

UK LINK Committee Minutes
Thursday 11 June 2009
held at Elexon, 350, Euston Road, London

Attendees

John Bradley (Chair)	(JB) Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Mike Berrisford (Secretary)	(MiB) Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Danielle King	(DK) E.ON UK
Dave Addison	(DA) xoserve
Dina Mihsein	(DM) National Grid Distribution
Graham Jack	(GJ) Centrica
James Smith	(JS) EDF Energy
Karen Healy	(KH) xoserve
Mark Cockayne	(MC) xoserve
Matthew Hatch	(MH) National Grid Transmission
Matthew Rider	(MR) xoserve
Martin Brandt	(MB) SSE
Sean McGoldrick	(SM) National Grid NTS

Apologies

Douglas O'Brien	Bórd Gáis Eirean
Stephanie Shepherd	RWE Npower

1. Review of Minutes and Actions

Chair (JB) opened the meeting by informing members present that the xoserve 'COR1360 NTS Exit Reform (Mod 195AV)' presentation would be delivered at the end of this meeting.

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 1153 – Please refer to item 7.

UKL 1157 – xoserve (MC) informed members that, the technical view is that the transaction figures are NOT falsely inflated. Furthermore, comparison with historical data for the same period(s) in 2008, appear to support that view. However, he will be discussing the matter in more detail with his service provider.

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

Action UKL 1157: Closed

2. Other Industry Fora

JB provided members with a verbal update on the recently "closed" UNC modifications and advised them that the modification reports are available to view and download from the Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site.

- 0226 “Additional Data Requirements for the Administration of CSEP Supply Points”. Restricted to CSEP system changes only. Implemented with effect from 06:00hrs on 01/10/09;
- 0244/0244B “Amending DM Supply Point Data for Sites with Significant Changes in Usage”. Rejected 20.05.09, and
- 0244A “Introduction of an Exception Process for Decreases in Supply Point Capacity (SOQ) at Daily Metered (DM) Supply Points”. Rejected 20.05.09.

Moving on, JB 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”. At the May UNC modification panel meeting members present were unable to make an informed decision whilst they await guidance from the Authority on several key issues relating to the modification. A Final Modification Report will now be considered at the 18.06.09 panel meeting;
- 0224 “Facilitating the use of AMR in the Daily Metered Elective Regime”. Due to the scope of the proposals, an extended consultation period was agreed. Consultation ended 08/06/09 and the modification will now be considered at the June panel meeting;
- 0228/0228A “Correct Apportionment of NDM Error – Energy”. In both cases, the panel did not recommend implementation. Currently with the Authority who are conducting an Impact Assessment before making a decision;
- 0229 “Mechanism for correct apportionment of unidentified gas”. Currently out for consultation which is scheduled to end 12.06.09. The Authority have indicated that they will be undertaking an Impact Assessment for this modification;
- 0246/0246A/0246B “Quarterly NTS Entry Capacity User Commitment”. In the event that 0246B is approved, the impact would affect both previous and future auctions and as a consequence parties will need to provide forward security to cover their long term entry provisions. The first auctions are due to take place in September 09 however, should 0246B be approved it maybe February 2010 before the auctions take place.

Currently with the Authority who are conducting an Impact Assessment at the end of June before making a decision;

- 0250 “Introduction of the Code Contingency Guidelines Document”. Currently out for consultation which is scheduled to end 12.06.09. However, to date, no responses have been received. The modification proposes changes to the UK Link Manual;
- 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
- 0254 “Facilitating the use of forecast data in the UNC”. Involves the passage of information into the system, rather than any specific system changes.

Chair (JB) advised members that the Operational Forum had last met on the previous day (Wednesday 10/06/09) where xoserve provided a brief Gemini presentation covering the recent outages which had taken place over the last two (2) months. The outages themselves were considered to be minor in nature.

Also at the meeting, the DNCC provided an update on the forthcoming contact details exercise scheduled for July 09. A copy of the presentation and details of the exercise can be found on the National Grid web site 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 COR 1133 – Facilitating the use of AMR in a DM Elective Regime

xoserve (DA) informed members that the consultation period on this change request had now closed and xoserve are awaiting the Authority decision on modification 0224 before proposing an implementation date.

3.2 COR 1353 – DNO Failure to Supply Gas Process – Facilitating Compensation Payments to End Users on iGt & DNO Networks

xoserve (DA) advised members that one (1) response to communication EH/899/RN dated 15.05.09 had been received rejecting the proposed changes. It is now envisaged that a follow up communication will be issued shortly.

DA then enquired if any members had an issue with the proposed August 09 implementation date. MB responded by reminding members that the 'normal' notification period is six (6) months and believes that the proposed two (2) month period is unreasonable as his technical colleagues believe that there are significant system impacts involved for SSE. However, he would be more comfortable with a proposed November 09 implementation. Whilst sharing MB's concerns, EDF Energy (JS) indicated that he would prefer the full six (6) month notification period.

In response to these points, DA suggested, and members agreed, to opt for a November implementation whilst acknowledging that from August the emails issued to Shippers will have a slightly different header format. Additionally, members agreed to continue with an email based communication route in preference to an IX based one.

Action UKL1158: xoserve (DA) to 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.

Post meeting note, please refer to communication EH/910/DA dated 12.06.09 for further detail.

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

xoserve (DA) advised members that this change relates to a move to a data warehousing based solution. However, current thinking is that this change request is unlikely to go ahead and he will provide an update at the July meeting.

3.4 COR 1360 – Exit Reform Phase 1

xoserve (KH) provided members with a brief overview of the 'COR1360 NTS Exit Reform (Mod 195AV)' presentation, a copy of which is available to view and/or download from the Joint Office of Gas Transporters web site at:

<http://www.gasgovernance.com/Code/UNCCSubCommittees/UKLinkCommittee/2009Meetings/>

KH then pointed out that the 'full' screen pack would be available within Friday's change pack release.

During discussions members confirmed that they had not really had time to look at the presentation in any great detail. KH requested that where users have comments to make that they ensure that they provide the correct screen reference number to assist in the collation of any suggested amendments/enhancements.

Moving on, KH informed members that the planning of the later project stages is due to commence in the coming weeks and any feedback on how best to undertake the trials would be welcomed. JS requested early publication of training documentation to assist users and suggested that engagement with the Operational Forum would incentivise users to take part in the Shipper Trial. DA asked members to provide their feedback as early as possible to allow xoserve to structure their testing programme to 'match' user's requirements.

MB suggested that xoserve should consider having suitable contingency arrangements in place sooner, rather than later. In response, DA informed members that since the Gemini OSU, there had been two (2) fundamental Gemini functionality changes and then enquired if the last Gemini contingency plan presentation had been sufficient, to which members indicated that it had.

When asked about any potential issues, members suggested that there may be some surrounding items such as inclusion of API's in phase 2 of the high level plan, reductions and overruns via demand application, the current business rules, CSEP tranches, current status of SIS and transitional arrangements post 2012 amongst other things.

DA informed members that subject to some aspects of xoserve's proposals being non contentious, and responses being supportive, they (xoserve) would be looking to baseline the proposals at the July meeting. However, should comments be received in specific areas, xoserve would be likely to seek partial approval for functional areas where comments had not been received. When asked, members could not currently perceive any problems with the proposed approval timeline.

In closing, Chair (JB) summarised the new xoserve actions as being related to inclusion of volume testing in the plan, provision of training materials, provision of a cutover contingency plan / separate contingency plans, and consideration of adoption of a simplified report generation mechanism.

Action UKL1159: xoserve (KH) to investigate whether or not API's could be included within Phase 2 of the High Level Release Plan.

Action UKL1160: xoserve (DA/KH) to ensure that Volume Testing is included within the High Level Release Plan.

Action UKL1161: xoserve (DA/KH) to consider preparation and delivery of suitable training materials to appropriate timescales.

Action UKL1162: xoserve (DA/KH) to consider development of cutover and separate contingency plans.

Action UKL1163: xoserve (DA/KH) to consider why a number of screens are utilised for reporting purposes as opposed to a more simplified report that contains all data.

3.5 CR14001 – Enduring Transfer and Trade Arrangements

xoserve (DA) informed members that this change was implemented 17.05.09.

3.6 Introduction of New DNI Rejection DNI00549

xoserve (DA) informed members that this change relating to the DNI coding for cancelled bids was implemented 09.04.09.

DA then apologised that the following CR had been inadvertently missed off the plan, but which had previously been included as part of the May change pack.

3.7 AQ Backstop Date

xoserve (DA) informed members that this change was implemented 01.06.09 after no adverse responses had been received. He asked, and members agreed that this update was sufficient and the matter can now rest.

4. Review of Topics Status Report

Chair (JB) reminded members that currently there is no business for discussion.

xoserve (DA) highlighted a number of forthcoming xoserve strategic initiatives. Information Provisioning was discussed at the previous month's meeting in relation to COR664.1. xoserve are currently looking to undertake replacement of the ConQuest system. It is proposed to maintain the existing 'look and feel' in the new system, but there may be consequential changes that would be treated as 'business as usual' changes through UKLink Committee rather than a separate consultation. DA suggested adding a new topic to cover xoserve strategic updates, commencing at the August 09 meeting.

When asked about the basis on which the definition for 'like for like' is formed, DA confirmed that the assumption is that users do not have any concerns with the current system.

DA then informed members that at this early stage of the project, xoserve are currently looking for a 'build partner' and would welcome user feedback as the intention is to upgrade to new technology where ever possible.

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)

MC reminded members that xoserve are currently discussing the transaction numbers with their service provider.

Thereafter, 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 once details have been agreed with National Grid NTS and the service provider concerned, he intends to notify members.

Thereafter, the report was accepted.

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

Action UKL 1153: Closed

8. AOB

- Volume Increase Assurance

SSE (MB) asked xoserve for an assurance that they can cater for potential system volume increases (flows passing into xoserve) in June 2010 when British Gas undertake their proposed system changes.

In response, DA indicated that he does not anticipate any problems so long as they (xoserve) are able to have an early view on potential traffic. Utilisation of a batch file process could be the answer. He went on to remind members that historically breaching the one (1) million transactions had caused concerns. To assist xoserve, DA enquired if MB had a lead contact within BG with whom DA could discuss requirements – unfortunately, MB was unsure as to who within BG was leading this initiative.

- UNC Non Business Days 2010

xoserve (DA) informed members that with respect to the recent notification relating to the 2010 non business days, the SPA transactions observe the January Scottish holiday, but the remaining transactions DO NOT.

- Network Code Modification 0613 Timetable – 2009 and 2010

xoserve (DA) informed members that the format timetable, which runs through to December 2010, is similar to that utilised in previous years. However, as with previous issues, the report is not strictly in-line with Uniform Network Code requirements. The timetable was agreed.

- Change Pack Update

xoserve (DA) informed members that the change pack due to be issued tomorrow, Friday 12.06.09 will include MBR File Format change notification.

Post meeting note, please refer to communication EH/911/DA dated 12.06.09 for further detail.

9. Next Meeting

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

APPENDIX A

ACTION LOG: UK Link Committee 11 June 2009

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref (original ref)	Action	Owner*	Status Update
UKL 1153	12/02/09	7 (7)	Provide an update on the Gemini Exit changes at the March 09 meeting.	xoserve (DA)	Update provided. Closed
UKL 1157	14/05/09	1.2 (5.2)	Investigate why the May 2009 Transactions per day figures looks to be falsely inflated.	xoserve (CW)	Update provided. Closed
UKL 1158	11/06/09	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.
UKL 1159	11/06/09	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 July meeting.
UKL 1160	11/06/09	3.4	Ensure that Volume Testing is included within the High Level Release Plan.	xoserve (DA/KH)	Update due at July meeting.
UKL 1161	11/06/09	3.4	Consider preparation and delivery of suitable training materials to appropriate timescales.	xoserve (DA/KH)	Update due at July meeting.
UKL 1162	11/06/09	3.4	Consider development of cutover and separate contingency plans.	xoserve (DA/KH)	Update due at July meeting.
UKL 1163	11/06/09	3.4	Consider introduction of a simplified report generation suite.	xoserve (DA/KH)	Update due at July meeting.

* Key to action owner

DA David Addison, xoserve

KH Karen Healy, xoserve