

UK LINK Committee Minutes

Thursday 09 July 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
Danielle King	(DK) E.ON UK
Karen Healy	(KH) xoserve
Martin Brandt	(MB) SSE
Matthew Rider	(MR) xoserve
Sean McGoldrick	(SM) National Grid NTS
Stephanie Shepherd	(SS) RWE npower

1. Review of Minutes and Actions

1.1. Minutes

SSE (MB) requested clarification of the Volume Increase Assurance statement in item 8. His concerns centred on the 1 million transactions statement and would like to seek an assurance from xoserve that the matter is in hand and capable of being managed in an effective manner. In response, DA pointed out that it should not be assumed from his previous statement that the system could cope with up to 1 million transactions, as it may well actually fail at a lower figure. However, as he stated at the June UKLC meeting with specific reference to the MAM file, as long as xoserve were given sufficient notice so that a timetable could be agreed with British Gas he did not perceive a problem. DA agreed to take an action to discuss British Gas's specific requirements for their proposed future volume transaction increases as a consequence of their June 2010 system changes with one of their personnel (Graham Wood).

Thereafter, the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Action UKL1164: xoserve (DA) to contact BG to discuss their specific volume increase requirements for their proposed June 2010 system change (change to the MAM activity).

1.2. Review of actions.

Appendix A contains a tabulated update on actions.

UKL 1158 – xoserve (DA) informed members that communication EH/910/DA dated 12/06/09 relating to a shortened notification period, had been issued.

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

Action UKL 1158: Closed

UKL 1159 through to 1163 – Please see item 3.8 below.

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”. Final Modification Report will now be considered at the 16.07.09 panel meeting;
- 0224 “Facilitating the use of AMR in the Daily Metered Elective Regime”. With the Authority awaiting a decision.

DA informed members that the proposer has acknowledged this committee’s request for the modification to be included within a normal implementation release. However, it may be necessary to request the committee’s approval for implementation outside a normal release window as obtaining an Authority decision in time for inclusion within the June 2010 release is not possible given a 12 month project delivery timescale. The proposer had expressed some concerns regarding implementing the change within the winter period, hence November 2010 release may not be appropriate.

- 0245 “Review of arrangements regarding the detection and investigation of Theft of Gas”. Review Group scheduled to report to September 09 panel. Can anticipate potential system impacts if a subsequent modification is raised following completion of the group’s work;
- 0246/0246A/0246B “Quarterly NTS Entry Capacity User Commitment”. Currently with the Authority who are conducting an Impact Assessment before making a decision;
- 0248 “Meter Reading Replacement”. Allocated to the Distribution Workstream with a report due at the 16/07/09 panel meeting. It is possible that there may be some system impacts;
- 0250 “Introduction of the Code Contingency Guidelines Document”. Final Modification Report due to be considered at the 16/07/09 panel meeting;
- 0253 “Facilitating a Supply Point Enquiry Service for Large Supply Points”. Proposer has suggested that there may be some system impacts involved. Allocated to the Distribution Workstream with a report due at the 20/08/09 panel meeting, and
- 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”. DA advised members that this 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. User Agents, Traders etc). The proposal is looking to remove the obligation. The Committee acknowledged the modification, and no major impacts were identified. Due to be considered at the 16/07/09 panel meeting.

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

Members acknowledged that this had already been discussed under modification 0224 above.

3.2 COR 664.1 – Amendments to Issue Methodology for OUG & CMP Backup Information

xoserve (DA) advised members that they have been asked to withdraw the change request from the Implementation Plan. This was noted by the Committee.

3.3 COR 1360 – Exit Reform Phase 1

Please refer to the presentation in item 3.8 at the end of this item.

3.4 COR 1617 – Change to Pulse Value Format

xoserve (DA) informed members that this relates to a field length change for the meter pulse value. It will be amended to 7 spaces + 2 decimal places. 1 consultation response had been received rejecting the proposed shortened notification period and associated implementation date, instead requesting that the full 6 month notification period should be applied. Both EDF Energy (AC) and SSE (MB) support this view as it would involve database changes for their respective companies. DA acknowledged the points made and agreed to schedule the change for a February 2010 implementation. However, members should note that in the interim, xoserve may need to issue 'rogue' (inconsistent file formats) MBR's and propose contacting impacted parties when doing so – members indicated their support for this approach. He added that so far, there had been <50 instances of having to issue rogue MBR's. When asked about the number of Sites & Meters instances, DA indicated that there had been <100 meter points with meter pulse values that would lead to inconsistencies instances to date and is therefore considered low risk. Members approved the change with a February 2010 implementation.

3.5 Changes to UK Link Manual to Amend Gemini Contingency Procedures

xoserve (DA) pointed out that this change request is related to UNC Modification Proposal 0250 (as discussed in item 2 above) and the CR has been assigned a November 09 implementation date whilst awaiting approval of the UNC modification. National Grid NTS (SM) advised members that work on the UK Link Manual is ongoing and is looking to bring the processes and procedures up to date.

Members acknowledged that normally they would not be asked to approve an implementation date for a UNC Modification still awaiting an Authority decision. However, in this instance, subject to approval from the Authority, they approved the change with a November 2009 implementation date.

3.6 COR 1353.1 – DNO Failure to Supply Gas Process – Facilitating Compensation Payments to End Users on iGt & DNO Networks

xoserve (DA) advised members that whilst the change will be made in August, the emails issued to Shippers will continue to have a slightly different header format through to November, when communications will switch to being IX based.

3.7 COR 1353.1 – DNO Failure to Supply Gas Process – Facilitating Compensation Payments to End Users on iGt & DNO Networks

xoserve (DA) advised members that this remains change request 'on track'.

3.8 COR1360 NTS Exit Reform (Mod 0195AV) – Screen Pack Change Category Examples Presentation

Opening this item, DA pointed out to members that the file pack had been issued as part of the change pack released immediately following the June 09 UKLC meeting (Friday 12/06/09) to which one (1) response approving the proposed changes had been received.

He went on to inform members that following the June UKLC meeting, final internal review had identified some minor changes which are now included within this presentation prior to seeking the committees approval.

xoserve (KH) then provided a brief overview of the presentation material, as issued yesterday with supporting matrix. She then proceeded to 'walk through' the five (5) change examples (Label Change, Dummy Data Update, New Screens, Enhanced Explanation and a Change to Screen Structure).

KH closed by advising that the list of changes is available to view and/or download from the Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site at:

www.gasgovernance.com/Code/UNCCSubCommittees/UKLinkCommittee/2009Meetings

DA went on to point out that whilst the implementation plan currently indicates a May/June 2010 implementation date, he will be seeking approval of the change date by the committee outside the normal UKLink Releases. KH added that the 1st application of the change could be expected in July 2010. DA then informed members that whilst acknowledging that xoserve have not yet provided the 2010 implementation plan, he anticipates writing out to interested parties in due course to clarify the dates.

Given that the changes to the screen pack were of a cosmetic nature, Members provided approval of the screen pack without a further representation period. Members also approved implementation of this change outside of the normal UKLink release schedule. xoserve will provide an actual implementation date at a forthcoming meeting.

Members then went on to review the outstanding Exit Reform related actions, as follows:

UKL 1159 – xoserve (KH) informed members that phase 2 is currently being scoped and planned and the possible inclusion of API's is being considered.

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

Action UKL 1159: Carried Forward

UKL 1160 – xoserve (KH) informed members that, whilst the high level release plan is not yet completed, it is envisaged that simulated volume testing will take place, in line with previous practice.

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

Action UKL 1160: Closed

UKL 1161 – xoserve (KH) informed members that nature and timing of the provision of suitable training materials is still being considered and she anticipates being in a position to report back to the October meeting.

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

Action UKL 1161: Carried Forward

UKL 1162 – xoserve (KH) informed members that it is envisaged that previous Gemini cutover/contingency plans could be mirrored for Exit Reform. DA added that xoserve would be happy to support this type of approach and would be looking to engage with the committee to gauge opinion sometime near to March 2010.

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

Action UKL 1162: Closed

UKL 1163 – xoserve (KH) informed members that the proposed reporting provision had been developed based upon the principles on previous releases to Gemini. A key design consideration is to alleviate concerns surrounding potential performance issues associated with large downloads of data and to enable Users to view the high level data at a glance. KH/DA proposed that the reporting provision remains as per the screen pack; to which Members agreed.

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

Action UKL 1163: Closed

4. Review of Topics Status Report

Chair (JB) reminded members that whilst currently there is no business for discussion, it is proposed to add a new topic covering 'xoserve strategic initiatives' from August onwards.

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) pointed out that the Gemini item has been on the report for quite some time and the tentative date of the morning of Sunday 20/09/09 has now gone back to a date in October – he is awaiting further clarification. In addition, he proposes adding a new line for Exit Reform in future reports.

Thereafter, the report was accepted.

8. AOB

- Change Pack Update

xoserve (DA) informed members that the change pack due to be issued tomorrow, Friday 10.07.09 will include a communication covering minor changes to the RGMA (2004 UPN file error) and the Objection File (change rejection previously ignored). He went on to point out that no faulty RGMA file has been issued to date. The intention is to issue the communication giving 10 business days for representation.

Post meeting note, please refer to communication EH/915/DA, dated 10.07.09 for further detail.

9. Next Meeting

The August 2009 UK Link Committee meeting will be via teleconference and is scheduled to commence at 10:00 am on Thursday 13 August 2009.

APPENDIX A

ACTION LOG: UK Link Committee 09 July 2009

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref (original ref)	Action	Owner*	Status Update
UKL 1158	11/06/09	1.2 (3.2)	Outline the details of the Committee's approval of the shortened notification period and the supporting processes (email communication) within the Change Pack to be issued on Friday 12.06.09.	xoserve (DA)	Communication EH/910/DA issued 12.06.09. Completed.
UKL 1159	11/06/09	3.8 (3.4)	Investigate whether or not API's could be included within Phase 2 of the High Level Release Plan.	xoserve (KH)	Update due at August meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1160	11/06/09	3.8 (3.4)	Ensure that Volume Testing is included within the High Level Release Plan.	xoserve (DA/KH)	Update provided. Closed
UKL 1161	11/06/09	3.8 (3.4)	Consider preparation and delivery of suitable training materials to appropriate timescales.	xoserve (DA/KH)	Update due at October meeting. Carried Forward
UKL 1162	11/06/09	3.8 (3.4)	Consider development of cutover and separate contingency plans.	xoserve (DA/KH)	Update provided. Closed
UKL 1163	11/06/09	3.8 (3.4)	Consider introduction of a simplified report generation suite.	xoserve (DA/KH)	Update provided. Closed
UKL 1164	09/07/09	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 August meeting.

* Key to action owner

DA David Addison, xoserve

KH Karen Healy, xoserve