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# UK LINK Committee Minutes Thursday 14 January 2010 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\*

Dave Addison

Karen Healey

Lewis Plummer

Lorraine Cave

Mark Cockayne

Martin Brandt\*

(DK) E.ON UK

(DA) xoserve

(KH) xoserve

(KH) xoserve

(LP) xoserve

(MC) xoserve

(MC) xoserve

Sean McGoldrick\* (SM) National Grid NTS Stephanie Shepherd (SS) RWE npower

#### **Apologies**

David Watson Centrica

#### 1. Review of Minutes and Actions

#### 1.1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

With reference to the August 2009 minutes - item 8, and specifically the 2010 UKLC Release dates, DA highlighted that the final date should have read as 05 November 2009 and not 25 November 2009 as previously recorded.

Post meeting note: a revised version (2.0) of the minutes was published on the Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site on 08/01/10 at: <a href="http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/UKLC/130809">http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/UKLC/130809</a>

#### 1.2. Review of actions

Appendix A contains a tabulated update on actions.

UKL 1164 – xoserve (DA) informed members that there had been no further progress on this item since the December 09 meeting and discussions with British Gas are still ongoing.

In response to a question from MB regarding what xoserve consider to be their 'normal' level of MAM transaction volume/capability, DA suggested that somewhere in the region of 80k per Shipper is manageable although the total system transaction capacity remains unclear (current level is around 40k/day). However, multiple simultaneous transactions (i.e. more than one Shipper/occasion/day) could cause problems. To alleviate these tensions Users were requested to contact xoserve if they were planning a large exercise of this kind to ensure scheduling could take place.

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

#### **Action UKL 1164: Carried Forward**

<sup>\*</sup> via a teleconference link

UKL 1171 – xoserve (DA) informed members that there will be a separate ConQuest Replacement meeting immediately following UK Link, whilst a brief update will also be provided under discussion on UKL 1174 below.

UKL 1172 – xoserve (LP) informed members that communication CB/941/LP dated 13/01/10 had been issued seeking responses by 28/01/10. This followed on from communication CB/938/LP dated 11/12/09 responses to which had promoted identification of a new Option 5, extract as follows:

"Incoming Shipper DM Elective Notification, based on the responses and following further investigation an additional option has been identified that should satisfy shippers requirements:

**5. TRF File** - Issued at D-7 to the incoming shipper. For a site transferring DMM/V/DME - NDM, the DATALOGGER\_SERIAL\_NUMBER in the S75 record will be populated with the outgoing shippers datalogger details, for a DME site this will be populated with 'DME001\*' and for a DMM/V site this will be populated with the actual datalogger serial number or if not available a dummy reference 'ABC001\*'

\*TBC following technical analysis

Option benefits to shippers:

- TRF file issued at D-7, providing suitable notification.
- Utilisation of existing file with no change to file format.
- Zero cost associated with option.
- Incoming shippers will be able to utilise this field to see if it is populated and identify that a site was previously DMM/V/DME and therefore will know their requirement for the Transfer Read process."

AC suggested that his preference would be adoption of Option 1 – Enquiry File on the basis that they (EDF Energy) have concerns with both timing and visibility. In response, DA pointed out that xoserve have noted users are utilising the 'Nominations Field' for their nominations, which is technically incorrect, and they (xoserve) would prefer users to utilise the 'Enquiry Field' especially as this would provide nomination profile benefits if option 5 was adopted (utilises existing datalogger i.d. field – datalogger serial no. DME001) as information remains in situ at D-7.

In response to MB's concerns surrounding the read process, DA advised that this matter had also been discussed in detail at the Distribution Workstream. MB pointed out that in his opinion, this would work so long as the costs remained with the DME but suggested that this will need further urgent consideration as a lack of detail may jeopardise a November 2010 implementation. AC added that certain shippers may be uncertain of their actual status i.e. NDM or DME only adding to the potential problems.

LP advised members that it is xoserve's intention to run Shipper sessions to discuss the matter in more detail. He pointed out that the UNC rules relating to this matter should be drafted as part of the provision of legal text for the related UNC modification.

Members requested that an update be provided in Friday's Change Pack along with a ConQuest Replacement update.

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

#### **Action UKL 1172: Carried Forward**

Action UKL1180: xoserve (DA) to provide updates on the UKLC discussions of the DM Elective Regime and ConQuest Replacement in the Change Pack due on 15/01/10.

UKL 1173 – Please note: discussion of this outstanding action was taken out of sequence. xoserve (MC) informed members that a detailed review of the UK Link Manual is

still ongoing within xoserve and he will need to seek approval of the changes to the document before providing a progress update at the February 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 (& UKL 1171) is related to the ConQuest Replacement meeting scheduled to take place immediately following this UKLC meeting.

Chair (JB) asked, and members agreed to close actions 1171 & 1174.

#### **Action UKL 1171 & 1174: Closed**

UKL 1175 – xoserve (DA) informed members that an Impact Assessment had been completed and this in turn had raised concerns surrounding some priority issues (i.e. level of testing of SPA related elements). Therefore, amendment of the current coding for the MAM blank id's in the Sites & Meters database will not be implemented within the next three (3) months.

Continuing, DA advised that the three month 'target', assumes that xoserve go ahead with the current MAM id's although further consideration from a network perspective is required.

In considering the utilisation of blank MAM id's at the point of reconfirmation, DA informed members that this matter had been assigned to an xoserve project team to progress. Additionally, the Networks have also raised concerns around other data items that maybe updated.

In closing, DA agreed to take an action to double check (with his xoserve colleague Andy Miller), the target audience(s) for receipt of the related reports from the meeting on 13/01/10 and where appropriate ensure that these are reissued to the correct contacts.

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

#### **Action UKL 1175: Carried Forward**

Action UKL1181: xoserve (DA) to double-check that the MAM id/Sites & Meters related reports from the 13/01/10 meeting have been issued to the correct recipients list and re-issue where appropriate.

UKL 1176 – xoserve (DA) opened by apologising for inadvertently issuing the MBR communication with an incorrect 'switch over' date identified. He hoped that the correct issue date of 26/02/10 was clear to everyone. In fact the MBR file (for the previous business day) will be issued at around 1:00am on 27/02/10 and the first date for utilisation of the new format is 01/03/10.

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

#### Action UKL 1176: Closed

UKL 1177 – xoserve (DA) informed members that the DME Update had been reissued on 13/01/10.

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

#### Action UKL 1177: Closed

UKL 1178 – xoserve (DA) informed members that communication CB/938/LP relating to COR1133 had been issued within the change pack on Friday 11/12/09.

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

#### Action UKL 1178: Closed

UKL 1179 – In the absence of MC, DA indicated that the initial thoughts on whether or not it would be possible to remove the password controls on the UK Link file formats, was NO. However, the legal reasons as to why this cannot be undertaken remain unclear – perhaps relating to Intellectual Property Rights issues or the fact that the specific information should only be visible to the Code Signatories (or their Agents) themselves.

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

#### Action UKL 1179: Closed

On an entirely separate matter, AC requested that a new action is raised which relates to the .CAR Emergency Contacts files which were supposedly decommissioned in 1997, but remain active today. In response, DA indicated that the preferred route to resolving this problem if for either AC or other impacted parties to contact him direct to discuss their respective issues. However, he will undertake to investigate this outside the meeting and provide an update as part of the change pack, if deemed necessary.

#### 2. Other Industry Fora

JB reported that there had been no recently "closed" UNC modifications with system impacts.

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 due at the 21/05/10 panel meeting;
- 0246/0246A/0246B "Quarterly NTS Entry Capacity User Commitment". Currently
  with the Authority awaiting a decision. The UNC panel members have requested an
  indication of a likely decision date;
- 0248 "Meter Reading Replacement". Allocated to the Distribution Workstream with a report due at the 15/04/10 Panel meeting;
- 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". Currently with the Authority awaiting a decision;
- 0263 "Enabling the Assignment of a Partial Quantity of Registered NTS Exit (Flat) Capacity". Currently with the Authority awaiting a decision.
  - Members noted that should the modification be implemented it could possibly involve some complicated scheduling. xoserve (KH) informed members that her colleague Andy Simpson is leading on full assignment as it is an Exit Phase II delivery item;
- 0264 "Review of Industry Arrangements to Accommodate Reduced Demand at DM Supply Points". Allocated to Review Group with a report due at the 21/01/10 panel meeting;
- 0270 "Aggregated Monthly Reconciliation for Smart Meters". Potential for significant system impacts. Allocated to a Development Work Group, with a report due at the 20/05/10 panel meeting;
- 0271 "Amendment to the SSP Provisional LSP SSP Amendment Rules". Referred to the Distribution Workstream with a report due at the 18/02/10 panel meeting;

 0272 "Mod 640 Validation Arrangements for when a Change of Shipper has occurred". System impacts unclear at this time. Allocated to a Review Group, with a report due at the 20/05/10 panel meeting;

- 0274 "Creation of a National Revenue Protection Service". Allocated to a Development Work Group, with a report due at the 20/05/10 panel meeting.
- 0276 "Alternative User Pays approach to UNC Modification 0263 Enabling the Assignment of a Partial Quantity of Registered NTS Exit (Flat) Capacity". Final Modification Report is to be considered at the 21/01/10 panel meeting.

KH informed members that the same comments as per 0263 also apply here, and

• 0280 "Review of Demand Estimation UNC Section H Processes and Responsibilities". New proposal for consideration at 21/01/10 panel meeting.

Moving on, JB informed members that the Operational Forum had met the previous day where the recent Gas Balancing Alerts (GBA's) were discussed. However, no xoserve Gemini presentation or update was provided.

Post Meeting Note: All presentations now available at: <a href="http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/OperationalInfo/operationsforum/">http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/OperationalInfo/operationsforum/</a>

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

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

xoserve (DA) informed members that this Class 2 change relates to the ConQuest Replacement system and once a 'Discover & Modelling' phase is completed a more appropriate implementation date will be provided. Furthermore, the matter will be discussed in more detail in the meeting following this UKLC.

#### 3.2 COR 1617 - Change to Pulse Value Format

xoserve (DA) informed members that this remains 'on track' for a 26/02/10 implementation and that the new formats will be available early on the Tuesday (02/03/10).

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

xoserve (DA) informed members that whilst he would like to formally withdraw this change request, he is unsure of the correct protocol to be followed. He also pointed out to members that communication CB/940/RN dated 18/12/09, had been issued following the December UKLC apologising for incorrectly highlighting the change request at the meeting. Additionally, it should be noted that the required xoserve system changes can be undertaken without impacting .EPS file or any other file formats.

When asked, members formally approved the withdrawal of this change.

#### 3.4 COR1360 - NTS Exit Reform Phase 1

xoserve (KH) informed members that of the following key points:

- COR1360 Phase 1
  - System Testing completed successfully last week, all functional errors have been corrected and re-tested successfully; there are a small number of cosmetic amendments still to be made, and these should be completed within the next week. There may also be some additional small cosmetic changes required to the External Screens already approved by UKLC, and these will be supplied in time for the February 2010 UKLC meeting for formal review/approval (or earlier if possible);
  - o User Acceptance Testing commenced as planned on 04/01/10 and

steady progress is being made;

- Given the above points, the implementation date of 23/05/10 remains 'on track';
- The proposed contingency implementation date needs to be ratified however, this is likely to be 30/05/10 or 06/06/10. A firm proposal will be made at February UKLC meeting;
- User Trials are scheduled to commence 05/04/10, and a number of Users have registered their interest to take part - others are still welcome. Any Users wishing to take part should write to the UKL Manual box account by the end of next week (22/01/10), and
- xoserve will issue a high level approach and plan for User Trials to the participants by the end of next week (22/01/10)

#### COR1630 - Phase 2

- Analysis is progressing;
- High level planning of the next stages will commence shortly, and an indication of User Trial & Implementation dates will be provided at the February UKLC meeting, and
- The Implementation date likely to be April/May 2011.

In closing, KH agreed to provide both an overview of Phase 2 and a likely delivery date.

Action UKL1182: xoserve (KH) to provide a progress update on COR1630 Phase 2 progress and content along with a likely delivery date.

#### 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. Furthermore, he will ensure that the change pack, including any relevant dates, relating to this matter is re-issued in due course.

#### 4. Review of Topics Status Report

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

<u>Project Nexus</u> – An update will be provided for publication alongside the UKLC meeting minutes in due course.

Post meeting note: 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/140110

<u>ConQuest Replacement</u> – Separate meeting will take place immediately following the UKLC meeting. In due course a communication will be issued seeking responses from User's technical personnel on items such as:

- Users Internet browser platforms;
- Views on the potential User system security issues and any impacts of the utilisation of 'off the shelf' web platform (i.e. cookies and security settings), and
- Remote login for users when working at locations other than their base (invoking potential certification of user issues).

Moving on, DA sought to bring to the attention of the committee that user responses received to date indicate a dislike for the look and feel of the previous ConQuest interface. As a consequence xoserve propose to engage with the External User Group (EUG) to review the User screens — any changes will then be communicated back to the UKLC, but seeing as the EUG has an open invitation to the technical representatives it is proposed that their participation will ensure concerns will not be raised through the UKLC. Members were asked to note that this approach is not meant to undermine the role of the UKLC and to ensure that this does not happen DA is more

than happy to issue duplicate communications to ensure that ALL parties (UKLC & EUG) are kept fully informed and up to date with progress. Furthermore, this approach will also apply to any related file format changes. A communication relating to the proposed approach will be issued in due course.

Gemini Re-platforming – No additional update available.

<u>IP Solution (Introduction of a Data Warehouse)</u> – 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

None.

#### 9. Next Meeting

The February 2010 UK Link Committee meeting will be a teleconference meeting and is scheduled to commence at 10:00 am on Thursday 11 February 2010.

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## APPENDIX A ACTION LOG: UK Link Committee 14 January 2010

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 February 2010 meeting.  Carried Forward
UKL 1171	08/10/09	1.2 (4.)	Provide an update on the proposed implementation plan details for the ConQuest Replacement.	xoserve (DA)	Update provided. Closed
UKL 1172	12/11/09	1.2 (3.1)	Provide an update on the progress of the detailed analysis phase of the DM Elective Regime.	xoserve (LP)	Update due at February 2010 meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1173	12/11/09	1.2 (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 February 2010 meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1174	12/11/09	1.2 (4.)	Provide an update on the progress of the ConQuest Replacement.	xoserve (DA)	Update provided. Closed
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 February 2010 meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1176	10/12/09	1.2 (3.2)	Provide an update, via a communication, on when the MBR files will switch over to the new format.	xoserve (DA)	Update provided. Closed
UKL 1177	10/12/09	1.2 (3.3)	Ensure that the DME Update is reissued asap.	xoserve (DA)	Update provided. Closed
UKL 1178	10/12/09	1.2 (3.5)	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	xoserve (DA)	Update provided. Closed

Owner\* Action Meeting Minute Action **Status Update** Ref Ref Date (original ref) UKL 1172. UKL 10/12/09 1.2 (8.) Investigate whether or not it is xoserve Update provided. 1179 possible to remove the password (DA) Closed control from the UK Link file formats. UKL 14/01/10 1.2 Provide updates on the UKLC xoserve Update due at 1180 discussions of the DM Elective February 2010 (DA) Regime and ConQuest meeting. Replacement in the Change Pack due on 15/01/10. UKL 14/01/10 1.2 Double-check that the MAM xoserve Update due at 1181 id/Sites & Meters related reports February 2010 (DA) from the 13/01/10 meeting have meeting. been issued to the correct recipients list and re-issue where appropriate. UKL 14/01/10 3.4 Provide a progress update on xoserve Update due at 1182 COR1630 Phase 2 progress and February 2010 (KH) content along with a likely delivery meeting. date.

#### \* Key to action owner

KH Karen Healey, xoserveDA David Addison, xoserveMC Mark Cockayne, xoserveLP Lewis Plummer, xoserve