

**UK LINK Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday 10 September 2009**  
**Teleconference**

**Attendees**

John Bradley (Chair)	(JB)	Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Lorna Dupont (Secretary)	(LD)	Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Ashley Collins	(AC)	EDF Energy
Danielle King	(DK)	E.ON UK
Martin Brandt	(MB)	SSE
Mark Cockayne	(MC)	xoserve
Sean McGoldrick	(SM)	National Grid NTS
Stephanie Shepherd	(SS)	RWE npower

**Apologies**

Dave Addison	xoserve
--------------	---------

**1. Review of Minutes and Actions**

**1.1. Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

**1.2. Review of actions.**

Appendix A contains a tabulated update on actions.

UKL 1159 – MC informed members that the full scope of phase 2 still had to be determined, and that an update may be provided before the next meeting.

Chair (JB) asked, and members agreed to carry forward the action.

**Action UKL 1159: Carried Forward**

UKL 1161 – MC confirmed that an update would be provided at the October meeting.

Chair (JB) asked, and members agreed to carry forward the action.

**Action UKL 1161: Carried Forward**

UKL 1164 – MC reported that due to various conflicting holiday periods, contact with the British Gas representative had been minimal. AC said that British Gas was planning to release its changes into SPAA this month, and if this was going to be a problem for xoserve then the shipping community will need to be aware as this could constitute a risk. Andrew Pearson was suggested as an alternative contact in British Gas. MC noted this and will provide an update as soon as possible.

It was noted that the SPAA next meets in October, and that there was an expectation that the change pack would be issued on 21 September, following which the industry would have two weeks in which to comment and after which it

would go to a vote. The increased level and scale of activity flows of data going to xoserve naturally gives cause for concern as to how this will be managed. The community needs to know if there are any issues perceived by xoserve and a reassurance that xoserve will be able to cope, and that there will be no adverse impact on other Shippers. MC noted this and will provide an update on the position as soon as possible.

It was also pointed out that xoserve can put forward a view to the SPAA via the Transporters. JB requested that any representation made by the Transporters to SPAA should be communicated to the UK Link Committee and the Joint Office of Gas Transporters.

Chair (JB) asked, and members agreed to carry forward the action.

**Action UKL 1164: Carried Forward**

UKL 1165 – National Grid (SM) informed members that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

Chair (JB) asked, and members agreed to carry forward the action.

**Action UKL 1165: Carried Forward**

UKL 1166 – xoserve (MC) informed members that a communication had been issued.

Chair (JB) asked, and members agreed to close the action.

**Action UKL 1166: Closed**

UKL 1167 – xoserve (MC) informed members that an investigation had been carried out and that xoserve was not aware of any Modification Proposals looking to make changes outside of the process. AC believed that the Unregistered Sites Working Group was pushing forward some changes that may be of concern to the UK Link Committee and that perhaps this required monitoring. MC said that this group was chaired by Mark Woodward (xoserve) and that DA had discussed potential impacts and appropriate governance routes with MW.

Chair (JB) asked, and members agreed to close the action.

**Action UKL 1167: Closed**

UKL 1168 – xoserve (MC) informed members that this would be covered under item 4, below.

Chair (JB) asked, and members agreed to carry forward the action.

**Action UKL 1168: Carried Forward**

UKL 1169 – Chair (JB) informed members that the UKLC report for August had been presented to the UNCC. No comments had been received.

Chair (JB) asked, and members agreed to close the action.

**Action UKL 1169: Closed**

## 2. Other Industry Fora

JB reported that there had been two recently “closed” UNC modifications, as follows:

- 0224 “Facilitating the use of AMR in the Daily Metered Elective Regime”. Direction to implement was given on 28/08/09 and was currently awaiting identification of an appropriate effective date by the Transporters; and
- 0254 “Facilitating the use of forecast data in the UNC”. Implemented with effect from 06:00hrs on 07/09/09 with no system impacts.

JB then provided an update (by exception) on the “live” UNC Modifications with a potential impact upon UK Link systems, specifically highlighting the following status changes since the previous meeting:

- 0209 “Rolling AQ”. Allocated to the Nexus Workstream with a report due at the 19/11/09 Panel meeting;
- 0231 “Changes to the Reasonable Endeavours Scheme to better incentivise the detection of Theft”. Allocated to the Distribution Workstream with a report due at the 15/10/09 Panel meeting;
- 0245 “Review of arrangements regarding the detection and investigation of Theft of Gas”. Review Group work ongoing with a report to 15/10/09 Panel meeting;
- 0246/0246A/0246B “Quarterly NTS Entry Capacity User Commitment”. Currently with the Authority who is conducting an Regulatory Impact Assessment, which is due to be issued sometime in September 09;
- 0248 “Meter Reading Replacement”. Allocated to the Distribution Workstream with a report now due at the 15/10/09 Panel meeting;
- 0250 “Introduction of the Code Contingency Guidelines Document”. With the Authority awaiting a decision.
- 0253 “Facilitating a Supply Point Enquiry Service for Large Supply Points”. With the Authority awaiting a decision;
- 0259 “Removal of Obligations to Install UK Link User Equipment and UK Link User Software for UK Link Users who utilise the services of an UK Link User Agent”. Allocated to the Distribution and Transmission Workstreams with a report now due at the 15/10/09 Panel meeting;
- 0263 “Enabling the Assignment of a Partial Quantity of Registered NTS Exit (Flat) Capacity”. Allocated to the Transmission Workstream with a report now due at the 17/09/09 Panel meeting;
- 0264 “Review of Industry Arrangements to Accommodate Reduced Demand at DM Supply Points”. Allocated to Review Group with a report now due at the 17/12/09 panel meeting; Terms of Reference have been reviewed; and

Moving on, JB informed members that the Operational Forum had not met since the last UK Link meeting.

## 3. UK Link Modification Implementation Plan (and review of UK Link Modification Status Report)

### 3.1 COR 1133 – Facilitating the use of AMR in a DM Elective Regime

xoserve (MC) informed members that a further update would be provided at the October meeting. JB added out that shippers would welcome notification of an implementation date as soon as possible.

### **3.2 COR 462b – Expiry of Gemini Exit Zones & Downstream Impacts**

xoserve (MC) advised members that further investigations have been carried out since the last meeting. It was purely the EPS file that was affected, and xoserve still sought agreement for the February implementation (it will run out of exit zone combinations before June 2010).

MB referred to the EPS file data item “Exit Zone” and pointed out a difference; when the RT file was looked at it was called “Exit Zone Identifier”. Both historically had exactly the same characteristics; were they discrete and not the same? MC acknowledged that naming conventions had caused some confusion, but IS has confirmed that each is explicit and not the same as the other. It is proposed to extend the field to 10 characters and the Nexus project will address this in future developments.

It was noted that the only file changed will be the EPS, and members agreed to the February implementation date.

### **3.3 COR 1374 – MIPI Phase II**

xoserve (MC) informed members that the contingency period was unlikely to be utilised as all seemed to be on track.

### **3.4 COR 1353.2 – DNO Failure to Supply Gas Process – Facilitating Compensation Payments to End users on iGt & DNO Networks**

xoserve (MC) informed members that this was still on track. One response had been received, and no impacts had been identified. AC was happy with the November date.

### **3.5 Changes to UK Link Manual to Amend Gemini Contingency Procedures**

xoserve (MC) informed members that this remains ‘on track’ for a November 2009 implementation.

### **3.6 COR 1617 – Change to Pulse Value Format**

xoserve (MC) informed members that this remains ‘on track’.

### **3.7 COR1360 – NTS Exit Reform Phase 1**

xoserve (MC) informed members that this remains ‘on track’.

### **3.8 COR 1353.1 – DNO Failure to Supply Gas Process – Facilitating Compensation Payments to End users on iGt & DNO Networks**

xoserve (MC) informed members that this had now been implemented.

## **4. Review of Topics Status Report**

xoserve (MC) provided members with an overview of the current thinking relating to the xoserve strategic initiative, indicating that three (3) areas have been identified, as follows:

- Project Nexus – update now expected at October UKLC meeting;
- IP Solution (Introduction of a Data Warehouse) ;
- ConQuest Replacement .

MC reported that questions had been raised regarding Gemini. xoserve was working on Gemini and this formed part of xoserve's normal replacement programme. No impact on Users was anticipated as these were very much internal changes. Any questions regarding this should be directed to Andrew Earnshaw or Andrew Boynton.

In respect of Project Nexus, with the exception of the Market Differentiation Workgroup, all Workgroups were now on hold. The Project Nexus Advisory Group (PNAG) was reviewing the position, and an update would be provided after the next PNAG meeting on 05/10/09.

MC then gave a brief presentation on the Information Provisioning Project, outlining the background and the objectives. This was an internal project and its implementation would be invisible to Users. There were no planned changes to file formats or current methods of delivery. The aim was to improve the systems and their management. A data dictionary was being worked on to improve clarity and efficiency, and being able to pull data from one source should enhance the integrity and efficiency. The changes would enable xoserve to respond more effectively to requests from Users for provision of information.

## **5. Performance Reporting**

xoserve (DA) reviewed the xoserve Report Pack by exception only.

### **5.1 IS Faults logged by Shippers (xoserve Report A).**

This report was accepted.

### **5.2 UK-Link Business Support Agreement (xoserve Report B)**

This report was accepted.

### **5.3 Liabilities Report (xoserve Report C)**

This report was accepted.

### **5.4 Report on Performance Problems**

This report was accepted.

## **6. File Format and Urgent Communications (xoserve Report D)**

This report was accepted.

## **7. Planned Outages (xoserve Report E)**

MC reported that an update was sent out yesterday regarding the Gemini Enhanced System Security Project outages on 10, 17, and 24 October 2009, with a 4 hour outage on each occasion. Progress will be tracked and members will be kept informed of any issues that may arise. Any questions regarding the outages should be directed to Sat Kalsi, who is managing the process.

This report was accepted.

## **8. AOB**

### **8.1 AQ Update (Post Meeting Note provided by xoserve)**

Phase 1 (calculation of AQ/WC values) has completed successfully.

Phase 2 (calculation of SOQ, EUC, BSSOQ values) is due to complete on 14 September, with no known issues to date.

Phase 3 is due to start on 22 September. During this phase, SPA file processing is put on hold to allow for the preparation for uploading data onto the UK Link system.

Phase 4 Go Live with the new AQ values on 01 October. During this phase, SPA file processing is put on hold while the new gas year data is loaded onto the system.

Communications will be issued during September and October, detailing the dates and actual files that are affected by these delays, including any IAD impacts.

## **9. Next Meeting**

The October 2009 UK Link Committee meeting will be via teleconference and is scheduled to commence at 10:00 am on Thursday 08 October 2009.

## APPENDIX A

## ACTION LOG: UK Link Committee 10 September 2009

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref (original ref)	Action	Owner*	Status Update
UKL 1159	11/06/09	1.2 (3.4)	Investigate whether or not APIs could be included within Phase 2 of the High Level Release Plan.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at October meeting. <b>Carried Forward</b>
UKL 1161	11/06/09	1.2 (3.4)	Consider preparation and delivery of suitable training materials to appropriate timescales.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at October meeting. <b>Carried Forward</b>
UKL 1164	09/07/09	1.2 (1.1)	Contact BG to discuss their specific volume increase requirements for their proposed June 2010 system change (change to the MAN activity).	xoserve (DA)	Update due at October meeting. <b>Carried Forward</b>
UKL 1165	13/08/09	3.2	Investigate National Grid's progress on changes required to the NCORM to facilitate the implementation of this change request.	National Grid NTS (SM)	Update due at October meeting.
UKL 1166	13/08/09	3.3	Consider issuing a communication (relating to COR1351.1 & 1351.2), providing additional supporting information (inc. UKLC discussion summary) and assurances (from xoserve) and seeking views of the Shipper community during a 5 day consultation period.	xoserve (DA)	<b>Closed.</b>
UKL 1167	13/08/09	3.0	Investigate whether or not any UNC Modifications are seeking to change UK Link File Formats outside of the formal UKLC processes.	xoserve (DA)	<b>Closed.</b>
UKL 1168	13/08/09	4.0	Consider issuing a communication providing more detail on the proposed ConQuest replacement (BPMS) seeking Users views on what their requirements maybe.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at October meeting.
UKL 1169	13/08/09	4.0	Ensure that the UKLC Topic Report is presented to the August UNCC meeting for due consideration.	Joint Office (JB)	Completed 13/08/09. <b>Closed.</b>

**\* Key to action owner**

DA David Addison, xoserve

JB John Bradley, Joint Office

SM Sean McGoldrick, National Grid NTS