Distribution Workstream Minutes 24 November 2005

# Distribution Workstream Minutes Thursday 24 November 2005 Elexon, 350 Euston Road, London

#### Attendees (AM)

Julian Majdanski (Chair)	JM	Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Helen Cuin (Secretary)	HC	Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Tim Davis	TD	Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Adam Frak	AF	SSE
Alan Willingale	AW	Statoil
Alex Travell	ΑT	E.ON Energy
Chris Warner	CW	National Grid (UK Distribution)
David Osman	DO	RWE Npower
Gareth Evans	GE	Total Gas & Power
Marie Clark	MCI	Scottish Power
Mark Buckthorpe	MB	Statoil
Mick Curtis	MC	E=MC <sup>2</sup>
Richard Pomroy	RP	Wales and West Utilities
Rob Cameron-Higgs	RCH	Northern Gas Networks
Steve Featherstone	SF	Scotia Gas Networks
Stove Numnington	CNI	VOCOTVO

Steve Nunnington SN xoserve

#### **Apologies**

Bryony Sheldon Ofgem

#### 1. Status Review

1.1. Minutes from October Distribution Workstream

No comments received. Minutes approved.

1.2. Review of Actions from October Distribution Workstream meeting.

See Action Table Appendix for updates.

1.3. Review of Live Modification Proposals and Topics Log

JM reviewed Live Modification Proposals and Topics Log.

**Post Meeting Note:** Decision Letters have been received on the following Modification Proposals:

Proposal 0024 "Independent security provision by an entity with an Investment Grade Rating of 'A' or above"

Proposal 0027 "Right of Set Off under Uniform Network Code"

Proposal 0033 "Notification to Users of Emergency Incidents – Impacts on Code Communications"

Proposal 0034 "Netting off of Payments and Credits relating to Transportation Charges"

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#### 2. Modification Proposals

No new Proposals

#### 3. Topics on Agenda

#### 3.1. 002Dis - Isolation of Prime & Sub-deducts

Total confirmed the number of analytical Meters on their portfolio to be 7, of which Total have provided 2 M-numbers. The remaining 5 M-Numbers would require further investigation before Total was able to provide the M-Numbers.

xoserve confirmed they will be able to analyse the 2 MPRNs provided by Total.

GE referred to an example of a Prime and Sub configuration at a Hospital where the Prime Meter is not in use as the main site will be demolished, however the Sub Meter is still supplying part of the site.

SN questioned what would prevent a Housing Development connecting to the Prime Meter, in a similar situation. RP referred to his suggested solution that once a prime meter has become a check meter it cannot be re-configured back to a Prime Meter.

CW referred to previous presentations indicating National Grid are sympathetic to finding a solution. However, they need to understand the benefits to allow a fully informed decision.

CW reiterated that National Grid will need to have clear information in order to inform the decision whether to progress this issue any further and to assist xoserve to undertake system impacts and cost analysis.

CW expressed concern that the cost benefit must be understood before any proposal is made to modify the code.

MC expressed concern that Shippers are contractually obliged to grant access to properties registered on their portfolio. However, where there is no supply agreement in place, they have no access rights.

As a UNC isolation and withdrawal is not possible from these sites Shippers are still liable for Transportation Charges.

JM referred to the outstanding actions on this Topic and hoped that all would be completed for the next meeting such that progress could be made.

#### 3.2. 008Dis, Demolition – Service Disconnection.

The Transporter processes for Large Scale Disconnections have been examined and although there are different processes all appear to be working well. As a result attendees agreed to closure of this Topic.

AT requested the identified processes be published on the Joint Office Website. JM confirmed any links Transporters wish to provide will be published

#### 3.3. 009Dis, Sunset Provisions 12 July 2006

CW confirmed that National Grid have requested a meeting with Ofgem and that a solution could be via a change to the OAMI Code of Practice. He reported that Ofgem have confirmed they are discussing the issue internally. National Grid intends to write to Ofgem to progress the issue. If a solution cannot be found then a Modification Proposal would be required to extend the expiry date of the 12 July 2006.

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CW hopes to be in a position to give an update at the December Workstream Meeting.

#### 3.4. 011Dis - Must Reads

Discussions evolved around the 'must read' and Meter Inspection outstanding actions. JM requested all parties complete agreed actions such that progress can be made.

CW confirmed National Grid is examining the possibility of entering into commercial arrangements for Meter Inspections. However, they would not be sympathetic to a UNC obligation. CW noted that a particular concern was any implication from a competition perspective of Transporters offering metering services post RGMA 'unbundling'.

National Grid suggested that a 'must read' for a Smaller Supply Point can be avoided simply by ensuring that Users meet their UNC obligations for procuring 'cyclic' reads.

RP confirmed WWU will be looking at the commercial opportunities with suppliers.

A discussion took place on Shipper obligations

xoserve confirmed they would raise the 'must read' Topic for discussion at the SPA Ops Forum on 17 January 2006.

The main Topic and corresponding presentation was deferred to the December 2005 meeting at the request of the originator, RWE Npower.

## 3.5. 013Dis – Network Ownership beyond ECV at Prime and Sub-deduct Meter Configuration

CW confirmed National Grid have responded to points raised by Total in their letter to Ofgem. The response has been circulated by the Joint Office and he highlighted that an incorrect paragraph reference had been used within National Grid's response.

GE disagreed with some of the points raised by National Grid, stressing that a view is needed from Ofgem to resolve the issue. He noted that Total's interpretation is that the IDNs do not own the network beyond ECV. However he reiterated a view from Ofgem is needed. GE advised that he intends to provide a response to National Grid's comments.

The Workstream agreed that this topic cannot be progressed any further until a view from Ofgem is provided. If Ofgem are not able to provide an opinion the HSE might need to be consulted for a view.

#### 3.6. Any new topics

Marie Clark, Chair of the Gas Forum IGT workgroup, raised a new High Priority Topic relating to IGT/DNO/Shipper interaction with CSEP NExA Agreements. She gave a presentation highlighting the issues, (available on GTIS (Gas Transporters Information Services) Workstream Information <a href="https://gtis.gasgovernance.com">https://gtis.gasgovernance.com</a>)

Discussions evolved around the points in the presentation particularly the statistics provided. MCI highlighted there is a lot of unreconciled energy, as a significant number of LMNs have not been reconciled. It was noted that there is no commercial incentive for the IGT to provide the required information, however they are not in breach of any licence. Implications of this are lost revenue, inaccurate billing, and inaccurate AQs which impact RbD. It also raises issues of Competition and security of supply.

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It was related that an IGT's bill was often for far more than that on the CSEP invoice provided by xoserve.

She reported that a Gas Forum executive meeting has been held with Ofgem, but discussions are still ongoing and confirmed she will provide any relevant correspondence which will be circulated by the Joint Office.

IGTs in turn are claiming that the NExA is flawed and therefore suggest they are not responsible for the process failures.

The Workstream was asked to consider whether a UNC Modification Proposal could be raised to ensure all parties undertake obligations stipulated in the NExA.

**Action DIS1101:** Each Transporter to consider issues raised within the provided Gas Forum Presentation and bring their responses to the December Workstream Meeting

Action DIS1102: All to consider solutions to resolve NExA issues

**Action DIS1103:** MCI to consider establishing Review Group to examine solutions to identified NExA issues and provide an examination of possible UNC Modifications

Action DIS1104: All Shipper members to consider providing Review Proposal

#### 4. AOB

none

#### 5. Diary Planning for Workstream

Next Meetings:

Thursday 22 December 2005, 10:00, at Elexon, 350 Euston Road, London Thursday 26 January 2006, 10:00 at Novotel, Birmingham International Airport

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## Action Table (Appendix 1)

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
	25/08/05	4.2	Transporters to consider a code of practice for Large Scale Service Disconnection, providing a progress update by the November meeting.	Transport- ers	Action: Complete Topic Closed
Dis0901	22/09/05	3.1	All to consider solution that once a prime meter has become a check meter it cannot be re-configured back to a Prime Meter	All	Action: C/F See also Action Dis1003
Dis0904	22/09/05	3.1	xoserve to review National Grid (UKD) proposal, assess system impacts and assist with establishing associated costs of prime isolations for December Workstream meeting.	xoserve (SN)	Action: C/F See also Action Dis1003
Dis0905	22/09/05	3.1	BS, Ofgem to provide view of Prime and Sub-deduct Network ownership and Network Licence Conditions.	Ofgem (BS)	Action: C/F See Also Dis1012
Dis1002	27/10/05	3.1	National Grid invited the provision of M-Numbers for analytical meters Shippers have identified within their portfolio. Numbers to be provided to CW	All	Action: C/F 2 M-Numbers provided
Dis1003	27/10/05	3.1	xoserve to undertake cost analysis for Prime Meter Isolations and WWUs solution to prevent a check meter being re-configured as a Prime Meter.	xoserve	Action: C/F
Dis1004	27/10/05	3.2	Ofgem to review Mod 406/471 decision and provide view with regards to Transporters obligation for the provision of Must Reads	Ofgem (BS)	Action: C/F
Dis1005	27/10/05	3.2	Transporters to consider possibility of commercial arrangements for simultaneous Must Reads and Meter Inspections.	All Transport- ers	Action: C/F National Grid and WWU examining
Dis1006	27/10/05	3.2	All to consider possible solutions for the provision of simultaneous 'must reads' and Meter Inspections.	All	Action: C/F
Dis1007	27/10/05	3.2	All to review current Meter Read and Meter Inspection issues currently encountered.	All	Action: C/F
Dis1008	27/10/05	3.2	All to consider the requirement of 100% meter readings for Smaller	All	Action: C/F

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Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
			Supply Meter Points including impact to AQ re-calculations.		
Dis1009	27/10/05	3.2	All to ensure the Distribution Workstream discussion on Meter Reads and Meter Inspections is considered at an appropriate operational forum.	All	Action: Complete xoserve to raise at the SPA Ops Forum on 17 January 2006
Dis1010	27/10/05	3.3	All to provide proposals for Shrinkage Forum Meetings to Joint Office.	All	Action: Complete
Dis1011	27/10/05	3.4	National Grid to consider Standards of Service and similarities with IGTs and provide a response.	National Grid (CW)	Action: Complete
Dis1012	27/10/05	3.5	All to bring views on Network Ownership beyond ECV at Prime and Sub-deduct Meter Configurations to next meeting.	All	Action: C/F
Dis1013	27/10/05	AOB	Joint Office to raise question at next Offtake Workstream on how Offtake Pressure Topic differs to Modification Proposal 005(0726).	Joint Office	Action: Complete. Logged with Offtake Workstream for discussion in December.
Dis1101	24/11/05	3.6	Each Transporter to consider issues raised within the provided Gas Forum Presentation and bring their responses to the December Workstream Meeting	Transport- ers	Action:
Dis1102	24/11/05	3.6	All to consider solutions to resolve NExA issues	All	Action:
Dis1103	24/11/05	3.6	Marie Clark to consider proposing Review Group to examine solutions to identified NExA issues and provide any necessary UNC Modifications	Gas Forum IGT workgroup (MCI)	Action:
Dis1104	24/11/05	3.6	Shipper members to consider providing Review Proposal (NExA)	Shipper	Action: