

UNC Workgroup 0477 Minutes
Supply Point Registration - Facilitation of Faster Switching
Thursday 23 January 2014
Consort House, 6 Homer Road, Solihull, B91 3QQ

Attendees

Bob Fletcher (Chair)	(BF)	Joint Office
Helen Cuin (Secretary)	(HCu)	Joint Office
Adam Pearce*	(AP)	ESP
Alan Raper	(AR)	National Grid Distribution
Alex Ross-Shaw	(ARS)	Northern Gas Networks
Alison Chamberlain	(AC)	National Grid Distribution
Andrew Margan	(AM)	British Gas
Andrew Wallace*	(AW)	Ofgem
Andy Bowen	(AB)	RWE npower
Andy Simpson	(AS)	Xoserve
Anne Jackson	(AJ)	SSE
Colette Baldwin	(CB)	E.ON UK
Dan Simons	(DS)	EDF Energy
Darren Lond	(DL)	National Grid NTS
David Addison	(DA)	Xoserve
David Mitchell	(DM)	Scotia Gas Networks
Ed Hunter	(EH)	RWE npower
Erika Melén	(EM)	Scotia Gas Networks
Gareth Evans	(GE)	Waterswye
Graham Wood*	(GW)	British Gas
Hilary Chapman	(HCh)	Xoserve
Joel Martin*	(JM)	Scotia Gas Networks
Kirsten Elliot-Smith	(KES)	Cornwall Energy
Kristian Pilling*	(KP)	SSE
Lorna Lewin	(LL)	DONG Energy
Marie Clark	(MC)	Scottish Power
Mark Jones	(MJ)	SSE
Ray Adams*	(RA)	SSE
Rob Cameron-Higgs	(RCH)	First Utility
Rob Johnson*	(RJ)	Wingas
Steve Mulinganie	(SM)	Gazprom
Steve Nunnington	(SN)	Xoserve

* via teleconference

Copies of all papers are available at: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0477/230114

The Workgroup Report is due to be presented at the UNC Modification Panel by 17 April 2014.

1.0 Outline of Modification

AM introduced the modification and explained the rationale behind speeding up the switching process. The challenge was to do this without increasing bills or affecting customer rights.

This modification seeks to reduce the Supply Point confirmation period following the Supply Point Objection Deadline event to 2 Business Days to enable a faster switching service for the gas consumer.

AM confirmed British Gas had engaged with Xoserve to consider the potential changes to processes, flows and to ascertain the likely implementation lead time of 10 months.

2.0 Initial Discussion

SN confirmed that Xoserve have started to consider the cost analysis and solution. He explained they would need the modification developed very quickly to allow the assessment of the solution for a degree of certainty.

SM believed from previous considerations the reduction to the confirmation window was not achievable. He was concerned about the system changes and how this would affect Project Nexus go live. SN confirmed this modification would not affect the delivery date of Project Nexus.

DA indicated that some modification prioritisation might be required. He highlighted that should Modifications 0450, 0451(A) and 0477 be directed for implementation, they may have to be prioritised above each other as they shared similar implementation dates. He explained that they were short life modifications falling away at Project Nexus implementation. DA reassured the Workgroup that any decision to prioritise projects would not be taken by Xoserve alone this would need industry agreement. DA explained the process of the UK Link committee to schedule the implementation work required. BF suggested that the UNCC would consider such matters as prioritising modifications. The Workgroup wished to understand the risks and understand in more detail the impact this modification may have on other inflight changes to ensure an appropriate recommendation could be provided to the Panel.

The Workgroup considered delaying implementation until Project Nexus, however, this may devalue the modification as this could be achieved within Project Nexus.

SM enquired about the likely impacts to Gemini, commercial arrangements with MAMs and meter reading arrangements. AS's initial view was there wouldn't be an impact to Gemini.

The Workgroup considered the provision of meter readings. AJ suggested if a customer wanted to transfer on a given date the customer would be able to assist with the provision of reads.

AW suggested the Workgroup walked through all of the processes and consider if there were any mitigating actions to address identified hurdles.

The Workgroup considered firstly the objection window, which currently flexes (to a maximum of 7 days). To meet the proposals, this could be reduced to a maximum of 5 days (during the consumer cooling off period). The current model reduces the objection window down when there are bank holidays to ensure 21 day switching can be achieved. In essence the change would result in customers transferring 2 days after the cooling off period.

It was suggested that the opening read window and process for estimates would not be changed to keep changes down to a minimum. SM suggested extending the read window from D+10 (plus two days for Xoserve to process). CB suggested AMR would assist with electronically retrievable reads. However, SM explained where a physical read is required there would be difficulties procuring a read. He wished to understand if it was possible to extend the window at the end of the process and what the consequences of this would be. SM was concerned that MAMs would have less time to procure reads. He indicated his

service providers have already suggested that with current service standards a reduction of a read window could not be accommodated. The Workgroup considered the allocation of energy between suppliers.

Xoserve agreed to look at extending the read window. SN suggested that Shippers should also consider and provide a view on the impact to Shipper systems.

SN suggested the Workgroup also needs to consider further; the likely Xoserve system changes; the timing of file runs; other impacts within the process, iGT CSEP updates, and the Xoserve 2 business days processing (contingency during AQ Review impacts).

BF also highlighted the need for business rules to drive the legal text to enable Workgroup consideration before a report is provided to Panel on 20 March

Action 0101: Xoserve to provide an assessment of potential system impacts.

Action 0102: Xoserve to provide a timeline and timing of file runs.

Action 0103: Xoserve to consider the extension of the D+10 read window.

Action 0104: Xoserve to consider the impacts of the iGT CSEP Gemini updates.

Action 0105: Xoserve to consider the 2 business day processing.

Action 0106: Shippers to consider Shipper system implications.

Action 0107: Shippers to consider commercial contract implications.

3.0 Any Other Business

None.

4.0 Diary Planning for Review Group

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

The next meetings will take place within the Distribution Workgroup on:

Tuesday 04 February 2014, at 10:30, Consort House, 6 Homer Road, Solihull B91 3QQ

Wednesday 26 February 2014, at 10:30, Consort House, 6 Homer Road, Solihull B91 3QQ

Thursday 06 March 2014 at 10:30, Consort House, 6 Homer Road, Solihull B91 3QQ

Action Table

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
0101	23/01/14	2.0	Xoserve to provide an assessment of potential system impacts.	Xoserve (SN)	Pending
0102	23/01/14	2.0	Xoserve to provide a timeline and timing of file runs.	Xoserve (SN)	Pending
0103	23/01/14	2.0	Xoserve to consider the extension of the D+10 read window.	Xoserve (SN)	Pending
0104	23/01/14	2.0	Xoserve to consider the impacts of the iGT CSEP Gemini updates.	Xoserve (SN)	Pending

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
0105	23/01/14	2.0	Xoserve to consider the 2 business day processing.	Xoserve (SN)	Pending
0106	23/01/14	2.0	Shippers to consider Shipper system implications.	All Shippers	Pending
0107	23/01/14	2.0	Shippers to consider commercial contract implications.	All Shippers	Pending