

Connection Customer Steering Group

Notes from the meeting held 13th February 2018 at WPD's Gloucester office

Present:

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| Steve McElveen – SMS Plc | Kerry Hayes – Regen SW |
| Helen Ewing – Severn Trent | Hugh Taylor – Roadnight Taylor Ltd |
| Graham Pannell – RES Group | Lucy Naughton – Green Frog |
| Mark Boyce – UCSM | Simon Dawson – GTC |
| Mark Tanner – Power Systems UK | Arwel Lloyd – Utilities Connections Management Ltd |
| Paul Graham – UK Power Reserve | |

Robert Symons – WPD Chief Executive
Alison Sleightholm – WPD Regulation & Government Affairs Manager
Phil Swift – WPD Operations Director
Mark Shaw – WPD Network Services Manager (West Midlands)
Graham Halladay – WPD Network Services Manager (DSO)
Tim Hughes – WPD Connection Policy Manager
Richard Allcock – WPD Connection Policy Engineer
Vanessa Buxton – WPD Connection Policy Co-ordinator

1. Introduction

Alison Sleightholm introduced the agenda for the day.

2. Chief Executive's Update

Alison Sleightholm gave an update on WPD's transition to becoming a [DSO](#), the ENA [Open Networks Project](#) for which WPD's Nigel Turvey is the lead, long term [strategic network studies](#), [Project Entire](#) and [flexible power](#).

WPD will now look to move forward from a theoretical approach to start delivering solutions. In March, WPD will be looking to consult with stakeholders on how we should present our requirements for DSR. The learning and feedback from this will be incorporated into a document on what flexible services we may require in 2019 and beyond, including proposals for contractual arrangements.

Members of the group enquired about the Appendix G process and the information available. Graham Halladay provided an update and confirmed that the Appendix G status updates are available in both the [Capacity Map](#) and the [Statement of Works](#) webpages.

Alison also updated the group on the outcome of Ofgem's potential ICE penalties with the decision not to impose any penalties. The decision summary is available to view [here](#).

Robert Symons gave an overview of external factors impacting on WPD such as undertaking a Mid Period Review of RIIO, preparations for RIIO2, the HELM review, re nationalisation in the UK and Ofgem's structure.

3. ICE Workplan Improvements

Mark Shaw provided an overview of improvement measures implemented in response to the ICE Workplan actions, including post acceptance guidance, revised application forms and updated connection offer letters. A revised process for IDNO/ICP applications was developed with GTC/Power-On as an alternative to CIRT and Mark will be visiting other CiC customers to run through the alternate process.

4. Capacity Allocation & Reservation

Richard Allcock updated the group on the consultation issued to look at what is fair for customers and minimises the risk of excessive reinforcement and/or building unnecessary new assets for capacity which may not materialise. The consultation includes a proposed approach to capacity allocation and reservation periods. The closing date for responses is 19/02/2018. More information can be found [here](#).

One stakeholder suggested WPD could request security payments similar to either the NGET Wider Zone Charge or the capacity market rules.

Stakeholder actions:

- Provide a response to the consultation

WPD actions:

- Keep stakeholders updated on the capacity allocation consultation

5. ICE Update – Priorities for 2018/19

Alison Sleightholm provided an overview of the proposed areas of focus, with those from the 2017/18 ICE Workplan continuing into the new year. The ICE Workplan continually develops with the completion of an action often leading to new actions to take a step further and make additional improvements.

WPD recently held a series of stakeholder workshops and DSO featured as a high priority, particularly making DSO information easier to understand. Capacity also featured highly in regards to visibility of available capacity, milestones of capacities, network investment needs and visibility of the commitments required to build infrastructure.

More work is underway with Graham Halladay and Sean Sullivan looking at what information can be provided to show what curtailments on a section of network may look like, the likelihood of a curtailment, where the peaks are likely to occur etc. One stakeholder requested better visibility and reporting of outages/constraints both as part of the offer and for customers who are not yet connected (pre-offer).

One stakeholder advised that UKPN are looking to make their earthing tool available to ICPs/IDNOs – could this be considered by WPD?

WPD actions:

- Publish an ICE Strategy of our priority areas for 2018/19
- WPD to investigate the viability of making their earthing tool available
- WPDs Graham Halladay to develop actions for the 2018/19 ICE Workplan on DSO
- WPDs Sean Sullivan to develop actions for the 2018/19 ICE Workplan on outages/constraints

6. A&D Fees/Connection Offer Expenses

Tim Hughes updated the group on the forthcoming implementation of the Electricity (Connection Offer Expenses) Regulations. The Regulations will allow DNOs to charge applicants, where they hadn't been previously permitted, for costs reasonably incurred in the design of the scheme and preparation of the Offer. He explained that WPD was minded to implement this ability initially only for demand and DG schemes that involved works at EHV. WPD would, however, keep the situation under review and consider expanding the ability to include other market segments where it is considered appropriate to do so.

Whilst DNOs will in future be allowed to require payment before releasing the Offer, Tim explained WPDs current position will be to issue an invoice for payment of the expenses at the same time as releasing the offer and that the payment amount required will be in line with those charges quoted in Section 7 of WPDs Statement of Methodology and Charges for Connection.

WPD actions:

- Keep stakeholders informed of the implementation of the changes to A&D fees

7. Website Connection Pages

Tim Hughes provided a demonstration of a proposed approach to improving the navigation of the connections pages of the website. Feedback was obtained from the group which was generally positive – fresh, clear and heading in the right direction. However, request made by stakeholder to retain quick link ability for frequent users who know exactly where they want to be without the navigational steps.

Consideration to be made to navigation for Community Energy groups who may feel they do not fit with the path for either domestic or commercial connections.

Tim explained that it was still WPDs intent to release a version of the updated 'Connections' pages by the end of March but there would still be work to do after that in terms of evolving the pages as part of WPDs wider remit to develop the whole website. The Group agreed that each development met the stakeholders brief. WPD committed to extending the website development in to the 2018/19 Workplan.

8. ICE Workplan – going forward

Richard Allcock discussed the preparations for the 2018/19 Workplan and proposed a more streamlined style with more detailed initiatives but fewer detailed actions. This would make the plan easier to follow but without losing transparency or scope in the improvements we are making. There were no objections from the group on this approach.

9. Wrap up – Summary and Next Steps

Richard Allcock summarised the output from the day and the plans for future meetings.

Future CCSG meetings:

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| | Suggested breakout session topics from CCSG members: |
| 12 th Jun 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- DUOS charging- Project Entire |
| 16 th Oct 2018 | |