned outages, contact the WPD representative responsible for the outage by using details provided on the portal. Or the general regional email addresses on page 1. Customers to contact WPD to align maintenance works with WPD planned outages using the general regional email addresses on page 1. Customers to contact WPD if there are any outages coming up that are close together, as WPD may be able to merge to reduce the impact on customers. Provide as much notice as possible, ideally within a week of receiving the four-

	<p>give more information to asset owners and operators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A customer requested any information on any delayed works due to Covid-19 that will be included in 2021 outage planning. WPD confirmed there is no backlog of works that will significantly impact the planned outage plans in 2021. • A customer raised a positive example of WPD merging outages after they contacted the engineers in question. • A customer raised a request for as much notice as possible for large planned outages (more than 5 days). More than four weeks would be ideal. Potentially including an additional email notification for large planned outages that are added to the portal on the generation portal. WPD recommended that you continue to monitor the portal for changes and will look at options to add a new notification process. A customer raised the point that a notification from a new outage of any length would be of use. • A Zoom poll was used to identify the most popular option to help define the length of a large planned outage from those that attended the online meeting. "Over 5 days" received 65% of the votes and was the most popular option. A customer raised the point that the definition of a large planned outage will depend on the technology and time of year. 	<p>week report. Use the email addresses on page 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD to publish the lost generation report for 2020 with cost estimates for wind and solar on the generation portal at the beginning of February 2021. • WPD to investigate adding an email notification when new planned outages (focused on those that are five days or over) are added to the generation portal. • Following the forum, WPD confirmed that none of their transformers are impacted by the TYCO component issue raised by a customer.
<p>Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme (ALoMCP) update Peter Aston – Primary System Design Manager, WPD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD reminded customers there is only a year and half left before the final deadline (31 August 2022) for LoM changes to be made to DG sites. Funding will not necessarily be available for all of that time. • Windows 7 and 8 up to August 2021 are definitely going ahead. • Works have continued through Covid-19 lockdowns and are continuing. • Applies to any DG greater than 3.68kW single phase and 11 kW three phase. • Inverters may contain G59 settings that need to be changed or disabled. Guidance available on ENA website: https://www.ena-eng.org/ALoMCP/mankb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer to engage with WPD business plan consultation: https://yourpowerfuture.westernpower.co.uk/our-future-business-plan/riioed2-business-plan-consultation • Customers should engage with the ALoMCP programme to update their sites if they have not done so already.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tapered payments are going to be brought in. Latest thinking is that 80% of current funding value in will be available in Q1 2022. • 1700 applications and close to 4 GW (out of 8.6 GW). 1200 sites where works have been completed. • Virtual sample site visits for compliance have been carried out under lockdown. • All DNOs carrying out engagement activities. WPD issued over 4,500 letters and calls to larger sites. • WPD are sending letters to customers >5MW to confirm compliance. • A customer raised a question regarding the fast track scheme and the possibility of changes to the 5 MW upper limit requirements. WPD agreed to discuss the sites in question offline. • A customer raised a question regarding the three month limit on the window applications. With some customers waiting to register the sites on the ENA portal and see the works for the works to be done at a later date. • Customers confirmed that there were still barriers to accessing the ALoMCP funding and that many sites are yet to be applied for and completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD contact email for ALoMCP: ALOMCP@westernpower.co.uk and freephone 0800 0328880
<p>Further topics for discussion at the forum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers raised a request to include 11kV connected sites on the generation portal. WPD confirmed that this has been looked at before and would require a significant investment of time, due to the more local nature of the outage process at the 11kV level. However, WPD will investigate this further. • Customers were also interested to have an update on local flexibility tenders, generation portal updates, upgrades to the network, Active Network Management update, and H&S arrangements for cross-boundary switching. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD to investigate how to include 11kV sites on the generation portal.