

UK LINK Committee Minutes Thursday 10 December 2009 Teleconference

Attendees

John Bradley (Chair)	(JB) Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Mike Berrisford (Secretary)	(MiB) Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Andy Simpson	(AS) xoserve
Ashley Collins	(AC) EDF Energy
Danielle King	(DK) E.ON UK
Dave Addison	(DA) xoserve
David Watson	(DW) Centrica
Lewis Plummer	(LP) xoserve
Martin Brandt	(MB) SSE
Stephanie Shepherd	(SS) RWE npower

Attendees

Sean McGoldrick	National Grid NTS
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1. Review of Minutes and Actions

1.1. Minutes

xoserve (DA) highlighted a missing action (UKL 1175) in the log table relating to item 8. AOB – Blank MAM I.D's.

Thereafter, the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Post meeting note: a revised version (2.0) of the minutes was published on the Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site on 10/12/09 at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/UKLC/121109>

1.2. Review of actions.

Appendix A contains a tabulated update on actions.

UKL 1164 – xoserve (DA) informed members that discussions with British Gas are still ongoing.

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

Action UKL 1164: Carried Forward

UKL 1171 – xoserve (DA) informed members that this will be discussed under item 4 below.

UKL 1172 – xoserve (DA) confirmed that whilst an update will be provided at the January 2010 UKLC meeting, his colleague, Lewis Plummer is present to provide a brief interim update under item 3.5 below.

UKL 1173 – xoserve (DA) confirmed that an update will be provided at the January 2010 UKLC meeting.

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

Action UKL 1173: Carried Forward

UKL 1174 – xoserve (DA) informed members that this will be discussed under item 4 below.

UKL 1175 – xoserve (DA) informed members that the issue of MAM blank id's in the Sites & Meters database has been discussed at a recent SPAA meeting. He went on to add that discussions have also taken place with the Transporters who are keen to consider wider ranging requirements. In response to their request, xoserve are expecting to undertake an analysis and review of what is defined within the Uniform Network Code (treatment of metering details at the point of confirmation).

Members enquired if xoserve could also consider inclusion of the missing id's in any analysis undertaken as a matter of urgency. Additionally, shippers believe that they may have issues with how they will identify which MAM files to reconfirm in future. In response, DA pointed out that in his view, shippers should still be required to reconfirm their files to avoid xoserve being seen as a means of data fixing/cleansing.

DA went on to point out that whilst his initial aspiration was that the issue of blank MAM id's was to be considered as a 'small' change, subsequent discussions and requests are leading towards a 'larger' change requirement, which will possibly invoke the adoption of an appropriate testing regime. Furthermore, for a potential exercise of this scale and magnitude, xoserve would be looking to engage with the larger shippers to plan requirements accordingly. He expects to provide further updates in due course.

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

Action UKL 1175: Carried Forward

2. Other Industry Fora

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

- 0231 "Changes to the Reasonable Endeavours Scheme to better incentivise the detection of Theft". Withdrawn at the 19/11/09 panel meeting to be replaced by 0231V (please see below), and
- 0245 "Review of arrangements regarding the detection and investigation of Theft of Gas". Final Review Group Report presented to 19/11/09 panel meeting. No more further work required.

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 Project Nexus Workstream with a report presented at the 19/11/09 panel meeting where it was recommended that the workstream continue to consider the modification alongside the Project Nexus Workstream deliberations;
- 0231V "Changes to the Reasonable Endeavours Scheme to better incentivise the detection of Theft". Legal text provided and modification is out for consultation which is due to end 08/01/2010;
- 0246/0246A/0246B "Quarterly NTS Entry Capacity User Commitment". Currently with the Authority who have recently issued their Regulatory Impact Assessment for which representations have now been received. At present there is no indication from the Authority as to a decision;
- 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”. Final Modification Report considered at the 19/11/09 panel meeting where members voted unanimously to recommend implementation. Currently with the Authority, who have recently requested provision of legal text, awaiting a decision;
- 0263 “Enabling the Assignment of a Partial Quantity of Registered NTS Exit (Flat) Capacity”. Closely related to modification 0276, the main difference being who would pay for the changes. Final Modification Report considered at the 19/11/09 panel meeting where members voted to recommend implementation. Currently with the Authority awaiting a decision, although this is unlikely to be before 0276 has completed its progress through the process;
- 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”. Allocated to a Development Work Group, which undertook their initial meeting earlier today. A report is due at the 20/05/2010 panel meeting.

Post meeting note: the next meeting of this DWG is scheduled to commence at 10:00am on Wednesday 06/01/2010 at Elexon, London, where a presentation on the current system flex solutions will be given;

- 0271 “Amendment to the SSP – Provisional LSP – SSP Amendment Rules”. Referred to the Distribution Workstream with a report due at the 18/02/2010 panel meeting;
- 0272 “Mod 640 Validation Arrangements for when a Change of Shipper has occurred”. Allocated to a Review Group, which will undertake their initial meeting later today. A report is due at the 20/05/2010 panel meeting;
- 0274 “Creation of a National Revenue Protection Service”. Allocated to a Development Work Group, which will undertake their initial meeting later today. A report is due at the 20/05/2010 panel meeting.
- 0275 “Reduction in DM LDZ Exit Capacity for Supply Points with Significant Changes in Usage”. Urgent modification with no anticipated UK Link system impacts. Urgent Modification Report issued 07/12/09 to now be considered at an extraordinary panel teleconference meeting on 11/12/09;
- 0276 “Alternative User Pays approach to – UNC Modification 0263 – Enabling the Assignment of a Partial Quantity of Registered NTS Exit (Flat) Capacity”. Proposer anticipates UK Link system impacts and a ROM (Rough Order of Magnitude) has been completed to consider impacts relating to partial assignment, and
- 0277 “Creation of Incentives for the Detection of Theft of Gas (Supplier Energy Theft Scheme)”. New proposal for consideration at 17/12/09 panel meeting. Early indications are that there are no UK Link system related impacts.

Moving on, JB informed members that the Operational Forum had met the previous day. At the meeting there were no items of interest to the UK Link Committee members discussed, and no xoserve Gemini presentation provided.

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)

In opening this item DA apologised for the late release of the document and the error in the title of the February release on page 4 which should of course read as 'February 2010 Release'.

3.1 COR 962 – Query and Workflow Management (ConQuest Replacement Project)

xoserve (DA) informed members that this Class 2 change is currently awaiting scheduling with a proposed implementation date of September 2010.

3.2 COR 1617 – Change to Pulse Value Format

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

On another matter, MB enquired when the MBR file format would change to the new style. In response, DA indicated that he believes that the Friday's business files as issued on Saturday would still be in the old format, to be replaced thereafter (Monday) with the new format. He agreed to take an action to check when the switch over of the formats would take place and issue a communication, including a release schedule, if appropriate.

Action UKL1176: xoserve (DA) to provide an update, via a communication, on when the MBR files will switch over to the new format.

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.

AC enquired if the 'exit identifier' (a three (3) character flag with no decimal places) which is present in twelve (12) different files would only affect the logical meter numbers. In response, DA confirmed that it is only the CSEP sites that are affected and any wider changes will be 'covered' under Project Nexus. He agreed to take an action to get his colleague, Rachel Nock to re-issue the DME Update relating to this matter.

Action UKL1177: xoserve (DA) to ensure that the DME Update is re-issued asap.

3.4 COR1360 – NTS Exit Reform Phase 1

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

DA then introduced his colleague, Andy Simpson to provide an update on the progress of NTS Exit Reform.

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/UKLC/101209>

In summing up, AS informed members that an update communication (inc. 'Strawman') will be issued on Friday 11/12/09 and further details will be provided in Jan/Feb 2010.

In closing, Chair (JB) pointed out that National Grid NTS remain cautious over giving a commitment to an actual delivery date to implement any of the Partial Assignment Modifications. AS supported this by reminding members that this remains a challenging delivery target and provision of Partial Assignment functionality is under consideration.

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

xoserve (DA) informed members that currently this remains 'on track' for a 21/11/10 implementation.

DA went on to apologise for inadvertently misleading members when seeking approval for this change at the November 09 meeting. At the meeting, approval was granted on the basis that there would be no anticipated impact from the issue of the S75 NRF Record on non-participating users.

Unfortunately, this has subsequently proved incorrect, as the record contains information within the 'GAS_NOMINATIONS_TYPE_CODE' field that will have an impact.

Ref: page 38 of the 'MOD Proposal 0224 Facilitating the use of AMR in the Daily Metered Elective Regime' presentation and specifically the SPA NMR File – Enquiry on a DME site will return S75 Record with GNT = 'DME' & Transfer Read – Incoming Shipper required to submit replacement OPNT Transfer Read by D+10 statements. A copy of this document can be found on the Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/UKLC/140509>

In light of this, DA asked whether or not members would be happy to still approve the change, or prefer to re-issue the information relating to this item for a second round of consultation. Members indicated a strong preference for a new opportunity to respond. DA agreed to take a new action to issue a communication within the Friday 11/12/09 change pack, which would include an explanatory cover note alongside information relating to the existing outstanding action item (UKL 1172).

DA then introduced his colleague, Lewis Plummer to provide an update on the DM Elective Options, as previously discussed at the April 09 UKLC meeting.

LP explained that four (4) possible options exist, as follows:

1. **GNT Code Return** - utilising an existing enquiry file with no additional costs incurred;
2. **MRI File (Meter Instructions) @ D-7** - utilising current functionality with no additional costs incurred;
3. **TRF File @ D-7** – addition of a new 'child' field which will incur additional costs, and
4. **IAD Service** – will require a screen change, which may result in the revealing of commercially sensitive information.

Considering option 4, views differed on whether or not information would/could be deemed commercially sensitive. However, DA remained concerned about provision of this information prior to unconditional confirmation at D-7.

Members continued to debate this matter in detail, highlighting key areas of concern such as:

- Responsibility for incoming reads;
- Read timings on 'D' Day;
- Incoming shipper receiving unsolicited transfer reads, and
- Potential miss-alignment of outgoing NDM & incoming DME shipper readings.

AC suggested that 4, is the only option without shipper/customer impacts associated to it, whilst DA believes that where there is no flag provided to the incoming shipper, then option 1 is more likely to have 'zero impact' on parties.

DA indicated that he would be happy to issue a communication providing an explanation of the options available, but warned that xoserve would appreciate clarity as soon as possible, and that dependant upon the option chosen, the implementation plan might require amendment.

When asked if any presentation materials could be provided on this matter at the proposed face-to-face January 2010 UKLC meeting, DA agreed to consider this option and include a view in the forthcoming communication, although it may be prudent to undertake a separate session/meeting in the next couple of weeks.

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

Action UKL 1172: Carried Forward

Action UKL1178: xoserve (DA) to issue a communication within the 11/12/09 Change Pack, outlining the current status of COR1133 and specifically the impact upon non-participating users alongside an update on outstanding action item UKL 1172.

4. Review of Topics Status Report

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

Project Nexus – Both the workstream (PNUNC) and advisory board (PNAG) have undertaken recent meetings (23 & 30/11/09 respectively). A proposed 2010 meetings schedule alongside consideration of the scope of AMR detailed requirements will be considered at the Project Nexus Workstream meeting due to take place at the Holiday Inn, Solihull on Monday 14/12/09.

It is envisaged that a future PNAG meeting will consider the potential overlap of roles between the two principal bodies.

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/UKLC/101209>

ConQuest Replacement – Continues to utilise BPMS technology with modelling of the 'current' and 'as is to be' processes underway. Target implementation date remains September 2010 although the modelling phase is scheduled to finish March 2010. As the actual date is likely to be late March, any dates provided at the UKLC March 2010 meeting will be indicative ones.

As it anticipated that the File Format changes will be available in February 2010 and therefore expected to observe the UNC 6 month notification for the file format changes to UK Link systems. However, the screen changes element is not expected to be available until April/May 2010, therefore making provision of a 6 month notification period unlikely.

When asked, DA confirmed that a face-to-face presentation is to be undertaken following the January 2010 UKLC meeting at the Elexon Office, London commencing at 11:00am. A communication will be issued in due course.

Chair (JB) asked, and members agreed to carry forward actions UKL 1171 & 1174.

Action UKL 1171 & 1174: Carried Forward

Gemini Re-platforming – still in the design and analysis phase and members can expect an update at the January 2010 UKLC meeting. It is unclear whether or not delivery will be prior to, or post Exit Reform Phase 2, although it will be included in any detailed planning considerations.

IP Solution (Introduction of a Data Warehouse) – remains 'on track' with planning of phases II & III underway. In future, any updates will be provided on a 'for information purposes only' basis.

5. Performance Reporting

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

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

- UK Link File Formats – MB enquired if there would be an issue with removing the file formats password control. In response, DA was unsure, but felt that there could be some problems associated with this and agreed to take a new to investigate.

Action UKL1179: xoserve (DA) to investigate whether or not it is possible to remove the password control from the UK Link file formats.

9. Next Meeting

The January 2010 UK Link Committee meeting will be a face-to-face meeting at the Elexon offices, London and is scheduled to commence at 10:00 am on Thursday 14 January 2010.

APPENDIX A

ACTION LOG: UK Link Committee 10 December 2009

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref (original ref)	Action	Owner*	Status Update
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 January 2010 meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1171	08/10/09	4 (4.)	Provide an update on the proposed implementation plan details for the ConQuest Replacement.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at January 2010 meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1172	12/11/09	3.5 (3.1)	Provide an update on the progress of the detailed analysis phase of the DM Elective Regime.	xoserve (LP)	Update due at January 2010 meeting. Carried Forward
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 2010 meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1174	12/11/09	4 (4.)	Provide an update on the progress of the ConQuest Replacement.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at January 2010 meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1175	12/11/09	1.2 (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 January 2010 meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1176	10/12/09	3.2	Provide an update, via a communication, on when the MBR files will switch over to the new format.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at January 2010 meeting.
UKL 1177	10/12/09	3.3	Ensure that the DME Update is re-issued asap.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at January 2010 meeting.
UKL 1178	10/12/09	3.5	Issue a communication within the 11/12/09 Change Pack, outlining the current status of COR1133 and	xoserve (DA)	Update due at January 2010 meeting.

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref (original ref)	Action	Owner*	Status Update
			specifically the impact upon non-participating users alongside an update on outstanding action item UKL 1172.		
UKL 1179	10/12/09	8.	Investigate whether or not it is possible to remove the password control from the UK Link file formats.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at January 2010 meeting.

*** Key to action owner**

- DA David Addison, xoserve
 MC Mark Cockayne, xoserve
 LP Lewis Plummer, xoserve