

Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum – meeting notes

14:00-16.00, 28 April 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 April 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: 8 August 2021

Delegate List:

First name	Last name	Organisation
Alec	Minter	Amberside Energy
Jamie	Holmes	Amberside Energy Ltd
Dale	King	Anesco Ltd
Greg	Booth	BayWa r.e.
Hayley	Muir	Belltown Power
Peter	Roberts	BSR Group
Wendy	Matthews	Good Energy
Graham	Bone	Infinis
Simon	Maddams	Infinis Energy Services Ltd
Chiara	Guiducci	Lightsourcebp
Nicolo	Paschetto	NextEnergy Capital
David	McSherry	PSH Operations Ltd
Ian	Nicoll	Qmulus Ltd
Matthew	Green	RES
Olly	Frankland	Regen
Hannah	Stanley	Regen

James	Whitley	RWE
Awais	Lodhi	RWE Renewables UK
Ieuan	Spencer	Toucan Energy
Andrew	Ling	Ventient Energy
Christian	Davies	Ventient Energy
Russell	Hill	Ventient Energy
Peter	Aston	Western Power Distribution
Danielle	Greedy	Western Power Distribution
Gwyn	Jones	Western Power Distribution
Michael	Nash	Wise Energy
Sebastien	Dot	WPO UK Services Ltd

Key action areas	Views	Actions
<p>Improving industry and WPD communications to address outages/constraints Danielle Greedy – Outage Planning Engineer, WPD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPD have now updated the portal with all planned outages at 132kV and 33kV. 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 granted 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). Outages at 11kV are not managed on the central WPD Outage Management Systems, as they are for 33kV and 132kV. There are no plans to add 11kV outages to the central processes. Due to changes in personnel the role of DG support assistant is being disseminated. Customers should use the regional email addresses provided on page 1. WPD Incentive on Connections Engagement (ICE) 2020 commitments have been delivered and two new commitments have been added following discussions at this forum. At the January 2021 DG owner operator forum customers discussed adding an email notification system for any changes to significant outages. WPD have reviewed this ask and are working with web developers to deliver a notification every time a planned outage is added, changed, and updated, in the Outage Management System for all 132/66/33kV planned outages. This has been added as a new commitment for ICE plan 2021 – to be delivered by end of June 2021. 	<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-week report. Use the email addresses on page 1. 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.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> The WPD business plan includes total investment of £6 billion in the electricity network, moving towards a net zero company by 2028. First submission of the full business plan on 1 July 2021. Optional Downward Flexibility Management (ODFM) is National Grid ESO service that has been relaunched in 2021 from April onwards until October. This service is open to DG not active in the Balancing Mechanism. Further information is available here: https://data.nationalgrideso.com/ancillary-services/optional-downward-flexibility-management-odfm1 Alongside ODFM there is a new enduring solution to the disconnection of embedded generation/DG via the Grid Code modification 0147 change by National Grid ESO. This formalises the process in which National grid ESO can instruct DNOs, such as WPD, to disconnect generation as a last resort. Further information is available here: https://www.nationalgrideso.com/industry-information/codes/grid-code-old/modifications/gc0147-last-resort-disconnection-embedded WPD reminded customers there is only limited time left before the final deadline (31 August 2022) for Loss of Mains (LoM) changes to be made to DG site. Funding is still available in the Accelerated LoM Changes Programme. Tapered payments are due to be implemented. 80% in Q1 2022, 70% in Q2 2022 and so on. Applies to any DG project with 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 1955 applications and close to 4.72 GW (out of 8.6 GW). 1397 sites where works have been completed. Virtual sample site visits for compliance have been carried out under lockdown. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers to engage with WPD RIIO-ED2 business plan: https://yourpowerfuture.westernpower.co.uk/our-future-business-plan/riioed2-business-plan-consultation Customers who are interesting in engaging with the ODFM service: https://data.nationalgrideso.com/ancillary-services/optional-downward-flexibility-management-odfm1 Customers should engage with the ALoMCP programme to update their sites if they have not done so already. WPD contact email for ALoMCP: ALoMCP@westernpower.co.uk and freephone 0800 0328880 Evidence of compliance with the G59/3 LoM settings is required even is customers haven't engaged with the ALoMCP. Customers need to fill in and return the compliance form provided by WPD.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of compliance with G59/3 LoM settings needs to be provided even if customers have not engaged with programme. Compliance form will be sent to them by WPD and needs to be filled in. 	
<p>Further topics for discussion at the forum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers were also interested to have an update on ODFM service, local flexibility tenders, generation portal updates, future constraint panel control and Active Network Management update. 	