

Uniform Network Code Committee
Minutes of the 72nd Meeting Held on Thursday 17 February 2011
at ENA, 52 Horseferry Road, London

Members Present:

Transporter Representatives: R Hewitt (National Grid NTS), C Warner (National Grid Distribution), J Ferguson (Northern Gas Networks), J Martin (Scotia Gas Networks) and S Trivella (Wales & West Utilities)

User Representatives: C Wright (British Gas Trading), P Broom (GdF Suez) and R Fairholme (E.ON UK)

Ofgem Representative: J Dixon (Ofgem)

Customer Representative: R Hall (Consumer Focus)

Joint Office: T Davis (Chair) and B Fletcher (Secretary)

Observers Present: A Miller (xoserve) by teleconference, G Evans (Waters Wye) and G Wood (British Gas)

Record of Alternates: J Martin for A Gibson (Scotia Gas Networks), P Broom for A Bal (Shell) and S Leedham (EdF Energy)

Apologies for Absence: A Gibson, A Bal and S Leedham

72.4 Matters for the UNCC Attention

The RbD Audit Sub Committee has recommended not to conduct an audit for 2012.

The Uniform Network Code Committee voted unanimously to endorse the recommendation of the RbD Audit Sub Committee not to conduct an audit for 2012. It was noted that this subject might need to be considered by the AUGÉ once appointed.

72.5 Matters of Implementation

No items discussed.

72.6 Documents for approval

a) Approval of amended AUGÉ Guidelines

A Miller explained the reason for the amendments to the guidelines.

G Evans advised that he had comments on the proposals in section 6.2 and suggested that “best endeavours” should not be used and should be changed to “reasonable endeavours”.

A Miller explained this was considered as a good test due to the significance of the information required and its timing. However, he was willing to amend the text to reasonable endeavours.

C Wright was not sure the change was acceptable to British Gas and wished to refer back to his business. P Broom considered the test was too strong and agreed it should be changed to reasonable.

A Miller was concerned that any delay in approval of the guidelines will impact the AUGE appointment process and its implementation. Perhaps these guidelines could be approved with further amendments tabled at the next UNCC meeting.

C Wright asked for clarity on documents referred to in 6.3.1 and to amend “the Committee” in 6.3.3.

A Miller then advised the process is on schedule to appoint the AUGE from 1st March and a “meet the AUGE” meeting is being arranged for 9th March in Solihull, following Review Group 0334. A Miller has also requested the Joint Office to arrange 3 meetings of the UNCC for 9 May, 4 July and 5 September. He is going to request the AUGE information is published on the Joint Office website for this process.

The Uniform Network Code Committee then voted unanimously to meet at short notice following the Panel on 24 February to consider approving the guidelines including the amendments discussed in the meeting.

b) Approval of amended Measurement Errors Guidelines

T Davis introduced the proposed amendments. G Wood explained the role of the experts in the proposals and that they would not be working together but would present their findings to the Workgroup for comparison together. There would need to be some agreement to manage discrepancies between the reports, such as the methodologies used and the margin of difference.

J Martin agreed it might be useful to seek a view from an additional expert in some situations. However, he would see some benefit in running the proposed amendments through the Offtake Arrangements workgroup to clarify the process to be adopted. However, G Wood would like to see the changes adopted quickly so that a second expert could be employed to consider the Aberdeen error alongside the expert recently appointed.

R Hewitt asked if these proposals had been discussed at an NTS related group. He was unsure if NTS shippers would attend the Offtakes Arrangements workgroup and therefore they would not be aware of the changes. T Davis confirmed the proposals had not been discussed in any meetings but circulated by the Joint Office. The change process provides for the UNCC to determine whether or not the amendments should be made.

S Trivella was happy with the approach to use two experts. However, he was not sure the guidelines work in their present form. He was concerned about the potential conflict of appointing a Shipper expert and a GT expert. He was also unsure the proposed appointment process works as drafted and should be reviewed to ensure the process is clear to all.

The Uniform Network Code Committee voted by MAJORITY VOTE to approve the amended Measurement Error Guidelines with the following members voting in favour: A Bal (proxy vote), C Wright, P Broom, R Fairholme, S Leedham (proxy vote) and R Hall.

The Joint Office is to update and publish the guidelines.

72.7 Any Other Business

None raised

72.8 Next Meeting

The Committee noted the date and time of the next meetings as:

Thursday 24 February 2011, by teleconference, immediately after the Modification Panel meeting

Thursday 17 March 2011, at the ENA, immediately after the Modification Panel meeting