

**UNC Workgroup 0575R Minutes
Consider the Performance Assurance Reporting Requirements
for Transporters**

Tuesday 05 July 2016

at Elexon, 350 Euston Road, London, NW1 3AW

Attendees

Angela Love	(AL)	Scottish Power
Bob Fletcher (Chair)	(RF)	Joint Office
Catherine Lister	(CL)	Wales & West Utilities
David Mitchell	(DM)	Scotia Gas Networks
Edd Hunter	(EH)	RWE npower
Graham Wood	(GW)	British Gas
Karen Visgarda (Secretary)	(KV)	Joint Office
Richard Pomroy	(RP)	Wales & West Utilities
Stuart Gibbons	(SG)	National Grid Distribution
Tom Ryan	(TR)	Scotia Gas Networks

* via teleconference

Copies of all papers are available at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0575/050716>

The Workgroup Report is due to be presented at the UNC Modification Panel by 15 December 2016.

1.0 Introduction and Status Review

1.1 Approval of Minutes (07 June 2016)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2.0 Workgroup Discussion

2.1 Evaluation and discussion of the Orifice and Ultrasonic meter performance information.

National Grid Distribution

SG provided an overview of the 'Meters – Contributing to FWACV calculation – RIIO' presentation. He explained the Offtake Meters in relation to the numbers and technology, which encompassed 3 technology types, these were; Orifice plate, Turbine and Ultrasonic, with a total number of 76 meters installed at National Grid offtakes.

SG reiterated what he had said in the previous meeting, in that National Grid Distribution were not undertaking a meter replacement programme during this formula period which ends in 2021. He then moved on to overview the Biomethane sites which consisted of two technology types; Rotary displacement (RbD) and Turbine, with 22 being installed across all National Grid Networks, with this likely to increase by the end of the formula period. He also confirmed that National Grid Distribution do not own or maintain any biomethane offtake meters. SG explained the Meters – throughput and error magnitude for 2013- 2016 results, which were reported to Ofgem via RIIO reporting. AL asked what would happen if there was a 5% error and what action would Ofgem take in that scenario. RP said it would be

in breach under the regulations and impacted due to RIIO requirements and it would be subject to the remedial action imposed by Ofgem.

SG then overviewed the specific meter errors that had been reconciled from 2013 and explained they did vary in the magnitude as each error was individual by nature. He drew attention to a recent error in relation to Thornton Curtis which was a viscosity error, and explained this had occurred where a technician had altered the viscosity parameter in the 'Flow computer' which was flagged in the DSCC when a balance check was being undertaken. The error had not flagged sooner as the flow computer was operating within its tolerances as it was suitable for gases and liquids.

On a related point, GW said that historically offtake data was captured in the Register of Offtakes, and BF said he was under the impression that was still the case, although the Joint Office did not have access to this information other than that provided to support the information in the Measurement Errors Register.

SG overviewed the minimising of high pressure metering errors slide in relation to metering the RIIO targets and explained that National Grid Distribution had undertaken a study to ensure it could meet its RIIO obligations. The conclusion had been not to change any of the meter types currently installed, instead they had improved the technology and diagnostics, to help support with early detection or possibly avoidance of errors. He explained the strategy for the RIIO period and the incremental approach, drawing attention to the HPMIS replacement and Flow computer improvements, which encompassed a new computer processor, Ethernet card and a new template, together with increased diagnostics. He then overviewed the meters framework and explained this had been split into a number of elements, covering the Audit framework, the Ofgem Website and the ME2 validation.

Scotia Gas Networks

TR provided an overview the 'SGN Network E&I' presentation, explaining the background and the meter types; Orifice Plate, Turbine and Ultrasonic, together with the added advantages of the Ultrasonic meter, such as less drift or calibration problems, as it was new technology. He then explained the Offtake Metering System and the SGN Network E&I organisation structure, together with the how the sites were split between Scotland and the South, in relation to the meters installed and replacement programme.

TR explained the meter validation process as stated in the Offtake Arrangements Document and ME2 under the UNC, including the other required control areas. He explained what a measurement error was and how these were recorded via the Meter Error Reports, and highlighted the SGN Governance process, including the 6 Point Management Governance Process, the Pre and Post Checks and Performance Reporting, visibility – RIIO GD1 process, that SGN adhered to.

Wales & West Utilities

CL overviewed the 'Meter Error Identification' presentation and provided some background to the Ofgem RIIO – GD1 Annual Report 2014-15 where it had been stated that:- *'All GDNs achieved a level of offtake metering errors significantly within the required limit of 0.1% of throughput. Only East of England and Wales and West reported errors of between 0.001% and 0.028%, the remaining GDNs having none'*.

CL explained following these results, Wales & West in 2015 had undertaken work to discover how the meter errors occurred and the best means of preventing or reducing them. When analysing the types of errors reported, the highest percentage was 47.4% 'Out of Calibration' with 'Equipment Failure' at 31.6%, being the second highest percentage. Investigations took place into the following areas; Calibration, Install and Configure, Alarm Response, Fault Identification and Maintain and Repair. The data showed that the most common meter error occurred due to equipment being out of calibration. Therefore Wales & West Utilities have increased their sites visits from 12 monthly to 6 monthly and recalibration would be undertaken even if the meter was found to be within the tolerance level. CL then overviewed the new practice opposed to the current practice.

AL asked why Transporters had not adopted the Wales & West model to recalibrate at least each visit, if not more frequently? RP explained that they had a licence obligation to undertake this process to achieve the best outcome and to meet RIIO targets, so each Transporter has undertaken an approach to achieve this. CL also explained this process was very new within Wales & West and was still being 'bedded in'. AL said it would be good for 'best practice' to be shared and discussed within the Shipper community. BF said that the pie chart produced by Wales & West was very helpful and provided clarity to the types of errors identified.

AL said that she was disappointed that there had not been any response from Northern Gas Networks in relation to this matter and BF said he would contact them to ascertain if a presentation was going to be submitted in readiness for the meeting to be held on 02 August 2016. AL proposed that data from the RIIO publication should be managed and a table produced showing the risks, so that the PAC could keep this on the radar and it could be checked and monitored monthly.

2.2 Further development of the Workgroup Report

BF said he would produce a draft Workgroup Report and send it to AL so she could add to it, in readiness for the next meeting on 02 August 2016.

3.0 Review of outstanding actions

0601: GDNs to confirm the data held in the Meter Errors Reporting spreadsheet is updated to reflect the actual meters types currently installed at offtakes.

Update: BF proposed this action be kept open, as information was still yet to be supplied by Northern Gas Networks and National Grid Distribution. **Carried forward.**

0602: All Networks to provide information on their respective offtake meter maintenance and validation regimes.

Update: BF proposed that action could now be closed and he confirmed he would contact Northern Gas Networks about their data being supplied for the August meeting. **Closed.**

4.0 Next Steps

BF proposed the Workgroup Report should be concluded at the next meeting on 02 August 2016, which would be via a teleconference.

He also confirmed the meeting that had been scheduled to take place on 06 September 2016 would now be cancelled.

5.0 Any Other Business

None.

6.0 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
Tuesday 02 August 2016	Via Teleconference 0207 950 1251 access code: 21870295#	Completion of Workgroup Report

Action Table (05 July 2016)

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
0601	07/06/16	2.1	GDNs to confirm the data held in the Meter Errors Reporting spreadsheet is updated to reflect the actual meters types currently installed at offtakes.	GDN's	Carried forward
0602	07/06/16	2.2	All Networks to provide information on their respective offtake meter maintenance and validation regimes.	All Networks	Closed