

Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum – meeting notes

11:00-13.00, 1 March 2023

National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED) 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 delegate list and meeting notes for the March 2023 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 NGED nominated person detailed on the 4-week generator report or via the following regional emails:

- South West & Wales: nged.swestwalesgen@nationalgrid.co.uk
- East Midlands: nged.eastmidgen@nationalgrid.co.uk
- West Midlands: nged.westmidgen@nationalgrid.co.uk

Date of next meeting: **24th May 2023, in person @ TLT offices, Bristol.**

Delegate List:

First name	Last name	Organisation
Russell	Hill	Ventient Energy
Matthew	Green	RES
Tim	Pickering	Schroders Greencoat
James	Hodgkinson	Schroders Greencoat
Pramod	Kumar	Lightsource BP
Gemma	Grimes	SEUK
Cain	Flynn	Stern Energy
james	rowan	South West Water
james	rowan	South West Water
John	Pelentrides	South West Water
Hayley	Muir	Belltown Power
Emily	Rice	Solar Energy Scotland
Christian	Davies	Ventient Energy
Alec	Minter	Amberside Energy
Vicki	Andrews	Lightsource BP
Harriet	Henderson	Stern Energy
Vicky	Simmons	Lightsourcebp
Aaron	Thompson	Innova
Saurabh	Saxena	ION5286
Richard	Khan	Stern Energy
James	Whitley	RWE Renewables

Tom	Steward	RWE
Donald	Weston	Chelwood Community energy
Jon	Statham	Stern Energy Ltd
Marta	Valien	Foresight Group
Carwyn	Campbell	Stern Energy Ltd
ieuan	spencer	Toucan Energy
Hamish	Ellen	Vector Renewables UK Ltd
Clarke	Simmons	Neuville Grid Darta
Leonardo	Moraga	Neuville Grid Data
Chloe	Goding	Enso Energy Limited
Mark	Degg	CoGen
Jon	Henderson	RWE
Alex	Howison	Low Carbon
Kate	Teubner	Low Carbon
Nicholas	Burridge	Bluefield Services
Christie	Sims	BSR Energy
Jean-Paul	Thorogood	Blue Field Services

Key action areas	Presented content	Questions, <i>responses</i> , actions
<p>Improving industry and NGED communications to address outages and constraints & Generation Portal update</p> <p>Danielle Greedy – outage planner, NGED</p>	<p>NGED outages are planned for the year, visible through portal.</p> <p>29 Customer requested outages.</p> <p>Make sure contact information is correct to allow to communications about upcoming outages.</p> <p>- Update emails either through portal or directly emailing NGED.</p> <p>Generator portal website: www.generation.nationalgrid.co.uk</p> <p>In January 2024 the current platform will no longer be supported, there will be an opportunity to integrate updates. Looking for</p>	<p>Push notifications would be good, to prevent having to check portal</p> <p><i>Push notifications should exist already exist on the generator portal, check settings for older users, get in touch if issues.</i></p> <p>Longer range view of outages to better factor into financial planning would be good. Financial planning well in advance but not based around outages.</p> <p><i>South West-Wales-Governed by National Grid Distribution AND Transmission to plan outages.</i></p> <p>Network Long Term Development Plan https://www.nationalgrid.co.uk/our-network/long-term-development</p> <p>Network Development Plan: https://www.nationalgrid.co.uk/network-strategy/network-development-plan</p> <p>Are historical outages areas available? <i>Any information that is more certain for cabling-email to be connected with mapping group</i></p>

	<p>suggestions to improve generator portal.</p> <p>8 week report now to list any planned outages</p>	<p>Networks could be creating historical outages data, or open data. Potentially sensitive data and not something that would want to be shared.</p> <p>A ticket system could be good instead of relying on emails? <i>Notifications will be delivered to any email addresses provided. New accounts can be set up but could lead to 100s of accounts.</i></p>
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<p>SF6 Monitoring and usage at NGED</p> <p>Geoff Budd, policy engineer, NGED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of SF6 and measures taken to monitor leaks. • High GWP, used in electricity switchgear • Only staff with specific authorization can handle or use SF6 • Used as an insulant, with warning triangle • Used to break the electrical arc or as main insulant with a vacuum bottle to break arc. Increases clearances • Cylinders marked with serial number, TARE weight and size. • SF6 leaks detected by drop in pressure on gauge, low gas alarm via SCADA or smell of rotten eggs on entering switch room • Target is to locate a leak and have a plan to repair/replace ASAP • Camera works well to detect leaks and the extent of the leak • Data collected associated with SF6 • NGED targets: Committed to reduce number of leaks by 17% RIIO ED2-seeks to reduce impact on climate change by delivering a 20% reduction to SF6 losses • Policy to reduce leaks including replacing assets now have identification certificate • Degas decommissioned assets to reduce leaks into atmosphere. • Future of SF6, DEFRA has power to fine companies for intentional release of SF6 • Proposals to ban new SF6 equipment in timeframe 2026-2030 	<p>Is SF6 leak data accessible on network. <i>Leak data is published in environment and innovation report, overview on total leak rates.13% of NGED emissions - comparable to diesel emissions.</i></p> <p>On the gradual phase out of SF6 technology in switchgear. <i>Will work to any future regulation/ban. Would operate existing (pre-ban) switchgear for the 50 year life and hope to reduce leak over that timeframe.</i></p> <p>Are there any third parties who deal in SF6 monitoring. <i>NGED provides recharge work for top-ups.</i></p>
<p>Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme (ALoMCP) update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). 	<p>WPD contact email for ALoMCP: ALOMCP@nationalgrid.co.uk and freephone 0800 0328880</p>

<p>Andrew Akani – Primary System Design Manager, NGED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Obligation sits with owners and operators for compliance. Incentives have been set up with funding for owners to take advantage of financial support to carry out work • Customer MUST still notify programme of compliance even if self-funded. • 90% compliance and substantial reduction in Vector Shift and RoCoF risks • £44m p.a. savings have been delivered so far • NGED progress to date: 278MW outstanding falling each week. • £8.5m provided in funding to generators • NOT OPTIONAL • Enforcement process that could result in de-energization-At week 26 of first notification. • Three phase enforcement: >1MW, >500kW, >200kW • Funding has ended but team in place to provide further support 	<p>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 NGED or via the ENA portal.</p> <p>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> <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.nationalgrid.co.uk/accelerated-loss-of-mains-change-programme-alomcp/</p> <p>Future proof your power – new national ALoMCP website has been created as an engagement tool.</p>
<p>Access SCR update</p> <p>Andrew Akani – Primary System Design Manager, WPD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand connections no longer responsible for reinforcement • High-cost cap still in play • Reinforcement at connection demand fully funded by DNO (new arrangements) • Customer still pays 100% of extension generation and demand. • kV reinforcement will be socialized. • Where DNO cannot provide connection if reinforcement required, a Non-Firm connection will be offered as temporary connection. • An end date will be given for when it will become secured (firm) connection. • DNO will have set curtailment limits in these non-firm connections. 	<p>Curtailment defined by percentage and end date. Defined by DNO or at transmission level? <i>Rules only apply to DNO reinforcement and DNO work. If transmission reinforcement is triggered then client is still liable for costs</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speculative developments change- implementation of new scoring matrix to determine if the project is speculative. This is still in development, subject to Ofgem approval. 	
<p>Curtailement Management Joe Davry, DSO energy management engineer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGED have launched market gateway for procurement of flexibility services: https://marketgateway.nationalgrid.co.uk/ New details of where NGED will be procuring flexibility services for Winter 23/24: https://connecteddata.nationalgrid.co.uk/dataset/constraint-management-zone-cmz-tranche-7a They include 1063 Low voltage flexibility zones, and 37 High voltage flexibility zones Over 1GWh of flexibility £4m of new investment More details available: https://www.flexiblepower.co.uk/national-grid-electricity-distribution Significant Code review vs Curtailement Efficiency Outturn Performance Metric: Connections post-SCR implementation will have a non-firm (curtailable option). DNO will manage curtailment within limits set within the non-firm contract. *will not apply to existing connections. Ofgem Curtailement Efficiency Outturn Performance Metric will apply to ALL sites with curtailment. (includes existing connections) Performance target will be set by Ofgem based on previous performance. DNO required to record all curtailment from April 2023, will work with the new incentive from April 2024. Language clarification: Curtailement is any action by DNO or DSO to restrict capability of connection. Constraint is grid infrastructure reaching operational limits. Revised portal will become source of curtailment data. 	<p>Not taking about outages, portal will have separate line item for curtailments? <i>Detail of reporting on portal still in development.</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early stage of development no in-depth information is available at this time 	
Feedback: potential future topics	ESRS (Electricity System Restoration Standard)	

Additional question responses from Andrew Akani:

Does Access SCR mean ALL offers containing curtailment will have an end of curtailment dates?

No, only those with temporary curtailable connections i.e. awaiting completion of reinforcement works. Some customers, especially those liable for significant reinforcement costs, could still elect to have enduring ANM (curtailable) connections.

So non-firm access does not cover constraints on the transmission system, e.g. GSP transformer loading, where transformers owned by NGET?

No. Transmission reinforcement is not covered by SCR

So DANM and TANM can share the same means of communicating constraint to the generation site?

Yes, where the ESO/NGET allow us to deploy the ANM system. There are sites where the ESO/NGET might want to operate the TANM because they have other directly connected transmission customers.

There is some uncertainty around the management of LIFO queues pre and post April 23. Will post April 23 offers be added to the existing LIFO queue in a lower priority position than all other accepted and already connected connections pre-April 23?

Yes, the principle of last in, first out will still apply.