

Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum – meeting notes

13:00-15.00, 10 February 2022

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 February 2022 meeting are set out below.

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

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

[Slides from last meeting](#) – Nov 2021

[Notes from the last meeting](#) – Nov 2021

For day-to-day outage queries, please contact the WPD nominated person detailed on the 4-week generator report or via the following regional 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: 11 May 2022

Delegate List:

First name	Last name	Organisation
Thomas	King	Anesco
Dale	King	Anesco Ltd
Susana	del Campo	Armstrong
Steph	Palmer	Aura Power
Amy	McNamara	Bright Renewables
charlotte	anderson	British Solar Renewables
Don	Weston	Chelwood Community Energy
Mark	Degg	CoGen
Tom	Taylor	Foresight Group
Gary	Bell	Imerys Minerals Ltd
Steve	Hudson	Lightdsouce BP
Chiara	Guiducci	Lightsourcebp
Rumesh	Chauhan	Lightsourcebp
James	Wylie	Neuville Grid Data

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Alexandros	Athanasiadis	NextEnergy Group
Ian	Nicoll	Qmulus Ltd
Tony	Whittaker	Quintas Energy
Matthew	Green	RES
James	Whitley	RWE Renewables
Hannah	Stanley	Regen
Olly	Frankland	Regen
Andrea	Muncivi	Stern Energy
Rob	Davies	Stern Energy
Alexa	Belsham	Ventient Energy
Christian	Davies	Ventient Energy
Clayton	Taylor	Ventient Energy
Russell	Hill	Ventient Energy
Andrea	Muncivi	Stern Energy
Rob	Davies	Stern Energy
Michael	Nash	WiseEnergy
Gwyn	Jones	WPD
Andrew	Akani	WPD
Mark	Mears	WPD
Danielle	Greedy	WPD

Key action areas	Views	Actions
<p>Improving industry and WPD communications to address outages and constraints</p> <p>Gwyn Jones – control room manager, Western Power Distribution</p> <p>Danielle Greedy – outage planner, Western Power Distribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storm Arwen has raised the importance of energy security and there is an ongoing review by BEIS and Ofgem. New evidence has shown that space weather events can impact distribution system hardware. The year ahead plan from National Grid has been received and integrated into the WPD outage plans. 132kV outage plans have now been included on the WPD generation portal (April 2022 – March 2023). These have been merged and amended where possible to limit impact . 33kV outage plans are being processed and will be available on the generation portal by end of February 2022. Again outages will be merged where possible to minimise impact. Planned outage in the generation portal will be marked as provisionally approved initially. These outages might need further studies and will move to full approval four weeks ahead of the outage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers to logon to the WPD generation portal and check the right contact details are displayed. If they are incorrect, please email the general regional email addresses on page 1 or use the portal access system. Customers to contact WPD if they have any queries regarding upcoming planned outages (e.g. changes or aligning maintenance) using the general regional email addresses on page 1. If customers would like to opt out to the new notifications please contact WPD or opt out via the email notifications.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to the generation portal have now been completed providing a notification email every time there is a planned outage added/changed/updated for all 33kV, 66kV and 132kV connected sites. Some 11KV sites are included on the portal but not all. • Customer raised an example where WPD did not provide clarification on whether an outage could be aligned with their maintenance schedule and did not give much advanced warning when an outage did occur. And when taking the outage the WPD teams did not tell anyone to reenergise the site after they had finished causing an increased impact in a windy period. WPD will follow up the case in question. • Customer raised a question regarding how they can understand where they are in the WPD maintenance cycle for the network hardware on their site (e.g. switchgear). WPD suggested that you can email the regional email addresses to ask for more details. • Customer raised a question regarding what are the factors that impact the ability of WPD to move a planned outage following a customer request. WPD stated that they focus planned outages on low demand periods and when they have resources available. Planned outages at the 132kV level are often driven by National Grid outages and timeframes, so WPD have less control over these events and they are therefore harder to move. • Customer asked how they could add a 33kV isolation switch on a site and who to contact at WPD. They were advised to contact the general contact enquiry number and ask for the projects team for a discussion on the practicalities of such an installation. If you are still interested contact WPD connections team with specific details of the site and works required, so that WPD can provide a quotation. 	
<p>Green recovery scheme network reinforcement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD is investing £60 million in network reinforcement over the next two years using the green recovery scheme from Ofgem. Focused on works that add demand and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers are advised to review the WPD interactive map to identify areas where extra capacity may be available and

<p>Mark Mears – green recovery project manager, Western Power Distribution</p>	<p>generation capacity to key areas ahead of need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The works will unlock extra network capacity in specific areas which will be available for new customers connecting to the network. Customer raised a question regarding whether the extra network capacity was available to existing sites. WPD confirmed that it the capacity is available for new connections only. 	<p>they should apply for a connection offer in the normal manner.</p>
<p>Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme (ALoMCP) update Andrew Akani – Primary System Design Manager, WPD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is focused on funding the update to the LoM settings of sites connected before 1 February 2018 (pre G59/3-3). This may require setting changes to the relays and/or the inverters. Further details here: https://www.ena-eng.org/ALoMCP/ Applies to any DG project with greater than 3.68kW single phase and 11 kW three phase. WPD reminded customers there is only limited time left before the final application deadline - 10 May 2022. Funding is still available in the final funding window. Tapered payments are due to be implemented, 80% in Q2 2022, 70% in Q3 2022 and so on. All existing distributed generators need to comply by 31 August 2022. Inverters may contain G59 settings that need to be changed or disabled. Guidance available on ENA website: https://www.ena-eng.org/ALoMCP/mankb 2,426 applications and close to 5.05 GW (out of approx. 8.6 GW). 1,747 sites where works have been completed (evidence received 4.35 GW). Customers need to provide compliance declarations even if you have not used the ALoMCP Evidence of compliance with G59/3 LoM settings needs to be provided even if customers have not engaged with programme. A compliance form will be sent to them by WPD and needs to be filled in to be compliant (currently around 2.29 GW of capacity compliant). Enforcement is likely to follow shortly after the 31 August 2022 deadline with a defined process now in place providing customers 26 weeks from the first notification (letter) notice to provide evidence of compliance before de- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers should update their contact details on the WPD generation portal and engage with the ALoMCP programme to update their sites if they have not done so already. Checking relays, inverters and other aspects of the site are compliant. 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 if customers have not engaged with the ALoMCP. Customers need to fill in and return the compliance form provided by WPD or via the ENA portal below. A new compliance process has been confirmed, giving 26 weeks notice, from the first notification being sent, before de-energisation of any non-compliant site occurs. Customers and WPD to share any manufacturer ALoMCP compliance information received and upload it to the ENA portal. <p>Further details are available on the ENA portal: https://www.ena-eng.org/ALoMCP/</p> <p>For a list of registered contractors see the WPD webpage: https://www.westernpower.co.uk/our-network/loss-of-mains</p>

	<p>energisation of a site is completed by WPD. Reminders will be sent regularly before de-energisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A customer raised a question regarding the timeframe for the sites being confirmed as compliant to National Grid ESO. WPD confirmed that they would do so as soon as they have confirmation from the respective site, but also need to organise a virtual site visit for a number of these sites which should happen within days and to notify WPD if that has not happened. • Customers raised the point that wind turbine and other hardware manufacturers are yet to provide data on compliance, as a customer needs to ensure the site as a whole is compliant. WPD are working with other DNOs to try and put pressure on the manufacturers to provide evidence of compliance. Please share any manufacturer compliance information with WPD so that it can be uploaded and shared on the ENA portal with other DNOs and the wider sector. Similarly, WPD asked customers to share the names of the manufacturers in question so we could establish if other DNOs or customers had presented anything from these manufacturers. 	<p>Future proof your power – new national ALOMCP website has been created as an engagement tool.</p>
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