

**UK LINK Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday 12 April 2007**  
**held at Elexon, 350, Euston Road, London**

**Attendees**

John Bradley	(JB)	Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Lorna Dupont	(LD)	Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Andrew Keogh	(AT)	e=mc <sup>2</sup> (for Shell)
Caroline Purcell	(CP)	xoserve (for Transporters)
Chris Fears	(CF)	xoserve
Colette Baldwin	(CB)	E.ON UK plc
Dan Simons	(DS)	EDF Energy
Dave Addison	(DA)	xoserve
David Mayne	(DM)	RWE Npower
Graham Wood	(GW)	BGT
Mark Pitchford	(MP)	SAIC Europe Ltd (for ScottishPower)
Martin Brandt	(MB)	SSE
Patrick Duffy	(PD)	Statoil
Sandy Crump	(SC)	E.ON UK plc
Tiago Vasconcelos	(TV)	TGP

**Apologies**

David Addison	xoserve
Mike Berrisford	Joint Office of Gas Transporters

**1. Review of Minutes and Actions**

**1.1. Minutes**

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted.

**1.2. Review of actions.**

Appendix A contains a tabulated update on actions.

UKL1041 – please see item 4.0 below.

UKL1075 – please see item 3.2 below.

UKL1082 – JB advised the meeting that a decision on location/teleconference will be made at least 10 days in advance to assist those who have to make flight arrangements – Action now closed.

**2. Other Industry Fora**

JB provided attendees with an update on all closed UNC modifications with systems implications, as follows:

- 0090 “ Revised DN Interruption Arrangements”. To be implemented, with effect from 06:00hrs 01/04/08. .

- 0116V “Reform of the NTS Offtake Arrangements”. To be implemented with effect from 06:00hrs 01/04/2008, however transitional arrangements will lapse before this date, so other modification proposals may be forthcoming.
- 0119 “Amendment to the Entry Overrun Charge”. Rejected.

JB then provided members with an update on the live UNC modifications with a potential impact upon UK Link systems, as follows:

- 0088 “Extension of DM service to enable Consumer Demand Side Management”. At the request of the Panel the legal text has now been provided. This has potentially major system impacts (possible implementation scheduled for 2008) and will be considered at the 19/04/07 Panel meeting.
- 0115 “Correct Apportionment of NDM Error”. System impacts have been discussed within the Distribution Workstream and they will report to the 19/04/07 Panel meeting.
- 0126 “Restriction of Invoice Billing Period”. Final Review Group Report expected for consideration at the 21/06/07 Panel meeting.
- 0131 “LDZ RbD Reconciliation Notification Process”. Review Group discussions; possible systems implications.
- 0133 “Introduction of the AMTSEC Auction”. Impacts on the Gemini Phase 4 as a ‘replacement’ for 0118. Discussed at the Transmission Workstream; not yet sufficiently developed to go to consultation.
- 0136 “Reconciliation following AQ Amendment where an SSP becomes an LSP prior to calculation of Provisional Annual Quantity”. Minimal systems implications.
- 0138 “Publication of Nodal NTS Demand Forecast”. Urgent status; representations close out 12 April 2007; discussed at Transmission Workstream. Implications for systems include possible datafix or creation of new identity for National Grid. Options under consideration.

JB then introduced the following item:

- Operational Forums – Transmission Operations Forum.

JB advised that there had been no forum since the last meeting and the next operations forum was scheduled for 18 April 2007.

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

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

xoserve (CP) advised attendees that no new information was available at this time.

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

xoserve (CP) advised attendees that it was still in testing and that no new information was available at this time; attendees agreed to carry forward the action.

**Action UKL1075: Carried Forward.**

### **3.3 CR 13819 – Previous Read Reference for Replaced Reads**

xoserve (CP) reminded attendees that this was a Class 1 modification, with a likely implementation date of 22/04/07. This was accepted.

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

xoserve (CP) advised attendees that the proposed implementation date was 02 November 2007; to be confirmed next month.

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

Following Ofgem's approval of 0090, MB suggested that any solutions should not be left until the autumn before being brought back to the Committee. In his view it should be dealt with as soon as possible, and should be discussed at the next meeting. xoserve to indicate what is proposed to be done – CP to give update next month.

**Action UKL1083:** xoserve (CP) to update meeting on solutions for 0090.

### **3.6 Amendment to Cyclic Reading Validity Period**

xoserve (CP) advised attendees that the CR was still 'on track' for a 16/04/07 implementation. No comments had been received.

MB asked for the allocation of a Change Number so that Shippers were able to reference correctly. CP agreed to arrange for this and for other unnumbered items.

**Action UKL1084:** xoserve (CP) to allocate Change Reference Numbers to unnumbered items.

### **3.7 Customer Charge Structure for 0.73.2MWH Loadband: Full Solution from 01/10/07**

CP advised that this was a Class 1 modification, with an implementation date of 03/11/07. This was accepted.

### **3.8 Rejections associated with Shipper AQ Amendments**

MP and DS commented that the idea was good, but the timing was not, and that 2008 would be preferred. CP will make the Committee's views known to the Transporters.

### **3.9 CR 13824 – Issue of Supporting Documentation via IX**

xoserve (CP) advised attendees that approval of the implementation date of 29/06/07 had been sought and that all except Shell had signalled agreement. It was therefore proposed to implement and continue to provide emails to Shell. AK, representing Shell, advised that Shell had requested a 4-6 month implementation period and as he had received no further instructions from Shell was unable to comment further.

JB asked the Committee to make known their views and the consensus was in support of the implementation, on the understanding that Shell would continue to receive supporting documents by email.

### **3.10 CR 13820 - Gemini Release 4**

GW requested that it be noted that it was not considered good practice to plan in short implementation dates on the assumption that a modification proposal would be approved. This can involve parties in incurring unnecessary costs associated with development work. It was not sensible to approve an implementation date for something that was in the event rejected. Others also agreed with this view, and it was stated that going forward the Committee was unlikely to be supportive of any unapproved modification.

The Committee asked for clarification on what was going to be changing on 29 April 2007. CP agreed to clarify changes and issue a separate communication detailing these.

**Action UKL1085:** xoserve (CP) to check the class of the modification and clarify changes, then issue a separate communication detailing these.

### **3.11 CR 13803 – Recovery of Late Paid Energy Balancing Invoice Interest – Creation of 4 New Charge Types**

xoserve (CP) advised attendees that this was 'on track' for a June 07 implementation.

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

xoserve (CP) advised attendees that this was 'on track' for a August 07 implementation.

## **4. Review of Topics Status Report**

### **4.1 Topic 006UKL Gemini Performance Monitoring**

xoserve (CP) read out performance data to the meeting and advised that this will be issued in a separate communication. xoserve would be able to give full information on both servers, available from the week commencing 16 April 2007.

### **4.2 Topic 008UKL UK Link Technology Refresh**

xoserve (CF) gave a presentation and explained the background to the project. The scope was confirmed as covering Sites and Meters and an Invoicing upgrade; it was not an application rewrite. It had been planned to provide a robust system for the next 4-6 years.

CF went on to advise that there had been a change to the proposed implementation date, ie from November 2007 to 23 February 2008. This had been decided because should any large release take place this year it would prove very difficult to maintain the November date. Taking other related factors into account it had seemed prudent to move to a February date to align with the billing cycle (though this date still needed approval from various fora).

Trial data migrations were nearing completion. The next phase included testing of selected key business processes. This testing phase was expected to conclude in May and Shippers would be contacted in July with a view to participation in further testing. CF thought that some directional testing may be carried out, and this would be expected to occur around November – January.

CF explained Cutover, and said that any major impacts were likely to be felt over this period (22/23 February 2008, but still to be agreed). Cutover would be practised 3 or 4 times in advance of final date. CF also advised that an outage would be required to

synchronise the final migration and that data cutover should not have an effect on operational services. At present the outage period requirement was uncertain, but CF would attend the August UK Link Committee meeting to discuss and clarify the position. He stated that the existing systems would not be decommissioned in any way as the data would be migrated onto new kit.

MB asked whether both old and new systems would be loaded (parallel running). CF responded that nothing had been finally agreed as yet, but this may be an option. MB observed that, on past experience, significant data migration was never perfect in its execution and was concerned in light of the industry's great dependency on UK Link. What was the fallback position? Was there a middle ground position if there was no way back? He would be interested to see the contingency plans declared to the UK Link Committee as early as possible so that an assessment could be made as to what actions the industry might need to take to be better prepared. MB also believed that the industry relied far more on automation now and so required a higher percentage level of success – manual recoveries were not really an acceptable option. AK and GD remarked that even a small failure percentage such as 8% would have a significant impact on Shippers and their customers. The Committee would welcome as much communication as possible in respect of the results of the testing.

CF stated that it would be preferred if there were no functional changes between November and February, and it would be most helpful if the approval of any releases should be deferred until after this period.

CF will return with progress updates to the July and August meetings, or earlier if the information becomes available so that the Committee is kept as fully aware as possible.

## **5. Performance Reporting**

xoserve (CP) reviewed the xoserve report pack by exception only.

### **5.1 IS Faults logged by Shippers (xoserve Report A).**

The report was accepted.

### **5.2 UK-Link Business Support Agreement (xoserve Report B)**

The report was accepted.

### **5.3 Liabilities Report (xoserve Report C)**

The report was accepted.

### **5.4 Report on Performance Problems**

The report was accepted.

## **6. File Format and Urgent Communications (xoserve Report D)**

The report was accepted.

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

The report and associated outages were accepted.

## 8. AOB

### 8.1 xoserve Office Relocation

CP gave a short presentation on the phased relocation of xoserve to 31 Homer Road, Solihull. This was due to take place between 02 July – 03 August 2007 and there should be no impact on Shippers.

### 8.2 Change of Representative – E.ON UK

CB advised the Committee that she was stepping down and introduced Sandy Crump as E.ON's new UK Link Committee standing alternate. CB will confirm the change by email to the Joint Office. JB thanked CB for her contributions and welcomed SC to her new role.

### 8.3 Questions of Ownership

MB tabled questions of ownership in respect of the following:

#### 8.3.1 Ownership of UK Link File Formats

MB observed that it was not clear who owns the UK Link file formats. MP commented that at RGMA Ofgem had considered them to be 'owned by the industry'. MB and JB had looked at the Agency Services Agreement, which contained very general legal statements but did not clearly define ownership.

CP and GW agreed to follow up this point with Steve Nunnington (xoserve) who owned the IPR for file formats, and establish whether the UK Link file formats are owned by xoserve, or owned by xoserve on behalf of the Transporters.

**Action UKL1086:** xoserve (CP) and BGT (GW) to establish whether the UK Link file formats are owned by xoserve, or owned by xoserve on behalf of the Transporters.

#### 8.3.2 Ownership of the Information Exchange (IX)

Similarly, it is not clear who owns the IX. CP stated that the IX is managed by xoserve, but owned by National Grid. CP to confirm this.

**Action UKL1087:** xoserve (CP) to establish the ownership of the IX.

## 9 Schedule of Future meetings

10:00am Thursday 10 May 07 at Elexon, 350 Euston Road, London

## APPENDIX A

## ACTION LOG: UK Link Committee - 12 April 2007

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref (original ref)	Action	Owner*	Status Update
UKL 1041	13/04/06	4.0 (3.0) Topic 006UKL	Report back on progress of Topic 006UKL.	xoserve (DA/AG)	On track for March implementation for inclusion in April report. <b>Carried Forward</b>
UKL 1075	14/12/06	3.2 (3.3)	xoserve to investigate possible implementation date for the Minor Amendment to CALMS System.	xoserve (DA)	Update due May 07. <b>Carried Forward</b>
UKL 1082	08/03/07	AOB	JO to consider timing of decision on holding meeting by teleconference	JO (JB)	See 1.2 above <b>Closed</b>
UKL 1083	12/04/07	3.5	CR13829 – xoserve to update meeting on solutions for 0090	xoserve (CP)	Update due May 07
UKL 1084	12/04/07	3.6	xoserve (CP) to allocate Change Reference Numbers to unnumbered items.	xoserve (CP)	Update due May 07
UKL 1085	12/04/07	3.10	CR13820 - xoserve (CP) to check the class of the modification and clarify changes, then issue a separate communication detailing these.	xoserve (CP)	Update due May 07
UKL 1086	12/04/07	8.0	xoserve (CP) and BGT (GW) to establish whether the UK Link file formats are owned by xoserve, or owned by xoserve on behalf of the Transporters.	xoserve (CP) & BGT (GW)	Update due May 07
UKL 1087	12/04/07	8.0	xoserve (CP) to establish the ownership of the IX.	xoserve (CP)	Update due May 07

**\* Key to action owners**

DA Dave Addison, xoserve                      CP Caroline Purcell, xoserve  
AG Annie Griffith, xoserve                      GW Graham Wood, BGT  
JB John Bradley, Joint Office