

UK LINK Committee Minutes
Thursday 8 September 2005
10 Old Bailey, London

Attendees

John Bradley (JB)	Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Dennis Rachwal (DR)	Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Graham Wood (GW)	British Gas Trading Limited
Warren Collins (WC)	Statoil
David Mayne (DM)	RWE npower
Mark Nicolson (MN)	National Grid
Steve Featherstone (SF)	Scotia Gas Networks
Phil Broom (PB)	Gaz de France
Martin Brandt (MB)	Scottish and Southern Energy plc
Caroline Purcell (CP)	xoserve
Dave Addison (DA)	xoserve
Mark Pitchford (MP)	Scottish Power

1. Review of Minutes and Actions from August UK Link Committee (UKLC)

1.1. Minutes from August's meeting

The minutes were accepted.

1.2. Report on actions not covered in other sections.

- Prime and Sub-deducts. MC to consider whether the obligation on Standards of Service was adequately recorded by UK Link Committee minutes (11Aug05) and Supply Point Administration Management. – **Carried forward**
- Physical Meter Works Updates. xoserve (DA) gave a presentation providing detail of timely updates and operational detail. He stated that the data shows worst case and pointed out that xoserve output is dependent on the input they receive. **Action closed.** (by agreement).
- Rejection Codes for Meter Points not part of a live Supply Point. MP and DA to liase and report as appropriate. – **Carried forward**
- New Market Participants – Rejection on loss of site. DA reported how SSE had come to experience an occurrence of a Rejection – a Supplier had inadvertently been omitted from the MDD list during cutover and reconciliation. **Action closed.** (by agreement)

2. UK Link Modification Implementation Plan

(and review of UK Link Modification Status Report)

2.1. CR 11681 Gemini Update and Topic 001UKL – I’X replacement (MN)

(supplemental information to reports for Periods Ending 19-Aug-05 and 2-Sept-05)

Following the 8-week shipper trial, regression testing was carried out between 30-Aug and 2-Sept. MN reported that the test environment would remain in place and maintained on a reasonable endeavours basis for the time being.

MN reported that the project team is undertaking dress rehearsal of cutover. The shipper acceptance document was out for consultation. The run up to implementation includes meetings with shippers on 13, 15 and 18 Sept and 6-Oct. The next UK Link Committee (13-Oct) will be 2 days into the cutover period.

Attendees enquired about contingency in the event that Gemini is not adequately functioning when planned (13:00 hours) on 18-Oct. MN replied that if fixing forward had not worked, a decision would be taken at 16:00 hours on invocation of UK Link Contingency arrangements. Attendees expressed concern about industry preparedness for such an eventuality.

Action MN to enquire at Gemini meeting on 13-Sept whether shippers wished to take precautionary steps to assist readiness for the eventuality of Gemini failing to cutover and consequent invocation of UK Link Contingency operation.

Action Joint Office to convey the concerns over Gemini cutover contingency to the chair of the Gas Transmission Operational Forum (15-Sept).

2.2. Other Change Requests (CRs)

2.2.1. CR 12494 Addition of ‘Prevailing AQ’ and ‘Prevailing EUC’ to CSEP (CEP) Invoice

DA reported that performance enhancement was being implemented but without inclusion of CR 12494 and proposed that this should be left upon the implementation plan. As the agreement to include this change as a Class 2 was dependent upon bundling this with another change, DA indicated that due to costs it could not be undertaken as an independent release. MP expressed strong concern over this further delay.

Action xoserve (DA) to explore potential implementation date and convey concern to his next meeting with Gas Transporter reps and report back.

2.2.2. CR 11928 Transco LNG Storage Communications – UK Link Manual

CP reported that UK Link Manual update project was approved and that it encompassed this CR. The latest date for completion was set at 31-Dec-05.

2.2.3. CR 13658 Replication of enhancement of Gemini API functionality

Nothing to report until Dec 05.

2.2.4. CR 13629 Datalogger Support File (DL1)

DA reported that it was likely this would be bundled with a new CR (on VAT fields – see below) for Feb 06 implementation.

2.2.5. new CR – EU Directive on VAT Compliance

DA reported that a change has been identified to the VAT Number field which although simple involved many occurrences. DA proposed that this change would be bundled with CR 13629 and canvassed views as to whether 11,12-

Feb-06 was appropriate implementation date. This triggered some initial concern, as it would be close to the major SPAA change at the end of Feb-06.

Action DA to present CR to October UKL Committee in preparation for circulation of formal consultation including candidate implementation date.

2.2.6. CR 11681 Gemini – see 2.1 above

2.2.7. CR 13618 Network Code Reading Modification & Customer Transfer Programme

DA reported it was on track for implementation 5-Nov-05.

2.2.8. CR 13660 Amendment to the ‘Portfolio Effective Date’ field within the DPS file

DA enquired about Users support of this change.

Action DA to discuss with requestor (EdF) with a view to informally consulting on shipper interest/concern with CR13660.

3 Planned Outages

The Committee noted xoserve Report E on Forthcoming Outage Notifications (extended scheduled downtime of Gemini Entry Capacity on 13 and 14-Sept, and Gemini Phase 2 Implementation 17-18 Oct.)

4 Review of Topics Status Report

4.1 Topic 001UKL I’X Upgrade to MPLS

The Committee noted the two update reports. Provided the remaining Phase I site is completed 10-Sept, or soon after, there would be no issues for Gemini implementation. MN explained that the schedule for Phase II took account of the actual rate of progress attained for Phase I.

4.2 Topic 002UKL Governance of non UK Link Systems

DA reported that for the residual element, SC95, there were only two shipper users so less formal governance was appropriate. The Committee agreed.

Action Topic to be closed by DA arranging update of Extranet and notification of the community when complete.

4.3 Topic 003UKL Amendment to the minimum notice required for UK Link changes

- UNC Mod 010 (0735)

MB reported that SSE had agreed legal text with Transco. Panel to consider legal text on 15-Sept.

4.4 Topic 004UKL UK Link Testing Arrangements

DA reported that requirements had been signed off and issued to suppliers.

Action for Nov DA to report on implementation timeline and costs.

4.5 Topic 005UKL Availability of Data Documentation

xoserve stated they would adopt the practice of circulating a notification when their Extranet was updated. xoserve stated that password protection would need to be retained. Attendees questioned why other bodies such as Elexon do not require password protection on seemingly similar documents.

Action xoserve to further investigate need for password protection and report back.

5 Performance Reporting

5.1 IS Faults logged by Shippers – no queries raised.

5.2 UK-Link Business Support Agreement (AT-Link) – no queries raised.

5.3 Liabilities Report – no queries raised.

6 File Format and Urgent Communications

Nothing additional to report.

7 Schedule of Future meetings

Thursday morning 13th October 05 – in Solihull (Venue detail to be confirmed)

Thursday morning 10th November 05 in London

Thursday morning 8th December 05 in Solihull

(Venue details to be confirmed)