

UK LINK Committee Minutes
Thursday 12 November 2009
Teleconference

Attendees

John Bradley (Chair)	(JB) Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Mike Berrisford (Secretary)	(MiB) Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Ashley Collins	(AC) EDF Energy
Danielle King	(DK) E.ON UK
Dave Addison	(DA) xoserve
David Watson	(DW) Centrica
Lorraine Cave	(LC) xoserve
Mark Cockayne	(MC) xoserve
Martin Brandt	(MB) SSE
Sean McGoldrick	(SM) National Grid NTS
Stephanie Shepherd	(SS) RWE npower

1. Review of Minutes and Actions

1.1. Minutes

Members noted previous amendments and thereafter, the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

1.2. Review of actions.

Appendix A contains a tabulated update on actions.

UKL 1161 – xoserve (DA) apologised believing that the next update for this action was to be at the December meeting, however, he will provide an update as part of the Change Pack due to be issued the following day (Friday 13/11/09).

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

Action UKL 1161: Closed

UKL 1164 – xoserve (DA) informed members that discussions with British Gas are ongoing. DW added that it is their (British Gas) intention to follow a phased rollout plan with no anticipated UK Link impacts.

DA pointed out a typographical error, in so far as it is MAM and not MAN.

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

Action UKL 1164: Carried Forward

UKL 1170 – xoserve (DA) informed members that following on from the ConQuest Shipper awareness sessions, a further Shipper requirements document will be issued as part of the Change Pack due on Friday 13/11/09.

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

Action UKL 1170: Closed

UKL 1171 – xoserve (DA) confirmed that an update will be provided at the December 09 UKLC meeting.

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

Action UKL 1171: Carried Forward

2. Other Industry Fora

JB reported that there had been two recently “closed” UNC modifications with system impacts, namely:

- 0224 “Facilitating the use of AMR in the Daily Metered Elective Regime”. Further details will be provided as part of the Implementation Plan discussions, and
- 0250 “Introduction of the Code Contingency Guidelines Document”. Implemented with effect from 06:00hrs on 01 November 2009 – a copy of the Code Contingency Guidelines Document is available to view and/or download from the new Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/OtherDocs>

He 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 Distribution Workstream with a report now due at the 19/11/09 Panel meeting;
- 0231 “Changes to the Reasonable Endeavours Scheme to better incentivise the detection of Theft”. Variation request submitted 02/11/09 for consideration at 19/11/09 panel meeting. Currently awaiting provision of legal text before going out to consultation;
- 0245 “Review of arrangements regarding the detection and investigation of Theft of Gas”. Review Group work ongoing with a report to 17/12/09 Panel meeting;
- 0246/0246A/0246B “Quarterly NTS Entry Capacity User Commitment”. Currently with the Authority who have recently issued their Regulatory Impact Assessment;
- 0248 “Meter Reading Replacement”. Allocated to the Distribution Workstream with a report now due at the 21/01/10 Panel meeting;
- 0253 “Facilitating a Supply Point Enquiry Service for Large Supply Points”. With the Authority who have requested provision of legal text before making their 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”. Consultation closed 06/11/09 and Final Modification Report to be considered at the 19/11/09 panel meeting;
- 0263 “Enabling the Assignment of a Partial Quantity of Registered NTS Exit (Flat) Capacity”. Consultation closed 09/11/09 and Final Modification Report to be considered at the 19/11/09 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;
- 0270 “Aggregated Monthly Reconciliation for Smart Meters”. New proposal for consideration at the 19/11/09 panel meeting.

Chair (JB) advised that this modification proposes adoption of processes similar to those undertaken in the electricity market and as a consequence, will require a lot of development for the gas market.

MB also pointed out that this will be on the Project Nexus horizon in due course;

- 0271 “Amendment to the SSP – Provisional LSP – SSP Amendment Rules”. New proposal for consideration at the 19/11/09 panel meeting;

- 0272 “Mod 640 Validation Arrangements for when a Change of Shipper has occurred“. New proposal, with possible system impacts, for consideration at the 19/11/09 panel meeting, and
- 0274 “Creation of a National Revenue Protection Service“. New proposal, with possible system impacts, for consideration at the 19/11/09 panel meeting.

Moving on, JB informed members that as he had not attended the Operational Forum he was unable to provide an update.

Post Meeting Note: All presentations now available at:

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/OperationalInfo/operationsforum/>

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 (DA) apologised before informing members that the proposed implementation date is set for 21/11/2010 and not 2009, as shown. He went on to add that a communication MP/932/LC had been issued on 23/10/2009 and he is seeking the committee’s approval of the implementation date.

In discussions surrounding the DM Elective Regime, MB enquired if parties who did not wish to participate, would still be impacted. In response, DA pointed out that this was dealt with during the April UKLC presentation. Furthermore, he believes that, as the current file formats stand, there are NO incoming shipper impacts. However, xoserve are considering how best to ‘flag’ to the incoming shipper that the site was previously DM Elective due to impacts to the transfer read process. In support, MB reminded members that shippers who wish to be DM elective will need to have the appropriate supporting processes in place anyway.

DA then informed members that detailed analysis of requirements has only just commenced and he expects to be in a position to provide a more meaningful update at the January 2010 meeting.

When asked, members indicated that they would be happy to approve the corrected implementation date on the provision that DA will provide the additional information in due course.

Action UKL1172: xoserve (LC) to provide an update at the January 2010 meeting on the progress of the detailed analysis phase of the DM Elective Regime.

3.2 COR 1617 – Change to Pulse Value Format

xoserve (DA) informed members that this remains ‘on track’ for a 26/02/10 implementation.

3.3 COR 462b – Expiry of Gemini Exit Zones & Downstream Impacts

xoserve (DA) advised members that this remains ‘on track’ for a 26/02/10 implementation.

3.4 COR1360 – NTS Exit Reform Phase 1

xoserve (DA) informed members that this remains ‘on track’ for a 23/05/10 implementation.

3.5 Changes to UK Link Manual to Amend Gemini Contingency Procedures

xoserve (DA) informed members that this change was implemented 01/11/09.

xoserve (MC) informed members that the Code Contingency Arrangements document is available to view and/or download from the new Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site. Furthermore, work is underway involving the Transporters to

identify the appropriate mechanisms required to manage amendment of the UK Link Manual and he will provide an update at the January 2010 meeting.

Action UKL1173: xoserve (MC) to provide an update at the January 2010 meeting on the proposed approach to the governance of the (UK Link Manual) document.

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

xoserve (DA) informed members that this change was implemented 05/11/09.

4. Review of Topics Status Report

xoserve (DA) provided members with a brief update on the xoserve strategic initiatives, as follows:

- IP Solution (Introduction of a Data Warehouse) – Represents a change to xoserve's reporting methodology. The first (1st) implementation took place last weekend with several reports being successfully transferred to the new system. This was the first of three iterations and sees some invoices have been produced and issued using the new functionality.
- ConQuest Replacement – project has now started in earnest, with this week four (4), seeing the modelling of xoserve's internal processes underway. Replacement processes could be available from as early as September/October 2010 although this cannot be confirmed until later within the project lifecycle. Shipper requirements obtained through the 'ConQuest External User Group Forum' will be issued via the UKLink distribution lists to ensure 'engagement' of suitable technical personnel with their operational counterparts. Following on from previous shipper feedback sessions undertaken in October 09, it is proposed that a face-to-face update could be provided at the December meeting, subject to location and availability of a suitable venue.

When asked, member consensus was for the 10 December 09 meeting to take place at a location on the Solihull area.

Post meeting note: the Homer Suite at the Holiday Inn, Solihull has been booked – please refer to the Events Diary on the Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site for details at:

<http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/Diary>

Action UKL1174: xoserve (DA) to provide an update on the progress of the ConQuest Replacement at the December meeting.

- Gemini Re-platforming – in the early stages of development, which is split into two (2) phases, namely Analysis & Design. Analysis is currently on schedule for completion at the end of the month. Completion of the design phase is expected by the end of January 2010.
- Project Nexus – DA provided a brief verbal summary of the Project Nexus progress report, a copy of which will be provided to the Joint Office for publication alongside the meeting minutes.

Post meeting note: a copy of the document is available to view and/or download from the new Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/UKLC/121109>

5. Performance Reporting

xoserve (MC) reviewed the xoserve Report Pack by exception only after apologising for an apparent error in the report.

Post meeting note: a revised version 2.0 of the report is available to view and/or download from the new Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/UKLC/121109>

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)

This report was accepted.

8. AOB

- Blank MAM I.D's

SSE (MB) informed members that he has been in discussion with xoserve (DA) over the 500,000+ blank MAM id's on the Sites & Meters database which are primarily a result of the reconfirmations process.

For MB two questions spring to mind, namely:

- Does the problem involve all instances of a reconfirmation?
In response, DA advised that this was the case.
- In light of the above, how easy would it be to amend the coding to be able to resolve the problem?
In response, DA agreed to take a new action to investigate how feasible it would be to amend the current coding to resolve the Sites & Meters blank i.d. problem.

DA enquired if MB would be seeking any exclusions to the reconfirmations, to which MB confirmed that he would like to see ALL aspects of the reconfirmations examined.

AC pointed out that with regards to the SPAA impacts, and in considering the SPAA meeting schedule, perhaps a report back before the next UKLC meeting might be preferable. DA agreed to look in to providing an earlier response.

In closing, MB suggested considering issuing the blank MAM information to the shippers on a one-to-one basis.

Action UKL1175: xoserve (DA) to provide an update on the feasibility of amending the current coding to resolve the Sites & Meters blank i.d. problem at the December meeting.

- MIPI Outage Update

National Grid NTS (SM) informed members that following approval of the MIPI changes at last months UKLC meeting, an outage has been scheduled for midday on Saturday 14/11/09. Once again, additional information is available to view and/or download from the National Grid web site at: <http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/Data/help/>, along with the provisions of a Helpline number: 01926 656474.

In closing, SM reminded members that as this was a non UKLink system, the information relating to this matter is provided to them out of courtesy.

9. Next Meeting

The December 2009 UK Link Committee meeting will be a face-to-face meeting at the Holiday Inn, Solihull and is scheduled to commence at 10:30 am on Thursday 10 December 2009.

APPENDIX A

ACTION LOG: UK Link Committee 12 November 2009

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref (original ref)	Action	Owner*	Status Update
UKL 1161	11/06/09	1.2 (3.4)	Consider preparation and delivery of suitable training materials to appropriate timescales.	xoserve (DA)	Update provided. Closed
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 December meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1170	08/10/09	1.2 (4.)	Provide a copy of the Awareness Workshop presentation materials for publication on the Joint Office web site.	xoserve (DA)	Update provided. Closed
UKL 1171	08/10/09	1.2 (4.)	Provide an update on the proposed implementation plan details for the ConQuest Replacement.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at December meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1172	12/11/09	3.1	Provide an update on the progress of the detailed analysis phase of the DM Elective Regime.	xoserve (LC)	Update due at January meeting.
UKL 1173	12/11/09	3.5	Provide an update at the January 2010 meeting on the proposed approach to the governance of the (UK Link Manual) document.	xoserve (MC)	Update due at January meeting.
UKL 1174	12/11/09	4.	Provide an update on the progress of the ConQuest Replacement.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at December meeting.
UKL 1175	12/11/09	8.	Provide an update on the feasibility of amending the current coding to resolve the Sites & Meters blank i.d. problem.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at December meeting.

*** Key to action owner**

DA David Addison, xoserve
MC Mark Cockayne, xoserve
LC Lorraine Cave, xoserve