

UK LINK Committee Minutes Thursday 13 August 2009 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
Dave Addison	(DA) xoserve
Lorna Dupont	(LD) Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Mark Field	(MF) RWE npower
Sean McGoldrick	(SM) National Grid NTS

Apologies

Danielle King	E.ON UK
Martin Brandt	SSE
Stephanie Shepherd	RWE npower

1. Review of Minutes and Actions

1.1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

1.2. Review of actions.

Appendix A contains a tabulated update on actions.

UKL 1159 – xoserve (DA) informed members that in the absence of any further information, he will provide an update at the September meeting.

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

Action UKL 1159: Carried Forward

UKL 1161 – xoserve (DA) informed members that an update will be provided at the October meeting.

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

Action UKL 1161: Carried Forward

UKL 1164 – xoserve (DA) informed members that following discussion with Graham Wood, Centrica the update to the MAM file is not expected to be significant in nature but there could be concerns surrounding aspects of the more complex RGMA related asset transfers.

AC remains concerned about the potential change of supplier (flow related) impacts and subsequent UK Link system resilience and is seeking an assurance from xoserve that the system will be able to handle the anticipated increase in (K08) traffic. MF informed members that he will discuss the matter with his npower colleagues and report back in due course.

In closing, DA agreed to discuss the issues raised with Centrica and provide an update at the September meeting.

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

Action UKL 1164: Carried Forward

2. Other Industry Fora

JB reported that there were no recently “closed” UNC modifications and 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”. The Authority have raised their concerns surrounding the level and detail of the benefit analysis contained within the Final Modification Report believing that the current provision compromises their ability to make an informed decision;
- 0224 “Facilitating the use of AMR in the Daily Metered Elective Regime”. With the Authority awaiting a decision. SM advised members that in their recent bulletin, the Authority indicated a decision is now expected on 28 August 09;
- 0231 “Changes to the Reasonable Endeavours Scheme to better incentivise the detection of Theft”. Allocated to the Distribution Workstream with a report due at the 20/08/09 panel meeting;
- 0245 “Review of arrangements regarding the detection and investigation of Theft of Gas”. Review Group work ongoing with a report to 18/09/09 panel meeting;
- 0246/0246A/0246B “Quarterly NTS Entry Capacity User Commitment”. Currently with the Authority who are conducting an Regulatory Impact Assessment which is due to be issued sometime in September 09;
- 0248 “Meter Reading Replacement”. Allocated to the Distribution Workstream with a report now due at the 15/10/09 panel meeting;
- 0250 “Introduction of the Code Contingency Guidelines Document”. With the Authority awaiting a decision.

Chair (JB) suggested that implementation of this modification will invoke an update to the UK Link Manual. DA added that currently xoserve are investigating what other changes may be required and anticipate being able to provide the information in April 2010;

- 0253 “Facilitating a Supply Point Enquiry Service for Large Supply Points”. Allocated to the Distribution Workstream with a report due at the 20/08/09 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”. The modification relates to a Uniform Network Code mandate which currently stipulates that each and every UK Link User has to have IX equipment installed regardless of whether it is to be utilised (i.e. even if a User Agent is conducting all the User’s UK Link transactions). The proposal is looking to remove the obligation. The Proposer, Scotia Gas Networks have requested deferral of the workstream report until further consideration has taken place;
- 0263 “Enabling the Assignment of a Partial Quantity of Registered NTS Exit (Flat) Capacity”. Whilst conforming to the requirements of UNC Modification 0195AV “Introduction of Enduring NTS Exit Capacity Arrangements” this new modification looks to address shortcomings in 0195AV which did not address the issues of provision of a facility to provide for partial assignment of capacity (shared NTS supply points etc).

- 0264 “Review of Industry Arrangements to Accommodate Reduced Demand at DM Supply Points”. Following on from the rejection of UNC modifications 0244 “Amending DM Supply Point Data for Sites with Significant Changes in Usage”/0244A “Introduction of an Exception Process for Decreases in Supply Point Capacity (SOQ) at Daily Metered (DM) Supply Points”/0244B “Amending DM Supply Point Data for Sites with Significant Changes in Usage” in May 2009, the Transporters have raised this new modification in response to the Authority invitation contained within its decision letter for the industry to:

‘consider whether, in the light of our comments and decision, they wish to consider developing further proposals to address the problem identified’

AC suggested that Shippers would be looking for an October implementation date which may necessitate provision of a set of suitable non Code workarounds.

JB confirmed that nomination for review group membership closes at 17:00hrs on Friday 14/08/09.

Moving on, JB informed members that at the previous day’s Operational Forum meeting xoserve (Denis Regan) had provided an update on the recent Gemini system failure to which no adverse comments from those present were received.

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

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

xoserve (DA) reminded members that this change is awaiting the Authority decision on UNC modification 0224 before being scheduled for implementation.

3.2 COR 462b – Expiry of Gemini Exit Zones & Downstream Impacts

xoserve (DA) advised members that the change relates to a proposed amendment to the Exit Zone field character size from its current level of three (3) to either eight (8) or nine (9) following identification of issues associated with the geographical/shipper relationship. He went on to add that this only relates to the CSEP system and xoserve will be seeking approval of the change at the September meeting.

A communication identifying the details associated with this change and seeking user’s views on the proposed February 2010 implementation date will be included as part of the change pack due to be release on Friday 14/08/09.

3.3 COR 1374 – MIPI Phase II

xoserve (DA) informed members that he is seeking approval of this change as a Class 1 as it relates to the internal MIPI Phase II system switch over (proposed for October 09) from the current IE3 (downstream from Gemini) platform. In response to the question of what would happen in the event of a MIPI failure, DA advised that both systems would be run in parallel for a short period before final decommissioning of IE3. Communication EH/919/DD dated 07/08/09 provides a more detailed breakdown of the proposal. In light of the discussions, members approved the reclassification of this change to a Class 1 modification.

Chair (JB) informed members that since the implementation of Phase I, National Grid have been publishing the information on their web site. Members should note that changes to MIPI are included within the UKLC Terms of Reference as the details are held within the Network Code Operational Reporting Manual (NCORM). SM agreed to take an action to investigate National Grid’s progress on changes required to the NCORM to facilitate the implementation of this change request.

Action UKL1165: National Grid (SM) to investigate National Grid's progress on changes required to the NCORM to facilitate the implementation of this change request.

Before moving on, DA asked members to note the subtle change to the presentation format in this month's implementation plan, citing the need to distinguish between formal and informal release dates as being the main driver of the change to the layout.

3.4 COR 1353.1 & 1353.2 – DNO Failure to Supply Gas Process – Facilitating Compensation Payments to End users on iGt & DNO Networks

In opening, DA apologised for the late release of communication EH/920/JS at 16:56 the previous evening. The communication followed identification of two errors during testing:

- one associated with file format 'building number' field length (character value) being four (4) rather than the correct twenty (20) places, and
- the 'invoice number' field incorrectly showing as a mandatory field.

DA wondered if members would continue to support the proposed implementation date of 15/08/09 for component 1353.1 in light of the fact that it had previously been proposed that the file formats would be issued via email for a short period and he anticipates NO user system impacts associated with this early implementation date. (It is noted that this specifically relates to FSI supporting information file(s) K29, 30, 31 & 32 only). Furthermore, as the file formats will be issued via email, user's systems will not reject them. DA pointed out that 15/08/09 remains his preferred date as xoserve have onshore development teams in situ and already working on this matter. However, should members be unhappy with the suggested approach the implementation could be deferred until Feb 2010 but would require adoption of a manual workaround process for the interim period.

In response, AC voiced concern that adequate Shipper representation is not possible with only two Shipper members present at the meeting. As a consequence, he feels unable to support a 15/08/09 implementation date, preferring to delay until February 2010. MF indicated that he believes RWE npower are already in a position to cope with the proposed changes. DA then proposed implementing the change as planned, supported by the issue of a communication seeking Shipper views (5 day consultation) and thereafter incorporating any suggested changes retrospectively. Alternatively, DA suggested that the change could be implemented as scheduled, supported by a 'truncated character' based workaround solution to ensure that the subsequent issuing of email communications remains consistent with previous UKLC agreements on this matter. AC remained unconvinced with the proposals indicating that he would prefer a simpler solution based on a one week deferral from 15/08/09 to 22/08/09 which would still support a 5 day consultation process, although he did concede that he would be likely to accept a November 09 release subject to being happy with any post meeting notified changes.

DA agreed to take an action to look into issuing a communication providing additional supporting information (inc. UKLC discussion summary) and assurances (from xoserve) and seeking views of the Shipper community during a 5 day consultation period.

Action UKL1166: xoserve (DA) to consider issuing a communication (relating to COR 1351.1 & 1351.2), providing additional supporting information (inc. UKLC discussion summary) and assurances (from xoserve) and seeking views of the Shipper community during a 5 day consultation period.

3.5 Changes to UK Link Manual to Amend Gemini Contingency Procedures

xoserve (DA) informed members that this remains 'on track' for a November 2009 implementation.

3.6 COR 1617 – Change to Pulse Value Format

xoserve (DA) informed members that this CR was presented and discussed at the July meeting and remains 'on track' for a February 2010 implementation. However, it should be noted that the change will probably 'go live' around the last Thursday in the month, and therefore, is expected to be implemented on or around Saturday 27/02/2010 following the Friday (26/02/2010) run.

3.7 COR1360 – NTS Exit Reform Phase 1

xoserve (DA) informed members that the implementation date for this change is still under consideration and will be confirmed in due course, with the most likely date being 23/05/2010.

Scottish Power is currently undertaking a review of the file formats which could result in future, administration only, type changes. DA proposed adopting a 'drip feed' approach to any future administration changes as a means of avoiding unnecessary delays.

In closing, AC voiced concern surrounding the work undertaken on one or more UNC Modifications and the possible inference that changes maybe made to file formats outside the formal UKLC processes. In response, DA agreed to undertake an action to investigate which of the current UNC modifications is involved and what the status of their outcomes might be.

Action UKL1167: xoserve (DA) to investigate whether or not any UNC Modifications are seeking to change UK Link File Formats outside of the formal UKLC processes.

4. Review of Topics Status Report

xoserve (DA) provided members with an overview of the current thinking relating to the xoserve strategic initiative, indicating that three (3) areas have been identified, as follows:

- Project Nexus – update now expected at October UKLC meeting;
- IP Solution (Introduction of a Data Warehouse) – delivery to replace existing ad-hoc User Pays & Commercial Costing reporting suite with NO external Shipper impact anticipated at present. A detailed update is expected at September UKLC meeting, and
- ConQuest Replacement – final negotiations with chosen vendor underway with an anticipated April 2010 implementation of a BPMS based Workflow Management platform, although a proposed 'phased' approach to delivery may see this date slip to May/June 2010. Whilst the initial proposal is to utilise 'off the shelf' BPMS Workflow Management Systems, there maybe some consequential user system impacts involved. The new platform is seen as a long term strategic replacement for ConQuest with integration with UKL systems being a major benefit.

Intention is to retain the 'look and feel' of the current system whilst considering new solutions such as single sign on (perhaps on a by user basis) and enhanced performance in a cost effective package which caps development costs and introduces a range of industry recognisable standards.

In adopting a business as usual approach, User views on what is required will be sought in due course, possibly by the end of September 2009 as it is proposed that the development cycle will commence in October 09. Currently xoserve are

considering whether or not a more formal industry debate is required and this maybe facilitated by an 'add on' forum within the UKLC meeting(s). However, DA considers that the matter has been well documented at other industry meetings such as the Operational Forum, but agreed to take a new action to issue a communication providing more detail on the matter.

When asked, DA confirmed that xoserve will continue to provide Gemini updates for the foreseeable future.

In closing, Chair (JB) provided an on screen update on the UKLC topic report to be submitted to the August Uniform Network Code Committee (UNCC).

Action UKL1168: xoserve (DA) to consider issuing a communication providing more detail on the proposed ConQuest replacement (BPMS) seeking Users views on what their requirements maybe.

Action UKL1169: Joint Office (JB) to ensure that the UKLC Topic Report is presented to the August UNCC meeting for due consideration.

5. Performance Reporting

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

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)

Chair (JB) pointed out that further communications had been issued since this report was compiled.

Thereafter, the report was accepted.

7. Planned Outages (xoserve Report E)

xoserve (DA) apologised before pointing out that the Gemini outage date should read as 11/10/2009 and not 11/11/2009 as displayed.

Thereafter, the report was accepted.

8. AOB

- AQ Review 2009 Presentation

A copy of the presentation is available to view and/or download from the Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site at:

In reviewing the presentation DA highlighted the fact that last day for Shipper Amendment files is today and that the proposed system catch up activity scheduled for 23 – 25 September had historically been a significant undertaking for xoserve. Parties can expect to stop receiving their normal response files during this period although the files will be processed manually and in chronological order with the appropriate date stamps being applied.

When asked, DA confirmed that should the submission of MAM files inadvertently overflow into the AQ window it would be necessary to consider adoption of some form of a manual workaround to remove any potential backlog that might result.

- 2010 UKLC Release Dates

xoserve (DA) informed members that the 2010 release dates are as follows:

- Friday 26 February;
- Friday 26 June, and
- Friday 05 November

DA pointed out that xoserve remain nervous regarding the potential impacts of the invoicing calculation on the November release and requested that the members note this concern and acknowledge that they (xoserve) may seek a more flexible approach in due course.

Members formally approved the above release dates.

- Rescheduling the September UKLC meeting start time

National Grid NTS (SM) requested, and members agreed, to commence the September meeting at 09:00am to avoid conflicting with various Project Nexus Topic Workgroup meetings scheduled to take place on the same day.

9. Next Meeting

The September 2009 UK Link Committee meeting will be via teleconference and is scheduled to commence at **09:00 am** on Thursday 10 September 2009.

APPENDIX A

ACTION LOG: UK Link Committee 13 August 2009

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref (original ref)	Action	Owner*	Status Update
UKL 1159	11/06/09	1.2 (3.4)	Investigate whether or not API's could be included within Phase 2 of the High Level Release Plan.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at September meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1161	11/06/09	1.2 (3.4)	Consider preparation and delivery of suitable training materials to appropriate timescales.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at October meeting. Carried Forward
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 September meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1165	13/08/09	3.2	Investigate National Grid's progress on changes required to the NCORM to facilitate the implementation of this change request.	National Grid NTS (SM)	Update due at September meeting.
UKL 1166	13/08/09	3.3	Consider issuing a communication (relating to COR1351.1 & 1351.2), providing additional supporting information (inc. UKLC discussion summary) and assurances (from xoserve) and seeking views of the Shipper community during a 5 day consultation period.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at September meeting.
UKL 1167	13/08/09	3.0	Investigate whether or not any UNC Modifications are seeking to change UK Link File Formats outside of the formal UKLC processes.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at September meeting.
UKL 1168	13/08/09	4.0	Consider issuing a communication providing more detail on the proposed ConQuest replacement (BPMS) seeking Users views on what their requirements maybe.	xoserve (DA)	Update due at September meeting.
UKL 1169	13/08/09	4.0	Ensure that the UKLC Topic Report is presented to the August UNCC meeting for due consideration.	Joint Office (JB)	Completed 13/08/09.

*** Key to action owner**

DA David Addison, xoserve

JB John Bradley, Joint Office