

Minutes of the Offtake Committee
Tuesday 29 March 2011
via teleconference

Attendees

Tim Davis (Chair)	(BF) Joint Office
Helen Cuin (Secretary)	(LD) Joint Office
Alison Chamberlain	(AC) National Grid Distribution
Chris Shanley	(CS) National Grid NTS
Joanna Ferguson	(JF) Northern Gas Networks
Joel Martin	(JM) Scotia Gas Networks
Simon Trivella	(ST) Wales & West Utilities

1. Introduction and Status Review

TD welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained its purpose, which was to consider the appointment of a second Independent Technical Expert in respect of Measurement Error SC006 Aberdeen MTA.

1.1 Minutes from previous meetings

Consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting was deferred.

1.2 Review of Actions from previous meeting(s)

Action OC0101: T/PR/ME/2 Part 3 - JO to contact absent Committee Members to seek formal approval of the change to the document, then amend and publish the revised version on the website and notify the community.

Update: Item deferred. **Carried forward.**

2. Measurement Error SC006 (Aberdeen MTA)

2.1 Appointment of Additional Independent Technical Expert (ITE)

TD outlined the position regarding appointment of a second ITE. Users had followed the required ranking process, and documents regarding conflicts of interest had been received from the proposed ITE. These had been published, and parties had five days in which to register any objections. Two parties had responded. The particular issue raised was that the documents suggested that the proposed ITE works for Centrica Energy. Centrica Energy holds a Shipper Licence and is a registered User. As such, the requirements within the Guidelines rule out his appointment as an independent expert.

TD then drew attention to a range of information with a view to clarifying the position. The Ofgem website indicates that Centrica Energy holds the Shipper Licence which was previously in the name of Accord Energy (a search of the company registered number confirms the registration of Centrica Energy). Xoserve had confirmed that Centrica Energy is a Registered User. The Centrica website lists Centrica Energy under "Our Businesses". Centrica Energy is shown as including Exploration and Production as well as Trading and Optimisation.

The Committee recognised that the ITE's conflict of interest documents were consistent with the information recorded in the Register of ITEs and indicated that Centrica Energy is his employer. It was also recognised that the available information pointed to Centrica Energy being the registered User rather than, for example, only the Trading and Optimisation arm of Centrica Energy.

Given the response to the invitation to register objections, and that the Guidelines preclude any ITE being employed by a User, the committee unanimously endorsed Scotia Gas Networks approaching the second highest ranked ITE regarding appointment. However, the Committee also agreed to meet again at short notice should any new evidence emerge in the immediate future to suggest that the objections received should be disregarded and that a different course is appropriate.

The Committee briefly discussed the provisions in the Guidelines with respect to the definition of an ITE and the ability to raise objections. It was agreed that a review of these provisions should be encouraged to ensure that the Guidelines are delivering Users' expectations.

3. Any Other Business

None raised.

4. Diary Planning for Workstream

Arrangements for the next meeting of the Offtake Committee will be made and notified as appropriate.

ACTION LOG – UNC Offtake Committee

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
OC0101	25/01/11	3.2	T/PR/ME/2 Part 3 - Contact absent Committee Members to seek formal approval of the change to the document, then amend and publish the revised version on the website and notify the community.	Joint Office	Carried Forward