

UNC Transmission Workgroup Minutes
Thursday 04 January 2024
via Microsoft Teams

Attendees		
Eric Fowler (Chair)	(EF)	Joint Office
Tanaka Tizirai (Secretary)	(TT)	Joint Office
Adam Bates	(AB)	SouthHook Gas
Anna Shrigley	(AS)	ENI
Antony Miller	(AM)	South Hook Gas
Alex Nield	(AN)	Storengy
Amy Howarth	(AH)	Storengy
Bethan Winter	(BW)	WWU
Chris Wright	(CW _r)	Exxon Mobil
Christiania Sykes	(CS)	Shell
Conor McClarin	(CM)	National Gas Transmission (NGT)
David Addison	(DA)	XoServe
Danny Jennings	(DJ)	Equiwatt
Emma Robinson	(ER)	E.ON
Hannah Reddy	(HR)	Corella on behalf of Xoserve
Hannah Swindell	(HS)	Energy Security
Gaby Bezzubovaite	(GB)	Department for Energy for Security
Gavin Williams	(GW)	National Gas
James Lomax	(JLo)	Cornwall Insight
Julie Cox	(JCo)	Energy UK
Joseph Leggett	(JoLe)	Interconnect
Josie Lewis	(JLe)	Xoserve
Lea Slokar	(LS)	Ofgem "part meeting"
Lauren Jauss	(LJa)	RWE
Mariachiara Zennaro	(MZ)	Centrica
Marion Joste	(MJ)	ENI
Matthew Atkinson	(MA)	National Gas Transmission
Mathew Chandy	(MC)	Ofgem
Matthew Newman	(MN)	National Gas Transmission
Mark Hogan	(MH)	Ofgem
Nigel Sisman	(NS)	Sisman Consultancy
Phil Hobbins	(PH)	National Gas Transmission
Phil Lucas	(PL)	National Gas Transmission
Richard Fairholme	(RF)	Uniper
Richard Hewitt	(RH)	Hewitt Home and Energy Solutions
Shiv Singh	(SS)	Cadent
Steve Mulinganie	(SM)	SEFE Energy

This Workgroup meeting will be considered quorate provided at least two Transporter and two Shipper User representatives are present.

Please note these minutes do not replicate detailed content provided within the presentation slides, therefore it is recommended that the published presentation material is reviewed in conjunction with these minutes. Copies of papers

are available at: <https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/TX/040124>.

1. Introduction and Status Review

Eric Fowler (EF) welcomed all parties to the meeting.

1.1. Approval of minutes (07 December 2023)

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

1.2. Approval of Late Papers

The Workgroup Report 0852 for final review was accepted.

1.3. Review of Outstanding Actions

1002: Mercury Content - NGT (KAp) to provide an update following further sampling and risk assessment.

Update: An update will be provided in March 2024. **Carried Forward.**

Post meeting note: *Action update deferred until March meeting at request of NGT*

1.4. Industry Update from Ofgem

Mathew Chandy (MC) provided an update on relevant mods from the latest Ofgem Expected Decision Dates (EDD) publication timetable published on 8 December 2024 at: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/code-modificationmodification-proposals-ofgem-decision-expected-publication-dates-timetable> (see further below for the update table).

MC informed the Workgroup that Ofgem is planning to publish a stakeholder consultation as part of the DSR licence condition, which is meant to reflect the reforms that have been implemented as part of DSR over the last few years. The consultation will seek to bring the licence in line with those reforms. The consultation is aimed to be published for the second half of January 2024.

Modification	Estimated Decision Date
0823 - Amendment to the Allocation of Entry Capacity and Flow Quantities to Qualifying CNCCD Routes	26 January 2024
0856 - Introduction of Trials for Non-Daily Metered (NDM) Demand Side Response (DSR)	TBC

1.5. Pre-Modification Discussions

1.5.1. Demand Side Response Arrangements

Phil Hobbins (PH) noted that the pre-mods are successors to the Request Group 0835R, and it is planned that they will be raised at the January Modification Panel. He explained that with respect to impacted parties, NGT have worked with IGT parties in relation to the DSR reforms to ensure that sites connected to IGT networks are able to participate in the same way as sites which are connected to the GDNs or NTS.

This pre-mod seeks further discussions and feedback following on from the work they have undertaken and PH described it as a 'sweep-up' of improvements that have been identified. The aim is for the modification to go through in time for this summer 2024's DSR Options Tender, so that the benefits of the modification can be included within that process.

Further information on the gas DSR can be found the NGT website: [Demand Side Response \(DSR\) | National Gas](#)

PH mentioned that for the first Workgroup, he intends to prepare a slide which sets out the current process and its potential pitfalls (e.g. in relation to shippers changing sites at 1st October or for consumer DSR proposals, difficulties may arise for Consumer needing to ensure credit is in place in time for 1st October).

PH further confirmed an intention to raise this as a Self-Governance Modification as it represents incremental amendments and enhancements to what is currently in place.

PH provided an overview of the 'Solution' section which sets out the associated business rules (BR). He noted that BR3 is duplicated with another BR. In respect to BR8, he explained that 'within-day' would be the useful for NGT as it is the most immediate item in respect to demand reduction. However, he noted that it has a limited value because some of the gas day has already passed and there often being a lead time associated to within-day DSR Options. For example, if NGT received an offer of 100,000kWh, they are actually not going to be able to exercise that quantity within day which diminishes the value. Therefore, PH proposes that for within-day the Option ought to be set higher at perhaps 200,000kWh.

Steve Mulinganie (SM) firstly noted an understanding of the intention of and what BR8 is seeking to address; but he is not sure whether increasing the limit is the answer, although he appreciates the figure specified within the pre-mod is in quoted in brackets. He, secondly, mentioned this pre-mod appears to cover a lot and that he does not believe that self-governance should apply. SM appreciated that it is promoted as being incremental; however, he highlighted that the Mod 0852S was also argued as being incremental, as it only involved making 12 additional phone calls. SM noted that they do not consider this pre-mod to be self-governance in light of the Regulator's decision and the test which was applied to 0852S.

1.5.2. Gas DSR Aggregation arrangements

Matthew Newman (MN) provided an overview of the pre-mod and confirmed that it will operate on similar timescales to the other DSR modification. He mentioned that NGT has already developed several reforms in connection with DSR and through those engagements they have received feedback that there are some consumers who would like to participate in DSR. However, these consumers cannot currently reach the eligibility thresholds wherein they would need to deliver 100,000 kWh of reduction per day.

MN stated that if we are able to develop some reforms which allow those consumers to participate, this would mean that there is further volume, which would allow for the further enhancement of the DSR tools. He further mentioned that they have seen the successful implementation of aggregation which was deployed by National Grid ESO via their Demand Flexibility Service. He noted that National Grid trialled and developed the role of aggregation from third parties, therefore, NGT are considering doing something similar.

MN explained that they would seek to introduce the role of an aggregator into the UNC and this would allow them to have contractual relationships which would allow them to participate within the DSR Tender.

MN proposed that this modification would be Authority directed as it will represent a material change, by way of introducing the new role of an aggregator. He noted that aggregator led DSRs would be funded by payments through Energy Balancing Neutrality.

MN highlighted the aggregation model under the 'Solution' section of the report. The aggregation model demonstrates how the arrangements would work in practice, with the blue arrows representing existing contracts and orange arrows representing new commercial contracts / relationships. He explained that through this, NGT would be able to utilise those new arrangements to have fewer points of contact (i.e. them just interacting with an aggregator), which would allow them to have access to material levels of reduction, which would increase the effectiveness of the DSR Tool.

MN stated that in terms of the parties that can participate, they are expecting any Daily Metered (DM) consumer can participate i.e. Class 1 and 2 consumers.

SM asked whether NGT have considered having a distinction between a domestic and non-domestic aggregation. He noted that whilst the outcome in respect to energy reduction would be the same from the Network's perspective, the means of reaching that outcome may be very different depending on the type of end-consumer. There may need to be more protections and controls in respect to domestic consumers.

MN clarified that the intention is that the type of consumers expected to participate would be industrial and commercial rather than domestic. MN noted that the contractual framework which

will reflect the proposals may need to call out that it is proposed only for industrial and commercial, non-domestic consumers.

SM asked about the involvement of Equiwatt as he understands that Equiwatt's product is more focussed on the domestic (electricity) market. MN explained that Danny Jennings (DJ) had reached to them following NGT's winter outlook publication which covered DSR trials. MN had discussed NGT's intention to bring aggregation at this Workgroup. MN stated that NGT is planning on engaging with aggregators who participated in the (electricity) flexibility service to ascertain any learnings that those aggregator may have. Danny Jennings (DJ) explained that his presence is simply observational in this Workgroup Meeting, however, Equiwatt are happy to assist by providing any learnings from their experience with the DSR.

2. Proposed RIIO3 Position - Price Control Deliverable (PCD) and Optimisation output delivery incentive (ODI)

Mark Hogan (MH) of Ofgem led a presentation on the RIIO-3 Specific Methodology Consultation and commented that Ofgem are keep to receive feedback from parties. They will run a number of working groups as part of the engagement process. The works sits across both gas and electricity sectors and dates will be co-ordinated. Ofgem remain committed to an 'output-based' price control.

MH explained that they are looking at setting the new price controls for the transmission and gas distribution networks, which are set to run from 2026 to 2031 (this price control period will be known as RIIO3. Therefore, Ofgem are seeking feedback via a consultation which will end on 6 March 2024. A list of the dates and times of the workgroup meetings Ofgem will run shall be published on its website: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/riio-3-sector-specific-methodology-gas-distribution-gas-transmission-and-electricity-transmission-sectors>

Ofgem has published a Framework Decision for the price control which can be accessed here: [Decision on frameworks for future systems and network regulation | Ofgem](#).

Lea Slokar (LS) explained that the presentation (p.11) provides an overview of Ofgem's proposals, and their position on the RIIO-3 approach. Whilst there is an overall view that over time gas demand will reduce there is much uncertainty. LS described the development of Ofgem's thinking and current position on specific projects.

For further information on the presentation, please access it here: [Transmission Workgroup Meeting 04 January 2024 | Joint Office of Gas Transporters \(gasgovernance.co.uk\)](#).

3. Transmission Change Horizon Plan

Phil Hobbins (PH) provided the [National Gas Transmission Change Horizon plan](#) and the Gemini Sustain Plus program update.

PH explained that the next Focus Group meeting is scheduled for Monday 22 January 2024.

Richard Fairholme (RF) noted that the Modification Panel in December 2023 were also given an update on the Gemini Program with a Red/Amber/Green rating. The update now shown has the program at an Amber rating, and he questioned whether that is because there is a lot testing to undertake for the program or whether the completion timescale is at risk?

Hannah Reddy (HR) stated that she had not been briefed on the latest update, however, there is a lot of testing going on. PH agreed to revert back to the Workgroup to clarify the status of the program.

Post meeting update: provided by NGT -

Sustain Plus, the upgrade to Gemini, remains on track to be implemented in September 2024. There are currently a number of complex testing phases being managed between Correlia, Wipro and National Gas which means our current internal monitoring status is 'amber'. As with any large IT programme of this scale, this ensures we are focussing on the critical risks and mitigating them as appropriate. However, this status has not so far caused us to be concerned that the cut over and implementation plan will not be met, therefore the overall programme status is 'green'. Regular, more detailed updates and progress reports are provided via our Sustain Plus Focus Groups, which are current held every other month and are open for anyone to attend that may have an interest in the programme and impacts.

4. **Workgroup Report Approval – 0852S Shipper notification in relation to option exercise for Customer Demand Side Response**

EF explained that the Workgroup Report for 0852S had included in the agenda as a final sign-off prior to delivery to the Modification Panel. He noted that work on the Report had been concluded at 7 December workgroup. However, on 14 December Ofgem published a decision letter which has the effect of overruling previous governance discussions by 'calling-in' 0852S so that it would need an authority decision.

SM noted that the decision from Ofgem was disappointing and mentioned that the scale of the operation relates to 12 sites i.e. 12 communications / 12 telephone calls. Therefore, he cannot see how 12 communications can be material in the context of its impact on NGT and security of supply. SM pointed out that the argument appears to be that the scale could become greater in the future. However, if all modifications are to be tested against their potential future utilisation then maybe none will be eligible for self-governance. He stated the modification should be considered in the context of what it is in the moment, in which case it does not present something more than a de-minimis change. SM concluded that their concern is that this decision calls into question the role of self-governance, a modification should be seen in its current context.

Julie Cox (JC) concurred with SM's view, and explained that she found the Ofgem decision to be odd, because modifications have always been assessed in the current moment and not what they could become in the future. The concern is that it will set a difficult precedence and modifications may not actually become self-governance again on basis of the test applied in the decision. JC noted that the scary thing is that the decision suggests that the security of the UK's gas supply will be at risk if the NGT were to make 12 telephone calls in particular situation.

Mathew Chandy (MC) of Ofgem acknowledged the above comments and further mentioned that their position is that it is something that could be material or may have a material effect on the security of gas supply as per their published decision letter. MC, however, confirmed that they would certainly appreciate further lines-of-thinking, evidence or information to enable them to come a more reasoned and information conclusion on the potential impacts of the 0852S modification.

SM explained that presents a real challenge because they have asked for evidence as to why 12 telephone calls could impact the operation of the control room and no evidence has been provided. He explained that if you put forward a modification and another party states that it will materially impact them but then does not put forward any evidence; essentially the self-governance process can be frustrated.

SM stated that NGT seem to be implying that the control room, prior to an emergency incident, is so marginal that requiring it to make communications over and above those which it is so far making is so risky that this modification cannot be self-governance.

EF re-opened the Workgroup Report to capture the essence of the debate so the new points would be visible to Panel and to consultation parties. EF amended the report on screen as per the comments made by the Workgroup in this meeting.

A copy of the revised Workgroup 0852S report can be accessed here: [18 January 2024 UNC Modification Panel and UNCC | Joint Office of Gas Transporters \(gasgovernance.co.uk\)](https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/18-January-2024-UNC-Modification-Panel-and-UNCC)

5. **Workgroups**

The following Workgroup meetings took place:

5.1. 0835R - Review of Gas Demand Side Response Arrangements

(Report to Panel 21 March 2024)

<https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0835/071223>

5.2. 0854 - Revision of Virtual Last Resort User and Contingent Procurement of Supplier Demand Event Triggers

(Report to Panel 18 January 2024)

<https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0854/051023>

6. Issues

No new issues have been identified.

7. Any Other Business

7.1. Overrun Reporting Gas Year

Conor McClarin (CM) presented a high level overview and update on the Entry and Exit Overruns data for the 2022 – 2023 gas year. CM further confirmed that the next general update on the overruns will be provided in March 2024.

Julie Cox (JC) raised a question as to whether any new information / data has been received for this new gas year, or do we need to wait for March.

CM confirmed that the next updates are scheduled to run quarterly with the next one being March. But CM noted that if people have an appetite to receive the data sooner, he is happy check whether the update can be moved up.

JC confirmed that she is happy with the quarterly approach.

For further information, please refer to the [presentation published](#).

7.2. RIIO-T3 Incentive Arrangements

PH provided a brief update on RIIO-T3 advising that the RIIO-T3 team are planning industry engagement which will commence in January 2024.

PH confirmed that individuals can contact Anna Stankiewicz or Chris Hewitt. For contact details, please refer to the [presentation slide published](#).

8. Diary Planning

EF informed the Workgroup that the Joint Office is hoping to reinstate at least some Transmission Workgroup meetings as ‘face-to-face’. Workgroup Participants considered that the in-person meetings could be on a quarterly basis subject to the agendas having sufficient substance to justify individuals travelling to the proposed venues. In any case a hybrid-facility will be available via Microsoft Teams. The Workgroup was favourable to the idea of alternating the hosting of such meetings to venues either located between London and Midlands.

Transmission meetings are listed at: <https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/TX>

All other Joint Office events are available via: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/events-calendar/month

Time / Date	Paper Publication Deadline	Venue	Programme
10:00 Thursday 01 February 2024	5 pm Wednesday 24 January 2024	Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda EU Update
10:00 Thursday 07 March 2024	5 pm Wednesday 21 February 2024	Solihull/ Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda

10:00 Thursday 04 April 2024	5 pm Wednesday 27 March 2024	Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda
10:00 Thursday 02 May 2024	5 pm Wednesday 24 April 2024	Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda
10:00 Thursday 06 June 2024	5 pm Wednesday 29 May 2024	Solihull/ Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda
10:00 Thursday 04 July 2024	5 pm Wednesday 26 June 2024	Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda
10:00 Thursday 01 August 2024	5 pm Wednesday 24 July 2024	Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda
10:00 Thursday 05 September 2024	5 pm Wednesday August 2024	Solihull/ Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda
10:00 Thursday 02 October 2024	5 pm Wednesday 24 September 2024	Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda
10:00 Thursday 07 November 2024	5 pm Wednesday 30 October 2024	Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda
10:00 Thursday 05 December 2024	5 pm Wednesday 27 November 2024	Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda

Transmission Workgroup Action Table						
Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Reporting Month	Owner	Status Update
1002	05/10/23	5.1	<i>Mercury Content</i> - NGT (KA) to provide an update following further sampling and risk assessment	March 2024	NGT (KA)	Carried Forward

**UNC Workgroup 0835R Minutes
Review of Gas Demand Side Response Arrangements
Thursday 04 January 2024
via Microsoft Teams**

Attendees		
Eric Fowler (Chair)	(EF)	Joint Office
Tanaka Tizirai (Secretary)	(TT)	Joint Office
Adam Bates	(AB)	SouthHook Gas
Anna Shrigley	(AS)	ENI
Antony Miller	(AM)	South Hook Gas
Alex Nield	(AN)	Storengy
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Christiania Sykes	(CS)	Shell
Conor McClarin	(CM)	National Gas Transmission (NGT)
David Addison	(DA)	Xoserve
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Josie Lewis	(JLe)	Xoserve
Lea Slokar	(LS)	Ofgem "part meeting"
Lauren Jauss	(LJa)	RWE
Mariachiara Zennaro	(MZ)	Centrica
Marion Joste	(MJ)	ENI
Matthew Atkinson	(MA)	National Gas Transmission
Mathew Chandy	(MC)	Ofgem
Matthew Newman	(MN)	National Gas Transmission
Mark Hogan	(MH)	Ofgem
Nigel Sisman	(NS)	Sisman Consultancy
Phil Hobbins	(PH)	National Gas Transmission
Phil Lucas	(PL)	National Gas Transmission
Richard Fairholme	(RF)	Uniper
Richard Hewitt	(RH)	Hewitt Home and Energy Solutions
Shiv Singh	(SS)	Cadent
Steve Mulinganie	(SM)	SEFE Energy

The Workgroup Report is due to be presented at the UNC Modification Panel by 21 March 2024.

The Workgroup meeting will be considered quorate provided at least two Transporter and two Shipper User representatives are present.

Please note these minutes do not replicate/include detailed content provided within the presentation slides, therefore it is recommended that the published presentation material is reviewed in conjunction with these minutes. Copies of all

papers are available at: <https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0835/040124>

1.0 Introduction and Status Review

1.1. Approval of Minutes (07 December 2023)

Approved

1.2. Approval of Late Papers

No late papers.

1.3. Review of Outstanding Actions

None to review

2.0 Completion of Request Workgroup Report

Phil Hobbins (PH) confirmed that there was no further update this meeting regarding the progress of the Demand Side Response (DSR) review reform for 2024-25.

PH welcomed a discussion on the completion of the Workgroup report in the upcoming meeting in February 2024.

3.0 Next Steps

It was agreed to conclude the Workgroup report in the upcoming February meeting.

4.0 Any Other Business

None.

5.0 Diary Planning

0835R meetings are listed at: <https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0835>

All other Joint Office events are available via: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/events-calendar/month

Time / Date	Paper Publication Deadline	Venue	Workgroup Programme
10:00 Thursday 01 February 2024	5 pm Friday 24 January 2024	Microsoft Teams	Conclusion of Request Workgroup Report

UNC Workgroup 0854 Minutes
Revision of Virtual Last Resort User and Contingent Procurement of
Supplier Demand Event Triggers
Thursday 04 January 2024
via Microsoft Teams

Attendees		
Eric Fowler (Chair)	(EF)	Joint Office
Tanaka Tizirai (Secretary)	(TT)	Joint Office
Adam Bates	(AB)	SouthHook Gas
Anna Shrigley	(AS)	ENI
Antony Miller	(AM)	South Hook Gas
Alex Nield	(AN)	Storengy
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Richard Hewitt	(RH)	Hewitt Home and Energy Solutions
Shiv Singh	(SS)	Cadent
Steve Mulinganie	(SM)	SEFE Energy
<p><i>The Workgroup Report is due to be presented at the UNC Modification Panel by 18 January 2024.</i></p> <p><i>The Workgroup meeting will be considered quorate provided at least two Transporter and two Shipper User representatives are present.</i></p>		

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1.0 Introduction and Status Review

Eric Fowler (EF) welcomed all parties to the meeting.

1.1 Approval of Minutes (07 December 2023)

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

1.2 Approval of late papers

None.

1.3 Review of Outstanding Actions

1201: Xoserve (KAd) to liaise internally with the CDSP Retail Energy Code (REC) Regulatory Change team for a written statement on why a REC Change is not required ahead of Modification 0854 implementation and provide a response for inclusion within the Workgroup Report.

Update: The wording published on the Joint Office website was agreed to be added into the Workgroup report by the Workgroup. **Closed**

2.0 Conclusion of Workgroup Report

The Workgroup considered the report on-screen and EF captured views from the Workgroup to conclude the report for submission to the January Modification panel. The Workgroup noted that there were no concerns raised in relation to Performance Assurance and confirmed that the views expressed in respect of Relevant Objectives for Modification 0813 should be repeated as the arguments are the same.

Phil Lucas (PL) confirmed that the legal text provided previously is the final version.

3.0 Next Steps

The concluded Request Workgroup will be submitted to the January UNC Modification Panel.

4.0 Any Other Business

None.

5.0 Diary Planning

No further meetings planned.

0854 meetings are listed at: <https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0854>

All other Joint Office events are available via: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/events-calendar/month

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Reporting Month	Owner	Status Update
1201	07/12/23	2.0	Xoserve (KA) to liaise internally with the CDSP Retail Energy Code (REC) Regulatory Change team for a written statement on why a REC Change is not required ahead of Modification 0854 implementation, and provide a response for inclusion within the Workgroup Report.	January 2024	Xoserve (KA)	Closed