

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

Attendees

Mike Berrisford	(MiB)	Joint Office
John Bradley	(JB)	Joint Office
Annie Griffith	(AG)	xoserve
Ali Tayyar	(AT)	Statoil
Caroline Purcell	(CP)	xoserve (for Transporters)
David Addison	(DA)	xoserve
David Mayne	(DM)	RWE
Dan Simons	(DS)	EDF Energy
Kate Potts*	(KP)	E.ON UK plc
Martin Brandt	(MB)	SSE
Mick Curtis	(MC)	e=mc ² (for Shell)
Nicola Rigby	(NR)	National Grid
Tiago Vasconcelos	(TV)	TGP

* by teleconference link

1. Review of Minutes and Actions

1.1. Minutes

The minutes of the June meeting were accepted.

1.2. Review of actions.

Appendix A contains a tabulated update on actions.

UKL 1041 – please see item 4.0 below.

UKL 1075 – please see item 3.2 below.

UKL 1088 – please see item 8 below

UKL 1089 – please see item 8 below

2. Other Industry Fora

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

- 0090 “Revised DN Interruption Arrangements”. Please see item 3.3 below;
- 0116V “Reform of the NTS Offtake Arrangements”. This was now with Ofgem following the Competition Commission’s decision to uphold E.ON’s appeal in part.
- 0126 Review Group had finished its work. Please see item on 0152 below.
- 0136 “Reconciliation following AQ Amendment where an SSP becomes an LSP prior to calculation of Provisional Annual Quantity”. This has been withdrawn and replaced by 0136V.

MiB provided attendees 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”. The Modification Panel did not recommend implementation. Concerns at the

likely cost of implementation have been expressed by Ofgem and others, particularly if take-up is low;

- 0115/0115A “Correct Apportionment of NDM Error”, minimal UK Link system impacts anticipated but the Transporters are expected to conduct an Impact Assessment. The June Panel did not recommend implementation.
- 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 Panel decided that reconsultation was necessary and will be considering its view at the July meeting.
- 0152/0152A/0152B “Limitation on Retrospective Invoicing and Invoice Correction.” These had been raised following the conclusion of Review Group 0126. The Proposals differ mainly in the period over which adjust limit? the length of time that invoices can be retrospectively applied. The Transporters anticipated that xoserve, will need to make core system changes but this was not the view of all parties.
- 0156 “Transfer and Trading of Capacity between ASEPs.” xoserve, on behalf of National Grid NTS were carrying out an impact assessment. Preliminary indications were that the Proposal could be implemented using existing UK Link functionality.
- 0161 “Individual Supply Point Reconciliation”. This is a Review Proposal. Any UNC Proposal arising from the Review is likely to have substantial system implications.

No Operational Forum had been held since the last meeting.

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 the matter is still being discussed within the SPAA arena and was on the agenda for the next meeting.

3.2 Minor Amendment to CALMS System

xoserve (DA) advised members that this Class 1 CR had not yet been implemented and that a notification will be issued once it had.

In light of the above statement, members agreed to carry forward this action.

Action UKL1075: Carried Forward.

3.3 CR 13829 – DN Interruption Reform

xoserve (DA) advised that file formats will be issued 13 July 2007. He apologised that these have taken longer than expected. A process diagram will accompany the file formats.

The request for a report of the interruptible contracts in place, to be published after the completion of the auction process, was being investigated. It is possible that there will be legal constraints preventing its release. DA agreed that if there were legal constraints, he would circulate the reasons given, in advance of the August meeting. MC felt that a simple indication of the fact that there was a contract in place was inadequate, but MB recognised that this might be all that could be achieved. DA clarified that IAD worked on the principle that data would only be available where the customer had given permission for the information to be released.

DM asked about the number of sites involved and whether this indicated the need for a system solution. DA responded that the number was unknown and therefore the Transporters were proposing a system solution. DM responded that he understood this but was still concerned at the costs, which would ultimately fall on customers. MB believed that this sort of uncertainty reinforced the need for a report.

On the IAD aspect, xoserve are investigating contingencies but still wish to use IAD. MC expressed concern at the prospect of an increase in IAD usage and that this might affect its performance. CP pointed out that the changes made on 7th July to increase CPU and memory appears to have had a positive affect and performance has improved This will continue to be monitored.

DA stated that the exact implementation date was still under review. MC and MB highlighted that alignment with SPAA was important but a difference of only two days would not be problem.

Action UKL1090: xoserve (DA) to investigate the legal position in respect of release of information appertaining to the interruptible contracts in place and if this is an issue, circulate the reasons constraining their release at least five days prior to the August meeting.

3.4 CR 13861 – Rejections associated with Shipper AQ Amendments

xoserve (DA) asked for this to be approved and scheduled for the February 2008 release. This Class 2 Modification was therefore approved by consensus.

3.5 Application of Interruptible capacity discounts following a change in capacity/commodity split

This had arisen from a Distribution Pricing consultation. If this change were not vetoed by Ofgem, Interruptible Supply Points would attract half the capacity charge rate of firm Supply Points of the same size. The Transporters viewed this as a Class 1 change and the Committee raised no objection to this classification.

3.6 Zero Charge rate

As this involved analysis only, the Transporters whilst placing this on the plan for visibility, didn't believe that it was a UK Link Modification and suggested that, following this Committee discussion, it should be taken off the Plan. This was agreed.

3.7 Restriction of Invoice Billing Period

This is associated with Proposals 0152/0152A/0152B.

3.8 CR 13839 – Gemini Oracle Software Upgrade

AG gave this presentation to update the Committee on progress. (www.gasgovernance.com/Code/UNCCSubCommittees/UKLinkCommittee/2007Meetings). Work had gone largely to plan, including System Testing, Performance Testing, User Acceptance Testing and Operational Performance Testing and Shipper Confidence Testing. A few minor issues had delayed the dress rehearsal by one week. The implementation was scheduled in two phases for 12 August 2007 and 19 August 2007. Outages of seven to eight hours had been identified for each date.

This report, including the outage requirements was accepted by the Committee.

3.9 CR 13818 – Invoice Numbers on CSEP Invoice File Formats

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

3.10 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.

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

xoserve (DA) advised the Committee that this change had been successfully implemented.

3.12 CR13824 – Issue of Supporting Documentation via IX

xoserve (DA) advised the Committee that this change had been successfully implemented.

DA advised the Committee that there would be changes to the numbering convention for UK Link changes. In future COR numbers would be used and some have already been noted on the implementation plan. DA stated that views on this would be welcome. He would, for example, be prepared to implement a convention that avoided duplicating numbers already allocated to UK Link changes.

4. Review of Topics Status Report

4.1. Topic 006UKL Gemini Performance Monitoring

xoserve (CP) reported that performance monitoring is now in place and the monthly report now shows the transaction data. It was agreed that this Topic and the related Action 1041 could now be closed.

Action UKL1041: Closed.

4.2. Topic 008UKL UK Link Technology Refresh

AG gave this presentation (www.gasgovernance.com/Code/UNCCSubCommittees/UKLinkCommittee/2007Meetings). There had been substantial progress since the last update. The Proof of Concept had been successfully concluded, links and servers had been installed and a Networks Operations Centre had been set up in Bangalore. AG clarified that a complete data set had been loaded and processed in the proof of concept testing. Some minor recoding was identified.

Operational Acceptance Testing was now in progress and this would be followed by System Testing, User Acceptance Testing (including Shipper Trials) and a full dress rehearsal.

MB asked about interface testing. AG responded that this would be part of both System Testing and User Acceptance Testing. In answer to a question on the Shipper Trials, AG stated that whether Shipper’s files will be fully processed had not been decided. MB responded that this would be preferable. MC asked for planning activities for Shipper trials to be scheduled for the earliest possible date. AG noted this request.

Action 1091: xoserve (AG) to consider full processing of Shipper files during the Shipper Trials and whether the planning dates could be moved forward.

In the discussion on outages, AG agreed to investigate possible reductions to the current estimates. She confirmed that a Modification Proposal would be required to permit the two non effective days suggested. This would give relief from DM Read liabilities and some Supply Point Transfer activities.

MC asked about contingency plans. AG stated that there were a number of decision points in the plan. There would be the option of reverting back to OLD

UK Link at these points. MB asked whether Shippers will be asked to stop sending files. AG said that it is unlikely that xoserve would make this request but would confirm this in August. MB wanted clarity on rejection due to files being "out of date" if there was a need to revert to OLD UK Link. AG linked this to the non effective date proposals.

Action 1092: xoserve(AG) to report back to the August meeting on progress with more in-depth planning of the implementation at cut-over.

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 now included the Gemini Performance data and 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)

This report was accepted.

7. Planned Outages (xoserve Report E)

This report was accepted.

xoserve (CP) provided a brief update on the various outages. There were two further outages not identified on the report, which would be notified on 13 July 2007. MB had reported to xoserve that one outage notification had not been sent out to the full UK Link list. CP responded that this was due to use of another circulation list and that she was working to ensure that the same list was used for all UK Link communications.

Action 1093: xoserve (CP) to report back to the August meeting on the rationalisation of the circulation lists.

8. AOB

xoserve (CP) identified that IAD memory and CPU had been upgraded and was now performing well. This had reduced the number of client logons substantially. Shippers had given positive feedback. xoserve were looking at options to manage the number of people registering to use the system. The current plan is to retain IAD in its present form for at least eighteen months.

MB asked for a further update at the August meeting. This was agreed.

Actions 1088 and 1089: Carried Forward

9. Next Meeting

10:00 am Thursday 9 August 2007 at Elexon, 350 Euston Road, London

APPENDIX A.

ACTION LOG UK Link Committee 14-June-07

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)	Completed Closed
UKL 1075	14/12/06	3.2 (3.3)	xoserve to investigate possible implementation date for the Minor Amendment to CALMS System.	xoserve (DA)	Further Update due August 07. Carried Forward
UKL 1088	14/06/07	8.0 (3.11)	xoserve to investigate impact of IAD failure during a Change of Supplier transaction including potential levels of usage.	xoserve (DA)	Further Update due August 07. Carried Forward
UKL 1089	14/06/07	8.0 (3.11)	xoserve to consider members concerns surrounding an alternative solution to IAD in the event of a failure.	xoserve (DA)	Further Update due August 07. Carried Forward
UKL 1090	12/07/07	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 August 07.
UKL 1091	12/07/07	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)	Update due August 07.
UKL 1092	12/07/07	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)	Update due August 07.
UKL 1093	12/07/07	7	xoserve to report back to the August meeting on the rationalisation of the circulation lists.	xoserve (CP)	Update due August 07.

*** Key to action owners**

DA Dave Addison, xoserve

AG Annie Griffith, xoserve

CP Caroline Purcell, xoserve