

Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum – meeting notes

13:00-15.00, 10 May 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](#) – Feb 2022

[Notes from the last meeting](#) – Feb 2022

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: wpdswestwalesgen@westernpower.co.uk
- East Midlands: wpdeastmidgen@westernpower.co.uk
- West Midlands: wpdwestmidgen@westernpower.co.uk

Date of next meeting: 9 August 2022

Delegate List:

First name	Last name	Organisation
Michael	Graham	Bluefield Services Ltd
Pedro	Fernandes da Silva	Bluefield Services Ltd
Christie	Sims	British Solar Renewables
Don	Weston	Chelwood Community Energy
Matthew	Green	RES
James	Hodgkinson	Greencoat Capital
Marco	Rossi	Greencoat Capital
Marek	Oleksy	Horan Power Engineering Ltd.
Hannah	Stanley	Regen
Olly	Frankland	Regen
Christian	Davies	Ventient Energy
Dan	Godwin	Welsh Power
Diego	Marquez	Wise Energy
Gwyn	Jones	WPD

WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION

Serving the Midlands, South West and Wales

Andrew	Akani	WPD
Matt	Watson	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, Wester Power Distribution</p> <p>Danielle Greedy – outage planner, Western Power Distribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The year ahead (April 2022- March 2023) planned outages (33kV and above and a small number of 11kV circuits) have been integrated into the WPD outage plans and are available on the WPD generation portal on a site-by-site basis. A reminder significant outages will be merged where possible to minimise impact on connected customers. Two examples were included in the slide deck. 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. There have been some technical issues with these new notifications that are in the process of being resolved. Customer raised a point regarding inclusion of 11kV connected sites in the planned outage data and outage management system. WPD reminded customers that at this stage the number of outages at 11kV and different systems used, make this very difficult. In the long term this may change but in the mean time the focus is on 33kV+ connected sites. Customer raised a question regarding the number of planned outages this year and how it compares to previous years. Planned outages are normally caused by new connections, asset replacement and scheduled maintenance, and network reinforcement. At present this year is looking similar to last year. But this only relates to planned outage numbers. Customer raised a question regarding a notification for a three week outage that was 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers to logon to the WPD generation portal and check that their sites are viewable and that email notifications related to new/changes to planned outages are being received. And make sure they opt in to notifications and emails. 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. For longer planned outages (over 10 days), bespoke network studies may be available that could reduce the impact of the outage on your sites. Customers were reminded to update the site contact details for WPD on the portal for 11kV, 33kV, 66kV and 132kV connected sites. WPD to check requirements regarding letters being sent to the site owner. WPD to provide further information on SF6 detection at the next forum. Customers to provide feedback on KPIs. WPD to publish KPI report on forum webpage every three months.

	<p>only provided with 3 days' notice. WPD asked for further details so that they can investigate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer raised a question regarding what factors cause WPD to do bespoke studies internally to reduce planned outage impact. WPD confirmed that these are normally done for significant outages (over 2 to 3 weeks in length) that will impact generation sites. WPD advised that it is possible to do them for shorter outages over 10 days or so, but there is a limit on current resources available. • There was a question from a customer regarding the accuracy of SF6 leak detection cameras as part of wider sustainability and corporate social responsibility efforts by site owners. And were advised that most operations and maintenance teams do not provide SF6 reporting. WPD will provide further information on SF6 monitoring from a member of sustainability team at the next forum. • WPD reviewed the key KPIs that are being measured, including short notice planned outages. These will be published every three months on the forum webpage. 	
<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 (the day of the forum). 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. <p>Further details are available on the ENA portal: https://www.ena-eng.org/ALoMCP/</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,611 applications and close to 5.1 GW (out of approx. 8.6 GW). 1,914 sites where works have been completed (evidence received 4.57 GW). • 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 2.59 GW of capacity compliant). • The enforcement process will follow after the 31 August 2022 deadline for non-compliant sites, providing customers 26 weeks from the first notification (letter) notice to provide evidence of compliance before de-energisation of a site is completed by WPD. Several reminders will be sent before de-energisation. 	<p>For a list of registered contractors see the WPD webpage: https://www.westernpower.co.uk/our-network/loss-of-mains</p> <p>Future proof your power – new national ALoMCP website has been created as an engagement tool.</p>
<p>Flexible Power update Matt Watson – Network Strategy Manager, WPD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD provided an overview of the Flexible Power services and tender process available across all GB DNO areas (apart from UK Power Networks and NI networks). https://www.flexiblepower.co.uk/locations Including useful highlights of the internal process to identify flexibility and reinforcement needs. There are tenders available over a wide range of Constraint Management Zones in WPD and other DNOs. • On average £6k per MW per year of revenue is available via Flexible Power services (varies considerably per area). • A small minority of attendees were already providing Flexible Power services to WPD. Mainly due to difficulty in getting energy storage co-location business models to work at their existing renewable energy generation sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information is available on the Flexible Power website and customers can assess if their sites are located in any of the tender zones - www.flexiblepower.co.uk • WPD publishes lots of useful information on their network strategy work here: https://www.westernpower.co.uk/smarter-networks/network-strategy Including the recently published Network Development Plan which provides information over a five to ten year period and a headroom report: https://www.westernpower.co.uk/smarter-networks/network-strategy/network-development-plan