

## Project Nexus Workstream Minutes

Monday 18 January 2010

ENA, 6th Floor, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road,  
London SW1P 2AF

### Attendees

Bob Fletcher (Chair)	(BF)	Joint Office
Tim Davis (Secretary)	(TD)	Joint Office
Alan Raper	(AR)	National Grid Distribution
Chris Warner	(CW)	National Grid Distribution
David Watson	(DW)	British Gas
Ed Reed	(ER)	Cornwall Energy
Fiona Cottam	(FC)	xoserve
Gareth Evans	(GE)	Waters Wye
Hazel Ward	(HW)	RWE npower
Jemma Woolston	(JW)	Shell Gas Direct
Joanna Ferguson	(JF)	Northern Gas Networks
Martin Brandt	(MB)	Scottish & Southern Energy
Peter Thompson	(PT)	Customer Representative
Sean McGoldrick	(SMG)	National Grid NTS
Shirley Wheeler	(SW)	xoserve
Simon Trivella	(ST)	Wales & West Utilities
Stefan Leedham	(SL)	EDF Energy
Steve Mulliganie	(SM)	Gazprom & GDF
Steve Nunnington	(SN)	xoserve

### 1. Introduction

BF welcomed all to the meeting.

#### 1.1 Review of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2009 were accepted.

#### 1.2 Review of actions

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

**Update:** Presented (see agenda item 3 below). Closed

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

**Update:** SN suggested this would be covered at the next meeting once the way forward was clearer. Closed – replaced by action NEX 0024

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

**Update:** Published. Closed

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

**Update:** Published. Closed

## 2. Update on the Revised Workgroup Approach and Plan

### 2.1 Provisional 2010 Meetings Schedule

BF explained the thinking behind the provisional meeting schedule that had been published. SW then indicated that an alternative approach had been considered by xoserve that would involve fewer AMR meetings being planned. SN continued that this followed consideration of the DECC High Technology Metering document.

xoserve's analysis indicated that 31,400 supply points (55,600 meter points) was the potential mandatory AMR population. While a small proportion of meters, this was approaching 40% of volume. Shippers suggested that the voluntary scale of AMR usage was likely to be much higher, and could cover all LSPs and SMEs, which might be as many as 600,000 sites. Against this background, xoserve felt that, rather than the initially proposed approach, there could be merit in looking at the present DME regime and considering how this could be developed to accommodate all AMR sites. SN suggested that 10 Workshops could be sufficient to complete this gap analysis, and might be started at the end of March – following the principle setting process.

GE was concerned that waiting for April would push progress backwards and that the position was sufficiently clear to start work earlier. SN indicated that the timetable was actually unchanged - AMR consideration had been scheduled to start in April. SW added that the critical timeline factor was the Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP) and a starting point of March was expected to be consistent with SMIP.

JW questioned what the content of each of the ten meetings would be if the revised approach were adopted and how the group could be confident there would be complete coverage. SW suggested using the Workgroup categories as a checklist to ensure coverage had been thorough. GE said some issues could sit outside SMIP, such as DM Unbundling – which may or may not impact Project Nexus. This is not an AMR specific issue, but there would be merit in clarifying the regime as part of the Workgroup process. SW questioned whether this would be a Principle Workgroup in itself, although HW questioned why it should be part of Project Nexus. While GE accepted this, he felt there could well be systems issues and there was a window of opportunity to consider this, although he was not clear that a separate Workgroup was necessary. CW felt the issue had always been in scope for the Project Nexus Workgroups and would welcome a discussion.

SW said the xoserve view was that it would be worth considering the extensions to DME which were required, which could include the impact of DM unbundling. GE was concerned that the intention was for these Workgroups to be narrowly focussed and not to consider issues such as DM unbundling that were not strictly AMR issues. SW said that it would be important to look at the ToR to ensure the issues covered matched Shipper aspirations. SM emphasised that this should not be based on narrow assumptions about take up and so inhibit debate.

MB suggested that xoserve's proposal to take a more holistic approach was welcome and would help these bigger issues being looked at. The ToR would be critical. ST added that DMs were part of the AMR market and so would have to be considered as part of the debate and should be within the ToR.

**Action NEX0024:** xoserve (SW) to draft AMR Workgroup ToRs for publication in advance of the next Workstream meeting.

SMG suggested that the timetable should try to accommodate a gap between Workgroup meetings and the Workstream so that any matters and reports for the Workstream could be published sufficiently in advance for attendees to consider the material. This was recognised as an aspiration although it should not constrain progress.

### 3. AMR Presentation

GE presented on behalf of Corona Energy, highlighting two key issues surrounding the significant anticipated increase in data flows as AMR is rolled out.

First, the present DME requirement to submit reads by 10:00 was identified as a potential systems cost driver. Enabling (or requiring) the submission of reads to be spread across the day could reduce costs for both xoserve and Shippers.

Second, to facilitate competition and create a level playing field, a potential change would be to develop a provision for historic information on site behaviour (for example profiles and balancing behaviour as opposed to meter reads themselves). This should be speedily available to Suppliers other than the incumbent in order to support competitive quotes. The Transporters questioned why the information would not be available in any event, and the circumstances under which data would be made available. It was recognised that these aspects would need to be considered as the option was developed.

CW suggested the required information might be held by a CCP in future as opposed to the Transporters, and so be beyond the scope of Project Nexus. It was also agreed that this aspect could be considered when the future shape of the CCP was clearer, although defining the requirement would be useful in any event.

### 4. Topic Workgroup(s) Terms of Reference

#### 4.1 Draft High Level Principle Setting Workgroup ToRs

Allocation - BF explained the minor changes that had been made to the TOR during the initial meeting. No further comments were proffered.

AQ Review – it was agreed that the AMR issues identified by GE should be added to the SPA ToR rather than AQ. SW offered to provide cross references to the IRR to illustrate where the issues had been taken from.

**Action NEX0025:** xoserve (SW) to add Initial Requirements Register cross references in the same form as for the Allocation Workgroup to all other Workgroups

**Action NEX0026:** Joint Office (BF) to update generic sections of ToR, such as membership, to match the Allocation Workgroup

PT suggested adding an issue relating to customers having access to data through the AQ Review process, and it was agreed this should be reflected in the SPA ToR.

**Action NEX0027:** xoserve (SW) to ensure issues identified for consideration under the SPA heading (customer access to data, meter read submission time, Supplier access to behavioral information) are included in the SPA ToR

Retrospective Updates – no additional comments raised

SSP Reconciliation – CW felt that the initial Allocation meeting had touched on this area and there was some discussion as to whether Allocation and Reconciliation should be combined into one Group. However, it was not clear that this would reduce the required number of meetings and the logic of dealing with allocation prior to reconciliation was accepted. HW reminded the meeting that it had been agreed that this should simply be called Reconciliation.

## **5. Workgroup Reporting**

### **5.1 start/end date progress tracking**

SW indicated that this would be provided for future meetings now that the Workgroups had started to meet.

### **5.2 consider topic workgroup reports**

BF reported that the initial meeting of the Allocation Workgroup had been largely scene setting, with a number of actions on xoserve to develop a strawman looking at how the future could operate. A fuller report was targeted for the next Workstream meeting.

## **6. Next Steps – diary/planning**

The next meeting of the Project Nexus Workstream had been scheduled to commence at 10:30am on Tuesday 16 February 2010 at the Energy Networks Association. The agenda would cover updates from the Allocations Workgroup, the AMR meeting plan, and approval of ToRs. BF asked if there would be merit in holding this by teleconference, and others suggested trying to tie this date in with a Workgroup meeting in the afternoon. After discussion, it was agreed to meet by teleconference.

## **7. AOB**

SW drew attention to the Project Brief, Version 3 of which is being prepared for publication in the next few weeks. The intention was to update this roughly quarterly, although more frequently if significant changes occurred. Any comments on the document would be very welcome. When available, this will be published on the Joint Office website and a note can be issued drawing attention to this.

## Appendix 1

## Action Table - 18 January 2010

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 work stream meeting.	Corona Energy (RS)	Complete.
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)	Closed – replaced by NEX 0024
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)	Complete.
NEX 0023	14.12.09	4.	Provide draft Terms of Reference for each of the high-level principle setting workgroups asap.	xoserve (SN)	Complete.
NEX 0024	18.01.10	2.1	Draft AMR Workgroup ToRs for publication in advance of the next Workstream meeting	xoserve (SW)	For 16 Feb meeting
NEX 0025	18.01.10	4.1	Add Initial Requirements Register cross references in the same form as for the Allocation Workgroup to all other Workgroups	xoserve (SW)	For 16 Feb meeting
NEX 0026	18.01.10	4.1	Update generic sections of ToR, such as membership, to match the Allocation Workgroup	Joint Office (BF)	For 16 Feb meeting
NEX 0027	18.01.10	4.1	Ensure issues identified for consideration under the SPA heading (customer access to data, meter read submission time, Supplier access to behavioural information) are included in the SPA ToR	xoserve (SW)	For 16 Feb meeting