

**Workgroup 0376**  
**Increased Choice when Applying for NTS Exit Capacity**  
**Minutes**  
**Wednesday 18 May 2011**  
**AEP, 5-11 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4LR**

**Attendees**

Tim Davis (Chair)	(TD)	Joint Office
Mike Berrisford (Secretary)	(MB)	Joint Office
Colin Thomson	(CT)	Scotia Gas Networks
Derek Jamieson	(DJ)	ESBI
Fergus Healy	(FH)	National Grid NTS
Graham Jack	(GJ)	Centrica
Jacopo Vignola	(JV)	Centrica Storage Ltd
Jeff Chandler	(JC)	SSE
Jill Brown	(JB)	RWE npower
Julie Cox	(JCx)	AEP
Natasha Ranatunga	(NR)	Ofgem
Nick Wye	(NW)	Waters Wye Associates
Richard Fairholme	(RF)	E.ON UK
Rob Cameron-Higgs	(RCH)	Wales & West Utilities
Steve Pownall	(SP)	National Grid NTS

**1. Introduction**

*Copies of all papers are available at: [www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0376/180511](http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0376/180511).*

TD welcomed attendees to the meeting.

**2. Review of Minutes and Actions from previous meeting**

**2.1 Review of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

**2.2 Review of Actions**

**WG 0501:** National Grid NTS (FH) to provide detailed timelines associated with the current and ad hoc processes and an indication of any identified issues.

**Update:** FH apologised for not completing the task and asked for additional clarity surrounding what would be helpful. Following discussion during the meeting, it was agreed to close the action.

**Closed**

**WG 0502:** SSE (JC) to revise modification to reflect comments/suggestions.

**Update:** Completed.

**Closed**

**3. Discussion**

**3.1 Review of the Revised Modification**

TD confirmed that JC had provided a revised modification, and the changes were presented for review.

While acknowledging the consistency with other systemised processes, FH indicated that National Grid remains to be convinced that it would be appropriate to reduce the minimum amount of capacity involved from 10Gwh/day to 100,000 kWh/day – there was a risk that that the ad-hoc process could be used as the default process. In response, JCx suggested that, in order to progress the non-contentious aspects of the modification, the reduced threshold could be removed and a new modification raised solely to address this.

To inform the appropriate level at which to set a materiality threshold, FH was asked how many relatively small applications National Grid receive during the Annual Application window. FH agreed to look into this.

**Action WG 0503: National Grid NTS (FH) to ascertain the number of small applications received during the Annual Application window.**

FH indicated that National Grid also has issues around the potential for the ad-hoc process being used to regularly change exit bookings for existing plant. In response, it was suggested that a limit could be placed on the number of applications per exit point – say one ad-hoc application p.a. FH agreed to reflect on this with National Grid colleagues, along with the potential impacts associated with multiple changes at exit points within the same geographic location.

**Action WG 0504: National Grid NTS (FH) to consider a suitable limit to be placed on ad-hoc applications per exit point, and interactions with other exit points in the same area.**

FH continued that National Grid is also uncomfortable with the change from reasonable to best endeavours. In addition, the retention of the 38 month lead time actually reduces the effective time available to National Grid since it could start at any time of year – not all months are suitable for system investment. JC indicated that there was no intent to shorten timescales, and he would be happy to mirror existing arrangements. A possible formulation identified by the Workgroup was 36 months from the 01 October immediately following when the application is accepted.

**4. Any Other Business**

None.

**5. Diary Planning for Workgroup**

*Details of planned meetings are available at: [www.gasgovernance.co.uk/Diary](http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/Diary)*

It was agreed that, subject to information relating to the new action items and the provision of legal text, the Workgroup Report could be completed at the 07 July meeting.

The next meeting, to consider the actions, will take place as part of the Transmission Workgroup day, 10:00am on Thursday 02 June 2011 at Elexon, 350 Euston Road, London NW1 3AW.

**Action Log - Workgroup 0376**

<b>Action Ref</b>	<b>Meeting Date(s)</b>	<b>Minute Ref</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Status Update</b>
WG 0501	05/05/11	4.	Provide detailed timelines associated with the current and ad hoc processes and an indication of any identified issues.	National Grid NTS (FH)	<b>Closed</b>
WG 0502	05/05/11	4.	Revise modification to reflect comments/suggestions.	National Grid NTS (SP)	Update provided. <b>Closed</b>
WG 0503	18/05/11	3.1	Ascertain the number of small applications received during the Annual Application window.	National Grid NTS (FH)	Update due at June meeting.
WG 0504	18/05/11	3.1	Consider a suitable limit to be placed on ad-hoc applications per exit point, and interactions with other exit points in the same area.	National Grid NTS (FH)	Update due at June meeting.