

UNC Workgroup 0462 Minutes

Introducing Fast Track Self Governance into the Uniform Network Code

Thursday 19 September 2013

ENA, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF

Attendees

Tim Davis (Chair)	(TD)	Joint Office
Lorna Dupont (Secretary)	(LD)	Joint Office
Alan Raper	(AR)	National Grid Distribution
Amanda Rooney	(ARo)	Ofgem
Chris Warner	(CWA)	National Grid Distribution
Chris Wright	(CWr)	Centrica
David Mitchell	(DM)	Scotia Gas Networks
Hilary Chapman	(HC)	Xoserve
Ritchard Hewitt	(RH)	National Grid NTS
Sean McGoldrick	(SM)	National Grid NTS

Copies of all papers are available at: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0462/190913

The Workgroup Report is due to be presented at the UNC Modification Panel by 19 December 2013.

1.0 Outline of Modification

DM introduced the modification and explained the rationale for offering two potential solutions for consideration.

2.0 Initial Discussion

Both options were explained and discussed, and it was noted that Panel would need to exercise prudence in following either option. DM indicated that SGN preferred option 2, with a simplified template reflecting the nature of modifications that were expected to fall within the fast track self-governance criteria. He recognised that this would be the more complex option in the short term but felt there would be longer term benefits of a simple but holistic fast track process.

This was supported by all other attendees, but AR asked for TD's view from a Code Administrator perspective. TD explained the current Consent to Modify process and why simplicity and consistency were to be preferred such that from an administrative perspective he thought Option 1 was much to be preferred. He did not consider a separate template would be significantly easier to complete than the existing version. Rather it would create difficulties. It would be the Panel's decision whether the fast-track criteria are met or not, requiring a modification to effectively be rejected if the Panel did not support the fast track route, or to be sent back and transferred to the simpler template if the Panel concluded the fast-track criteria were met despite the Proposer not requesting this. A number of historic examples were put forward to illustrate that there will always be borderline cases and the potential for confusion and inefficiency if a separate fast-track process is introduced as suggested under Option 2.

CWr asked if Ofgem would have to be present to express a view. TD believed not, as notice of the modification would have been brought to its attention at the point it was raised and, in practice, Ofgem would be expected to have raised any concerns before Panel formally considered a potential fast-track modification. However, TD suggested that it would be possible to require a formal vote in favour of fast-track governance by the

Ofgem Representative if that was deemed helpful. There was no support for including this within the modification.

It was concluded that option 1 should be developed as the preferred solution.

Next Steps

DM will revise the modification to reflect the preferred option, and prepare text centred on option 1.

3.0 Any Other Business

None.

4.0 Diary Planning for Workgroup

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

The next Workgroup 0462 meetings will be within the Governance Workgroup and will take place as follows:

Date		Venue
Thursday 17 October 2013	Governance Workgroup (following the UNCC meeting)	ENA, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF
Thursday 31 October 2013	Governance Workgroup (10:30)	ENA, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF