

UNC Workgroup 0594R Minutes
Meter Reading Submission for Advanced & Smart Metering
Thursday 22 December 2016
at Elexon, 350 Euston Road, London NW1 3AW

Attendees

Bob Fletcher (Chair)	(BF)	Joint Office
Mike Berrisford (Secretary)	(MB)	Joint Office
Andrew Margan	(AM)	British Gas
Andy Clasper	(AC)	National Grid Distribution
Angela Love*	(AL)	ScottishPower
Carl Whitehouse*	(CWh)	first utility
Chris Warner	(CW)	National Grid Distribution
Colette Baldwin	(CB)	E.ON Energy
David Addison	(DA)	Xoserve
David Mitchell	(DM)	Scotia Gas Networks
Fraser Mathieson	(FM)	Scotia Gas Networks
John Cooper*	(JC)	Brookfield Utilities
Jon Dixon	(JD)	Ofgem
John Welch*	(JW)	npower
Kathryn Turner	(KT)	Good Energy
Kishan Nundloll*	(KN)	ES Pipelines
Lorna Lewin	(LL)	DONG Energy
Mark Jones*	(MJ)	SSE
Naomi Nathanael*	(NN)	Plus Shipping
Phil Lucas*	(PL)	National Grid NTS
Rachel Bird*	(RB)	Gemserve
Rachel Hinsley	(RH)	Xoserve
Richard Pomroy	(RP)	Wales & West Utilities
Shanna Key	(SK)	Northern Gas Networks
Steve Mulinganie*	(SM)	Gazprom

* via teleconference

Copies of all UNC meeting papers are available at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0594/221216>

The UNC Workgroup Report is due to be presented at the UNC Modification Panel by 19 January 2017.

1.0 Introduction and Status Review

1.1. Approval of Minutes (24 November 2016)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2.0 Discussion – Way Forward

Opening discussions, JD made reference to the recent Competition Markets Authority (CMA) update explaining that the scope of the order had been amended to basically align with previous Workgroup discussions and suggestions and that the 2018 date is now caveated due to the CMA looking to reconsider their previous decision(s) around monthly read provisions etc.

JD went on to suggest that this presents an opportunity for the industry to build a business case that goes beyond monthly reads to also consider daily settlement requirements and provisions whether reads are submitted individually or in batches. Whilst this type of development might require adoption of a phased delivery approach, it is a viable consideration. He went on to suggest that whilst Ofgem are not too concerned about adoption of a phased approach, it is concerned about potential user profiling aspects.

JD then went on to point out that Ofgem might be required to undertake an Impact Assessment (IA) at some point in the future if it is believed that 0594R does not go far enough in its conclusions. Furthermore, Ofgem are keen that 0594R work is completed by the end of July 2017 in order to demonstrate progress is being made.

When asked whether or not Gazprom intends to formally raise a UNC modification, or look to continue with the work being undertaken within the Request Workgroup, SM responded by indicating that this very much depends on the planned timelines. JD suggested that regardless of the 0594R outcome, a formal UNC modification would be needed anyway on the grounds that this may negate the need for the CMA to raise a variance.

When asked who could/would be expected to undertake the important analytical work to support either 0594R or a new UNC modification, JD responded by explaining that it does not necessarily fall to Gazprom to provide the information, and suggested that Ofgem might also be able to provide the necessary supporting information either via internal or external provision, although the actual timescales are unclear at this time. Some parties believe that provision and visibility of such information is crucial before any formal modification is raised.

BF outlined the potential benefits of continuing down the Request route and attaching a draft modification (in the form of an appendix) to the Request Report. In short, if a solution is provided, then progressing via a modification would be preferable, however if there is a need to retain an element of flexibility around a potential solution, then continuing progress via a request remains the best route.

When asked whether or not Gazprom would consider formally raising a modification, SM once again reiterated his position that it very much depends on what would be included in a potential workplan (*i.e. what is required, and who can or should provide the supporting information*). It was then suggested that perhaps a workplan similar in nature to the Performance Review plan would be a good starting point.

New Action 1201: Gazprom (SM) to develop a draft 0594R Workplan for consideration at the next meeting.

When JD indicated that Ofgem would like to get to a position where the industry supports a universal solution for Class 3 changes, other participants suggested that the request group should also look to consider the marginal benefits between Class 2 and 3's. Whilst acknowledging this point, JD noted that it might not be possible to resolve all aspects within the timeframe available. He also suggested that there might be benefit in considering how the DCC would be involved going forwards.

When it was suggested that perhaps development of a Terms of Reference for a potential modification might be beneficial, JD acknowledged the point but warned that it may not be realistically achievable in the (7 months) timeframe. SM suggested that the request group should look to focus on what is the minimum needed in order to achieve the (phase 1) July deadline and then look to consider phase 2 requirements thereafter.

New Action 1202: All parties to liaise with Gazprom (SM) to identify suitable items for inclusion within a Workplan.

Concluding, JD requested that should anyone have any questions relating to this matter, they contact him direct via email to discuss.

3.0 Development/Completion of Workgroup Report

In line with discussions on item 2.0 above, further consideration of this item was deferred at this meeting.

4.0 Review of Actions Outstanding

None outstanding.

5.0 AOB

None.

6.0 Next Steps

BF suggested that perhaps at the next meeting, participants should look to schedule more frequent meetings (i.e. more than one per month) and thereafter look to progress matters via the Distribution Workgroup route.

7.0 Diary Planning

Further details of planned meetings are available at: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/Diary

Workgroup meetings will take place as follows:

Time/Date	Venue	Workgroup Programme
10:30 Thursday 26 January 2017	Consort House, 6 Homer Road, Solihull B91 3QQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Agenda items • <i>Other – to be confirmed</i>

Action Table (as at 22 December 2016)

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
1201	14/12/16	2.0	To develop a draft 0594R Workplan for consideration at the next meeting.	Gazprom (SM)	Pending
1202	14/12/16	2.0	To liaise with Gazprom (SM) to identify suitable items for inclusion within a Workplan.	All	Pending