
“The Workstream then ran through the proposed principle-setting topic areas, starting...”

Thereafter, the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2009 were accepted.

1.2 Review of actions

None.

2. AMR Presentation

On behalf of Corona Energy, RS apologised for not being able to provide any materials for this item. However, he agreed to take an action to prepare them in time for the January meeting.

Action NEX0019: Corona Energy (RS) to prepare and present an AMR Overview at the January 2010 Nexus workstream meeting.

3. Update on the Revised Workgroup Approach and Plan

xoserve (SN) opened by informing members that the presentation will be split between himself and his colleague Fiona Cottam, who will provide a more detailed overview of each topic (refer to Appendix 1).

A copy of the presentation is available to view and/or download from the Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/nexus/141209>

Following on, SN pointed out that any Smart Metering elements or considerations would be ‘parked’ until further clarification surrounding the proposed market model is forthcoming.

New Connections

Considering each potential workgroup area, as proposed following the Initial Requirements Register (IRR) of responses from interested parties, FC pointed out that the ‘New Connections’ area looks at AMR in isolation to the CCP Smart Metering arena. In considering the inclusion of MPRN requirements members acknowledged that this is an ‘industry wide’ issue, which as a consequence, may better align itself to being a separate workgroup – although it may be prudent to defer activation of a group such as this, until later in the process to enable feedback and input from other workgroups and industry initiatives, to be considered.

SN suggested that DECC appear to have partially ‘shifted’ their original focus on Smart Metering, to include a larger part of the I&C market.

After acknowledging that processes to support the registration of new AMR equipment are unknown at present it was decided to exclude a New Connections workgroup from the proposed list and instead to cover it in a high level principles workgroup, with a deferred start.

Volume Capture/Meter Reading

When asked, FC confirmed that this workgroup should also look to consider read frequency requirements, although any discussions surrounding frequency should not be allowed to ‘technically constrain’ the adoption of new Allocation process high level principles. However, this moment presents itself as an ideal opportunity to address some of these issues. She went on to suggest that it could transpire that the outcome could be a draft UNC modification proposal (as a means to documenting the read frequency requirements), which could then be ‘grouped’ with other proposals, as required.

In discussing what the real definition of AMR is, SM/ST agreed to take an action to circulate the Licence definition for AMR, via the Joint Office in due course.

In discussing whether or not, the Transporters would be happy to raise a subsequent UNC modification to unbundle DM reading requirements, members concluded that DM's (inc. NTS) are now 'in-scope'. Members agreed that whilst DM is one issue, meter asset information is another. FC also pointed out that members will, at some time, need to consider what is truly meant by 'Critical Mass', as a definition will be required in due course. Members acknowledged that forthcoming consideration of the transition from the existing to a new regime is a crucial requirement.

It was also recognised that some transitional arrangements may need to remain in place beyond the 2014 theoretical project completion date.

In concluding discussions on this item members acknowledged that each workgroup will need to consider DM and transitional issues, but collation of all views remains the preserve of the workstream.

When asked, members then agreed that this item should remain on the list.

Action NEX0020: Offshore Consulting (SM) &/or WWU (ST) to provide a copy of the licence definition for AMR for circulation via the Joint Office of Gas Transporters.

Post meeting note: a copy of the licence definition and UNC considerations has been published alongside these minutes on the Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/nexus/141209>

Annual Quantity/Allocation

FC pointed out that whilst the principle topics are already established this area is all about provision of detailed daily requirements processes (for utilisation in the design stages of the project). The most likely outcome is a UNC modification to identify an appropriate set of business rules.

When asked, FC confirmed that smart metering is out of scope for this and all other AMR workgroups.

Members wondered if this area should be split in to two workgroups, one looking at AQ and the other allocation, although SW reminded members that commencement of this group's work, is heavily dependent upon the completion of the work of the principles setting group first.

When asked, members then agreed that this item should remain on the list.

SPA (including Supply Point Switching)

Members recognised that separation of the setting up of the registration elements from the physical engineering aspects (i.e. installation of equipment) and consideration of transfer requirements may be crucial to the success of this workgroup. In voicing concern over the potential to 'over engineer' an SPA solution, DW suggested that CCP outcomes could seriously undermine the work of the group. In support, SM added that any transitional issues will need to be considered once more industry information becomes available. However, members noted that smart metering/CCP issues and requirements should not be allowed to stifle any Nexus discussions in this and other areas.

In considering the workgroups potential inter-dependencies, members concluded that the 'New Connections AMR Topic workgroup' link was not required.

FC pointed out that it is essential that any solutions put forward by this workgroup should be technology and service provider neutral.

When asked, members then agreed that this item should remain on the list.

Invoicing (Transporter to Shipper)

In recognising that 'Critical Mass' consideration will need to be undertaken, members agreed that commencement of the work for this group would/could be later in the process.

When asked, members then agreed that this item should remain on the list.

Reconciliation

RS opened by suggesting that the type of dependency is an important factor as he believes that this area is an 'end point critical process'. In support, FC pointed out that whilst it might be difficult to start the work of this group early in the process that would not subsequently prevent any inter-dependency groups from running in parallel.

In considering the issue of Smaller Supply Point Reconciliation (SSPR), SM suggested that the relevance of this is more aligned to the public sector and retail markets (which are primarily consumer driven). RS suggested that it might be prudent to await the output from CCP deliberations, although consideration of the high level principles would be acceptable.

FC asked, and members agreed that reconciliation should be targeted for further high-level consideration.

When asked, members then agreed that this item should remain on the list.

Retrospective Updates

Members agreed that the work of this group could not commence until later in the process, especially not until the inter-dependent groups have started their work. Once again members agreed that investigation into the high level principles associated with this area could commence earlier rather than later. However, it was noted that DECC and Authority requirements may necessitate future re-alignment of Project Nexus considerations.

When asked, members then agreed that this item should remain on the list but be positioned towards the end of the timeline.

Non-Functional Requirements & Market Differentiation (Sweep Up)

These topic areas were not discussed.

FC then handed back to SN to continue with the presentation.

Returning to page 8 – Suggested AMR Topic Dependencies, SN indicated that xoserve would update the chart in light of the previous discussions.

Moving on to consider scheduling of the 2010 Nexus meetings, SN reminded members that they had previously agreed that three (3) to four (4) meetings for each of the principle workgroups would be sufficient.

Following extensive discussion on the proposed meeting timetable, allied to members concerns surrounding their respective resource commitments and constraints, they agreed to the following basic outline for the 2010 meetings.

- commence workgroup meetings alongside high-level meetings in April
 - high-level meetings tail off at end of the month anyway
- initially arrange 8 meetings per workgroup
 - could end up as needing more or less for a particular workgroup
 - try to 'block' workgroup meetings where possible
 - consider undertaking meetings for different groups on same day/venue basis
 - where 'content' for meeting is low, the meeting will not take place

- workgroup meetings to be completed by end of summer 2010
- leave Nexus Workstream on a 1 meeting/month basis
- location of meetings to be split between London and Solihull (subject to room availability)
- workgroups to provide a progress against target report at the monthly Nexus Workstream meetings

To assist members to visualise group requirements against a proposed schedule, xoserve (SW) agreed to provide draft Terms of Reference for each of the proposed AMR detailed requirements workgroups in time for the January 2010 meeting.

Furthermore, SW agreed to try to prepare a provisional meetings schedule for presentation on the Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site asap.

Action NEX0021: xoserve (SW) to prepare draft Workgroup Terms of Reference for the proposed AMR groups in time for the January 2010 Workstream meeting.

Action NEX0022: xoserve (SW) to try to prepare a provisional meetings schedule for presentation on the Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site asap.

4. Topic Workgroup(s) Terms of Reference

This item was mainly covered under discussions during item 3 above.

xoserve (SN) agreed to take an action to provide draft Terms of Reference for the proposed high-level principle setting groups within the next few days.

Action NEX0023: xoserve (SN) to provide draft Terms of Reference for each of the high-level principle setting workgroups asap.

5. Workgroup Reporting

This item was covered under discussions during item 3 above.

6. Next Steps – diary/planning

BM presented a proposed timetable for the principle-setting workshops. This was accepted with one minor change, whereby the dates for the last AQ and last Reconciliation workgroups were swapped.

This next meeting of the Project Nexus Workstream is scheduled to commence at 10:30am on Monday 18 January 2010 at the Energy Networks Association Office in London.

7. AOB

None.

Appendix 1

Action Table - 14 December 2009

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
NEX 0019	14.12.09	2.	Prepare and present an AMR Overview at the January 2010 Nexus workstream meeting.	Corona Energy (RS)	Update due at January 2010 meeting.
NEX 0020	14.12.09	3.	Provide a copy of the licence definition for AMR for circulation via the Joint Office of Gas Transporters.	Offshore Consulting (SM) & WWU (ST)	Completed 14/12/09.
NEX 0021	14.12.09	3.	Prepare draft Workgroup Terms of Reference for the proposed AMR groups in time for the January 2010 Workstream meeting.	xoserve (SW)	Update due at January 2010 meeting.
NEX 0022	14.12.09	3.	Try to prepare a provisional meetings schedule for presentation on the Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site asap.	xoserve (SW)	Update due at January 2010 meeting.
NEX 0023	14.12.09	4.	Provide draft Terms of Reference for each of the high-level principle setting workgroups asap.	xoserve (SN)	Update due at January 2010 meeting.