

UNC Workgroup 0479S Minutes
Inclusion of email as a valid UNC communication
Friday 15 August 2014
at 31 Homer Road, Solihull B91 3LT

Attendees

Bob Fletcher (Chair)	(BF)	Joint Office
Ian Hollington (Secretary)	(IH)	Joint Office
Alex Ross-Shaw	(ARS)	Northern Gas Networks
Amie Charalambous	(AC)	RWE npower
Andrew Margan	(AM)	British Gas
Andy Clasper	(AC)	(National Grid)
Azeem Khan	(AZ)	RWE npower)
Chris Warner	(CW)	National Grid Distribution
Colette Baldwin	(CB)	E.ON UK
David Addison	(DA)	Xoserve
Dave Mitchell	(DM)	Scotia Gas Networks
Huw Comerford	(HC)	Utilita
Ian Hollington	(IH)	Joint Office
Kirsten Elliott-Smith	(KES)	Cornwall Energy
Lorna Lewin	(LL)	DONG Energy
Mark Jones*	(MJ)	SSE
Martin Connor	(MC)	National Grid NTS
Richard Pomroy*	(RC)	Wales & West Utilities
Steve Mulinganie*	(SM)	Gazprom

* via teleconference

Copies of all papers are available at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0479/150814>

The Workgroup Report is due to be presented at the UNC Modification Panel by 18 September 2014.

1.0 Review of Minutes and Actions

1.1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

1.2. Actions

None outstanding.

2.0 Workgroup Report

2.1. Amended Modification

ARS gave a brief explanation of the amendments made which were to ensure consistency with an earlier modification that allowed email as a form of communication in the electricity market.

He explained that the Solution section of the document would detail specific methods of communication rather than using the term “conventional”. He went on to say it was not intended to allow any communication to be sent via email but to follow the UK Link manual.

ARS then went through the modification impact checklist. The only impacts identified were to administrative tasks as there were no system impacts.

CB outlined her concerns regarding the changes to this modification which included:

- Whether this was a self governance modification as it does have the potential to affect contractual matters.
- Ensuring that a communication has happened.
- Time criticality of acting on emails received.
- The management and maintenance of up to date email addresses and contacts.

These issues were discussed as was the principle that where a correct email address had been used and no “bounce back” email had been received a communication will be deemed to have been received. ARS is proposing that the UK Link manual is amended to reflect this, though this was not universally accepted in the meeting.

RP observed that currently some parties were using email when it was not allowed under Network Code. SM felt that the use of email was only acceptable if it was used by joint agreement and one party was not forcing it on another.

2.2 Review UKLC Draft Terms of Reference

ARS went through the changes to the UKLC Terms of Reference. These were limited to item C of the UK Link Code where the words “additions and amendments” had been added.

2.3 Review proposed changes to UK Link Manual Section 5B

DA explained the governance arrangements for agreeing changes to appendix 5B and that these had to be put to UK Link Committee. In addition, communication amendments were to be submitted to the Uniform Network Code Committee (UNCC) to sanction the change.

MC pointed out that National Grid’s Legal team has advised that the proposed changes to General Terms B 5.2 mean that any communication under code can be given by email, which is inconsistent with the previous stated objective to codify only those arrangements where the existing practice was email communications.

2.2. Legal Text

ARS detailed an amendment to item D, which now allowed for the absence of an undeliverable receipt.

2.3. Re-examination of Self Governance Status

Other than the discussion on self governance detailed with CB’s concerns above, this was not discussed further

3.0 Next Steps

BF advised that as the modification had been amended and the legal text was not finalised, submission to Panel should be deferred to the November meeting.

4.0 Any Other Business

None

5.0 Diary Planning

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

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

Thursday 28 August 2014 at 31 Homer Road, Solihull B91 3LT

Thursday 25 September 2014 at 31 Homer Road, Solihull B91 3LT