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**UK LINK Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday 09 August 2007**  
**held at Elexon, 350, Euston Road, London**

**Attendees**

Mike Berrisford	(MiB)	Joint Office
Lorna Dupont	(LD)	Joint Office
Annie Griffith	(AG)	xoserve
Caroline Purcell	(CP)	xoserve (on behalf of Transporters)
Dave Addison	(DA)	xoserve
David Mayne	(DM)	RWE Npower
Kate Potts	(KP)	E.ON UK
Martin Brandt	(MB)	Scottish and Southern Energy
Mick Curtis	(MC)	$e=mc^2$ (for Shell)
Nicola Rigby	(NR)	National Grid NTS
Roger Sinclair	(RS)	Total Gas & Power
Simon Langley	(SL)	xoserve
Simon Trivella	(ST)	Wales and West Utilities
Tiago Vasconcelos	(TV)	Total Gas & Power

**1. Review of Minutes and Actions**

**1.1. Minutes**

The minutes of the July meeting were accepted.

**1.2. Review of actions.**

Appendix A contains a tabulated update on actions.

UKL 1075 – please see item 3.2 below.

UKL 1088 – please see item 3.3 below.

UKL 1089 – please see item 3.3 below.

UKL 1090 – please see item 3.3 below.

UKL 1091 – please see item 4.1 below.

UKL 1092 – please see item 4.1 below.

UKL 1093 – please see item 7.0 below.

**2. Other Industry Fora**

MiB provided members with an update on all recently “closed” UNC modifications, as follows:

- 0088 “Extension of DM service to enable Consumer Demand Side Management”. Rejected 27 July 2007;
- 0152/0152A/0152B “Limitation on Retrospective Invoicing and Invoice Correction.” All three modifications withdrawn after variation requests raised, and
- 0161 “Individual Supply Point Reconciliation”. Withdrawn 17 July 2007.

MiB provided attendees with an update on the “live” UNC modifications with a potential impact upon UK Link systems, as follows:

- 0115/0115A “Correct Apportionment of NDM Error”, minimal UK Link system impacts anticipated. The June Panel did not recommend implementation and now awaiting an Ofgem decision;
- 0136V “Reconciliation following AQ Amendment where an SSP becomes an LSP prior to calculation of Provisional Annual Quantity”. System Impacts are expected to be minor. The July Panel recommended implementation and now awaiting an Ofgem decision;
- 0152V/0152AV/0152VB “Limitation on Retrospective Invoicing and Invoice Correction.” Final Modification Reports will be considered at the 16 August 2007 Panel meeting;
- 0156/0156A “Transfer and Trading of Capacity between ASEPs.” 03 August 2007 Panel recommended implementation in both cases and now awaiting an Ofgem decision;
- 0162 “Review of information provision to Shippers in respect of forecasting the future path of transportation charges”. This is a Review Proposal with possible UK Link system impacts, although these are unclear at this time. First review group meeting scheduled for 13 August 2007;
- 0164 “Bi-Directional Connection Point Overrun Charge Calculation”. Some UK Link system impacts, although these are unclear at this time, and
- 0166 “Review of necessary reform of NTS Offtake Arrangements”. This is a new Review Proposal raised by British Gas Trading on 08 August 2007 which will be considered at the 16 August 2007 Panel meeting.

MiB then introduced the following items:

- Operational Forums – Transmission Operations Forum.

Chair (MiB) informed members that R Griffiths, xoserve had given a Gemini and Gemini Oracle Software Upgrade Project update at the previous days Operations Forum.

*A copy of the presentation is available to view or download at:*

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/OperationalInfo/operationsforum/>

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

#### **3.1 CR 13760 – Shipper Agreed Reads Procedural Change**

xoserve (DA) informed members that there was nothing further to report and this was carried forward.

#### **3.2 Minor Amendment to CALMS System**

xoserve (DA) advised members that this is a Class 1 change, with implementation likely to be in sometime within the next two (2) months. A notification will be issued in due course. It was agreed that the action could now be closed.

**Action UKL1075: Closed**

#### **3.3 CR 13829 – DN Interruption Reform**

This was discussed at length. SL advised that 3 responses had been received after the July meeting and xoserve had responded in turn. At this meeting agreement was being sought on implementation.

MC asked what happened when customer no longer wishes to be interruptible.

**Action UKL1094:** xoserve (SL) to document the process for redesignating Supply Point Capacity as Firm.

DM asked about the issues that had been raised in responses. SL advised that the Networks had directed xoserve to build a system capable of handling the potentially high volumes that could be generated by the bid process. Properly structured flat files will enable any party to process files at a level of their choosing, with a consistent format applied across the board.

DM understood that the system had to reflect the level of sites that may be involved; the number was not yet confirmed but was probably far fewer than at present but argued that having to make the amendments required can be significantly expensive; to bid for Interruptible capacity may not be successful and therefore Shippers may be making changes for no reason at all. SL commented that the system would simply be generating files that would be needed to enable parties to participate in the process, and believed that the issues raised were really to be directed against the modification and not the system solution.

ST stated that the Transporters had instructed xoserve to build the system and that the alternative of a manual system and its associated costs had been looked at. xoserve had designed the best solution to minimise the changes to UK Link taking account of Shippers' request to do so, and the Transporters were supportive of this. Each of the 9000 potentially eligible sites could participate in a number of tranches and a number of bids can be made. In answer to DM's question on frequency ST stated that it may not be a once a year process.

ST reiterated that much work had been done to make sure that the proposed solution was fit for purpose and for moving forward. Issues of cost had been questioned and a manual alternative could be more expensive than the system changes. A certain level of detail needed to flow between all parties and in the Transporters' view the solution is fit for purpose. DM again pointed out that the level of changes required at the Shipper's end was causing difficulties. He thought that the number of successful bids would be lot lower than anticipated.

DA responded that the tender process covered potential eligibility and these could potentially receive bids. The bid process was xoserve's main focus of concern and how to manage volumes of bids through the timescales allowed in the auction process. DM accepted this, but the final number of sites was crucial for RWE Npower; for small Shippers the investment costs were difficult to justify given the potentially small number of sites.

DA stated that what the Committee was being asked to approve was "Is the Transporters' proposal appropriate?"

DM agreed that the solution proposed by xoserve would work, but whether it was the appropriate solution was in question. The amount of work required to implement the changes could be prohibitive for the smaller shipper, RWE included and a March date would be difficult to achieve. xoserve thought that the complexity had arisen in terms of RWE's internal system and not necessarily the interface with UK Link. The issue was therefore with the modification itself and the ability/inability of the Shipper to implement within the timescales, given the investment apparently required.

xoserve believed that the solution is relevant and understood, and capable of implementation within the timescales of the proposal. Whilst noting RWE Npower's concerns DA argued that the Committee should still be able to give its approval.

MC pointed out that the implementation plan could still be rejected and returned to the UNCC or Ofgem if there was no consensus reached within this meeting.

MB remarked that DM was not opposing the modification - the solution was just too sophisticated; however it was acknowledged that to do anything less is difficult for xoserve as critical data files needed to be passed and processed using a secure

and stable system to maintain accuracy and quality, and that with a manual system the potential for error would be increased.

MC asked if there were any other options. SL reiterated that data needed to be exchanged and available, and a number of pieces of information were required by all parties to enable satisfactory validation. DM commented that RWE were likely to include it in their main system if only for billing purposes – and that spreadsheets were subject to many errors.

MB raised a query relating to IAD. There was still concern that the access was limited to 125 persons at any one time. CP responded that 300 was currently the maximum. SL confirmed that IAD had not approached this capacity. MB commented that he found the system slow but stable, but still had concerns about increasing the use at this time.

Provision of a report was discussed. The request for a report of the interruptible contracts in place, to be published after the completion of the auction process, was still being investigated. DA pointed out that Consumer representatives had indicated within the Modification Report that this information should not be published unless customer consent had been obtained. MB observed that already TAP and MAP files give a lot of technical information for I&C customers that is available to view. Information has to be provided in line with the Business Rules and the solution has been developed in line with the proposal and the business requirements. Providing information by some other means is less secure and may need to clear other legal obstacles. It was not known how long it would take for a decision to be reached on whether this report could be provided. SL advised the group that provided there were no legal grounds for objection then xoserve was prepared to provide a file additional to the IAD. TV and MC agreed that having a list of successful sites would be more helpful to Shippers.

Returning to the question of approval, DA queried that if xoserve were not able to provide a report was the solution acceptable as per Business Rules/Mod Proposal?

TV indicated there would still be a lot of resistance to approval, as there was no real assurance that the report could be provided and there would be no recourse if approval was given and the answer to the report provision was eventually in the negative. The solution as proposed added a lot of work to the quotation process and Shippers could do without that. TV confirmed to DA that approval of the proposal was dependent on the provision of this report.

ST stated that the direction to implement had already been made by Ofgem. No comments were received from other Shippers and this inferred approval of the proposed solution. It was pointed out that if approval was not given at this meeting and deferred to the next then this would mean a reduced (5 month) notice period and move into a subsequent release. DA made it clear that if a consensus was not reached at this meeting and the decision is deferred to the following meeting then the UK Link Committee accepted that the 6 month period would be waived and the February release date would be observed. MB commented that deferring by one month was unlikely to change SSE's position. MC stated that Shell was proceeding on the basis that the Change was going ahead. DM and TV thought that the ability to provide an additional report may affect their decisions.

The Committee was asked to formally vote on the Implementation Plan as proposed by the Transporters – ie approval of the original proposal.

Approval was not given by RWE Npower (DM) and Total Gas and Power (TV) therefore a consensus was not reached and the proposal was not approved,

ST reiterated that this Change was not affected by the decision/legal opinion and was not a material impact to the solution. It was acknowledged that the reporting

element was obstructing approval of the Change but in the Transporters' view this had no material effect on the proposal.

Following the outcome of the voting DA and ST announced that in terms of the Transporters' position, under UNC Section U8.4.5(a) and (b) (read out by ST) the Transporters intended to proceed with the Change and would formally give notice to the community. It was agreed that the formal notice should be issued on Friday 10 August 2007, thereby giving Users 5 Business Days, (Monday 13 August – Friday 17 August 2007), to formally respond.

**Action UK1095:** Transporters (ST) to provide formal notification to the community for circulation by Joint Office on Friday 10 August 2007.

*Please refer to the email issued by the Joint Office entitled "Notice of implementation for UK Link Change UKL13829 "DN Interruption" under UNC Section U8.4.5", dated 10 August 2007 and <http://www.gasgovernance.com/NR/rdonlyres/40BC5B3F-5229-4E75-BBFA-17276F16A819/19089/NoticeofImplementationforUKLinkChangeUKL13829.pdf>*

In regard to outstanding Actions 1088, 1089 and 1090, DA advised members that changes had been made to the IAD to make it more robust; and that monitoring would continue. It was agreed that actions 1088 and 1089 could now be closed and that 1090 should be carried forward.

**Action UKL1088: Closed**

**Action UKL1089: Closed**

**Action UKL1090: Carried Forward**

### **3.4 CR 13885 Application of Interruptible capacity discounts following a change in capacity/commodity split**

A communication (MP/750/DJ) was issued on 13 July 2007. The Committee was asked to note that there was no inference that the pricing change has been approved but xoserve had written out to solicit Shipper opinion on the change being a Class 1 Modification. One response had been received. No issues were raised. this change will remain in "Awaiting Scheduling" until approval of the consultation.

### **3.5 Restriction of Invoice Billing Period**

This was associated with Proposals 0152/0152A/0152B and 0126. xoserve were waiting for further clarity; DA advised it was likely to be a Class 1 change. No changes to file formats were anticipated.

### **3.6 CR 13839 – Gemini Oracle Software Upgrade**

Two implementation dates had been scheduled, and a 'go/no go' meeting was taking place. Some technical difficulties were being experienced, but at this time the intention was still to go ahead with the outage. If this was not required then notification will be sent out as soon as possible.

### **3.7 CR 13818 – Invoice Numbers on CSEP Invoice File Formats**

Progress was on schedule. A notional implementation date will be available once the October CSEP Invoice has been issued.

### **3.8 CR 13862 – Customer Charge Structure for 0.73MWH Loadband: Full Solution from 01/10/07**

xoserve (DA) advised the Committee that this change remains 'on track' for a November 2007 release.

### **3.9 CR 13861 – Rejections associated with Shipper AQ Amendments**

This was on track with a notional February 2008 release. Implementation would take place after the expiry of August AQ Window. A notification will be issued in due course.

#### 4. Review of Topics Status Report

##### 4.1. Topic 008UKL UK Link Technology Refresh

Following the presentation last month, xoserve (AG) advised that there was nothing new to report on the implementation and cutover. The cutover was still planned for February 2008, with 2 non-effective days and 4 days' relief from Datalogger liabilities.

MB asked if consideration had been given to doing it a month later. AG confirmed that this had been considered but discounted as it was felt that the AQ process, with its high volume of updates, would complicate it at that time. There were also the added complexities of the parallel development of other changes that would be in progress at the same time.

With regard to the Shipper Trials AG reported that the project team were considering how to accommodate the processing of files and that this was being actively worked on to see how this could be done. AG expected to have details of how the Shipper trial will operate at the September Committee.

SSE (MB) was concerned that with testing taking place in November this would mean a lot of work for participants. He therefore asked if the information could be produced in advance of next month's meeting. Earlier provision of the information would be helpful. It was agreed that actions 1091 and 1092 could now be closed.

**Action UKL1091: Closed**

**Action UKL1092: Closed**

#### 5. Performance Reporting

xoserve (CP) 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)

It was noted that this contained the previous month's figures and not the current figures. DA apologised for the error and the information would be reissued as soon as possible.

Please see: <http://www.gasgovernance.com/Code/UNCCSubCommittees/UKLinkCommittee/2007Meetings/>

#### 7. Planned Outages (xoserve Report E)

This report was accepted.

**Action 1093:** Work is continuing to rationalise the lists and an update will be available at the September meeting, therefore the action is carried forward. **Carried Forward.**

## 8. AOB

xoserve, (DA) advised that there were three communications relevant to the 2008 Calendar, as follows:

- Mod 613 Schedule;
- Non Business Day Notification (this would not cover the Non Effective Days – a separate communication would be issued for these), and
- 2008 Release Implementation Timescales. DA drew the Committee's attention to communication EH755/DA that notified of a proposed deviation from the SPAA schedule to 22 February 2008. This was to account for the functional change of DN interruption at the same time as the UKLink Technical Refresh, and the potential Class 1 Change, Interruptible Capacity Charges.

MB commented that in respect of DN Interruption the flows would not actively be used on 22 February 08, and suggested that the date be left as 29 February 08, and accepted that the actual implementation may take place on 22 February.

It was therefore noted that at the request of the Committee the date of 29 February 2008 would continue to be observed based on changes currently in the plan.

DA then went on to advise members that three (3) Class 1 notifications were to be issued, as follows:

- Document only change: IDB energy balancing invoice file – 45 maximum occurrences;
- Inconsistent treatment of error message: FIL 00127 Gemini system – rejection reasons. DA advised that this was being addressed and that consistency across other messages was also being reviewed, with the aim of improving the level of information received, and
- Issue of supporting documents via IX: UKL13824 A header file had been issued that was not consistent with the standard header A000. DA advised that this would be a Class 1 change to amend the header (a communication had been sent out on 02 August 2007, EH/756/DJ – UKL 13824) and this would be scheduled as soon as possible. The Committee asked that the Communication be reissued with the Change Pack.

Chair (MiB) reminded members about the recent notification issued by the Joint Office, on behalf of Gemserv, regarding the forthcoming UK Link Committee membership elections.

## 9. Next Meeting

10:00 am Thursday 13 September 2007 at Elexon, 350 Euston Road, London

## APPENDIX A

## ACTION LOG: UK Link Committee 09 August 07

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref (original ref)	Action	Owner*	Status Update
UKL 1075	14/12/06	3.2 (3.3)	xoserve to investigate possible implementation date for the Minor Amendment to CALMS System.	xoserve (DA)	Completed <b>Closed</b>
UKL 1088	14/06/07	3.3 (3.11)	xoserve to investigate impact of IAD failure during a Change of Supplier transaction including potential levels of usage.	xoserve (DA)	Completed <b>Closed</b>
UKL 1089	14/06/07	3.3 (3.11)	xoserve to consider members concerns surrounding an alternative solution to IAD in the event of a failure.	xoserve (DA)	Completed <b>Closed</b>
UKL 1090	12/07/07	3.3 (3.3)	xoserve to investigate the legal position in respect of publication of interruptible contracts in place and if this is an issue, circulate the reasons constraining publication at least five days prior to the August meeting.	xoserve (DA)	Update due September 07. <b>Carried Forward</b>
UKL 1091	12/07/07	4.1 (4.2)	xoserve to consider full processing of shipper files during the Shipper Trials and whether the planning dates could be moved forward. (UK Link Technology Refresh)	xoserve (AG)	Completed <b>Closed</b>
UKL 1092	12/07/07	4.1 (4.2)	xoserve to report back to the August meeting on progress with more in-depth planning of the implementation at cut-over. (UK Link Technology Refresh)	xoserve (AG)	Completed <b>Closed</b>
UKL 1093	12/07/07	7.0 (7.0)	xoserve to report back to the September meeting on the rationalisation of the circulation lists.	xoserve (CP)	Update due September 07. <b>Carried Forward</b>
UKL 1094	09/08/07	3.3	xoserve to document the process for redesignating Supply Point Capacity as Firm	xoserve (SL)	Update due September 07.



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<b>Action Ref</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Minute Ref</b> (original ref)	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner*</b>	<b>Status Update</b>
UKL 1095	09/08/07	3.3	Transporters (ST) to provide formal notification to the community for circulation by Joint Office on Friday 10 August 2007.	Trans' (ST)	Completed 10 August 07.

**\* Key to action owners**

DA Dave Addison, xoserve

AG Annie Griffith, xoserve

CP Caroline Purcell, xoserve

SL Simon Langley, xoserve

ST Simon Trivella, Wales and West Utilities (on behalf of Transporters)