

UNC Demand Estimation Sub-committee Minutes
Tuesday 08 October 2013
via teleconference

Attendees

Helen Cuin (Chair)	(HC)	Joint Office
Lorna Dupont (Secretary)	(LD)	Joint Office
Christian Ivaha	(CI)	British Gas
Colin Thomson	(CT)	Scotia Gas Networks
Duncan Sluce	(DS)	National Grid NTS
Fiona Cottam	(FC)	Xoserve
James Hanks	(JH)	EDF Energy
Joe Lloyd	(JL)	Xoserve
Louise Hellyer	(LH)	Total Gas & Power
Mandeep Pangli	(MPa)	Xoserve
Mark Perry	(MP)	Xoserve
Matt Jenks	(MJ)	RWE npower
Richard Pomroy	(RP)	Wales & West Utilities
Roy Malin	(RM)	National Grid Distribution
Sallyann Blackett	(SB)	E.ON UK
Steve Marland	(SM)	National Grid NTS
Zoe Ireland	(ZI)	British Gas

Copies of papers are available at: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/DESC/081013

1. Introduction

The meeting was declared quorate.

1.1. Apologies for absence

None received.

1.2. Note of Alternates

None appointed.

2. Status Review**2.1. Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting (10 July 2013) were approved.

2.2. Actions

DE0202: Modification 0330 - DESC members to provide suggestions for potential service providers.

Update: FC confirmed that a contract had now been finalised with the Met Office, with the deliverables expected at the end of July 2014. To facilitate the required deliverables and provide guidance on timescales and prioritisation, the formation of a small select steering group was envisaged. FC suggested the group is established with parties able to operate and respond quickly, meeting sometimes at short notice and liaising with the Met Office to ensure the technical requirements are efficiently delivered within the scope of the contract. FC's intention will be to contact DESC members seeking volunteers for this steering group (see 4.3, below). **Closed.**

DE0701: Improvements Log - Xoserve to re-set the priorities as agreed and publish the revised version.

Update: Revised and published. **Closed.**

DE0702: Modification 0453 - DESC members to review the provided legal text.

Update: Superseded. **Closed.**

DE0703: NDM Allocation - Negative Scaling Factors - Xoserve to look at the processes in operation that address negative scaling factors and provide an update, and ascertain the appropriate forum for reviewing the process/concerns.

Update: FC had discussed the position with National Grid NTS and was satisfied with the processes that were in place; the problems appeared to stem from imperfect communication routes and FC was working with the parties involved to address/improve this area. A further update was expected at the November meeting.

Carried Forward.

3. **Hulme Library Weather Station Closure (NW and WN LDZs)**

Discussion of options and agreement of approach

MPa gave a presentation, providing the background to the necessity for choosing a replacement weather station in light of the imminent closure of Hulme Library Weather Station on 31 October 2013. The analysis undertaken compared the existing data for Hulme Library and looked at the suitability of Rostherne 2 as a replacement. The results were presented and considered in detail.

Referring to the graph on slide 14 (comparison of the daily weighted temps), CI questioned the lag that seemed evident in the illustration. It was thought that elements of the line graph might be missing/overlapped, and MPa indicated that the data would be reviewed to reconfirm the position.

Action DE1001: Hulme Library Presentation (slide 14) – Graph data to be checked and confirmed.

Post Meeting Note: *The line for ‘Rostherne Bias Adjusted’ was found to be ‘out of step’ with the other 2 lines. This has been corrected and the revised graph can now be seen in the amended presentation on the JO website (www.gasgovernance.co.uk/desc/081013).*

Action closed.

Three options were presented for consideration. It was recognised that Option 3 was not practical given timescale constraints, and that there was insufficient data to support Option 2b. Members were asked for their views/preference in respect of the remaining Options 1 and 2a.

One member (CI) preferred Option 1 and the other 7 members expressed a preference for Option 2a. The DESC therefore approved Option 2a.

FC confirmed that when the data cuts over to using Rostherne 2 members would be advised accordingly.

Action DE1002: Rostherne 2 data cutover – Xoserve to confirm when the data cuts over to using Rostherne 2.

RP informed the group that Wales & West Utilities would use a different weather station (Hawarden) for WN LDZ for day ahead LDZ demand forecasting.

4. **Any Other Business**

4.1 UK Link Replacement Project – Cutover Arrangements

FC provided a draft paper (prepared at the request of Project Nexus Workgroup) on the feasibility/desirability of switching to the new NDM Algorithm mid-Gas Year. Xoserve

had concluded a mid year switch was feasible; members were asked for their views. FC confirmed she would write to members not present to ascertain their views. SB expressed a preference for the cutover at the beginning of the Gas Year but accepted that a mid year cut-over was manageable. There was consensus that this was a reasonable conclusion to feed back into the Project Nexus Workgroup.

When asked, FC indicated that the headline planning assumption was for 01 October 2015, however an earlier or later date could be managed from a demand estimation standpoint, depending on the progress of the project.

4.2 Weather Station Substitution Methodology

FC confirmed that the datasets had been published a few weeks ago, with a request for any comments by 04 October 2013 to allow sign off. No comments had been received and Xoserve sought agreement to close down the assignment. Members approved closure of the project.

4.3 Climate Change Methodology

Further to the update provided within Action DE0202, at 2.2 above, the intention will be to set up a meeting between the steering group and the Met Office over the next couple of weeks. FC will write out to request nominations for the steering group.

Action DE1003: CCM Steering Group – Request member nominations; members to respond by 14 October 2103 together with an indication of availability to attend an initial meeting.

4.4 Modification 0453 – Project Nexus – Demand Estimation

FC confirmed that National Grid had provided a draft UNC Related Document - Demand Estimation Methodology (published at: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0453/300913). Some refinement was required to clarify the governance procedures. Any discussions will continue within Workgroup 0453 meetings and any comments would be welcomed.

5. Diary Planning

Meetings will take place as follows:

DESC and DESC Technical Workgroup Meetings 2013

Date	Time	Venue	Meeting	Programme
Wednesday 13 November 2013	10:30	Energy Networks Association (ENA), 6 th Floor, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF	DESC	Evaluation of Algorithm Performance: Strand 1 - SF and WCF Re-Evaluation of Model Smoothing methodology NDM Allocation - Negative Scaling Factors

Action Table: Demand Estimation Sub-committee

Action Ref	Meeting Date(s)	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
DE0202	11/02/13	5.	Modification 0330 - Members to provide suggestions for potential service providers.	DESC Members	Closed

Action Ref	Meeting Date(s)	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
DE0701	10/07/13	4.0	<i>Improvements Log</i> - Xoserve to re-set the priorities as agreed and publish the revised version.	Xoserve (MP)	Closed
DE0702	10/07/13	5.1	<i>Modification 0453</i> - DESC members to review the provided legal text.	DESC Members	Closed
DE0703	10/07/13	5.2	<i>NDM Allocation - Negative Scaling Factors</i> - Xoserve to look at the processes in operation that address negative scaling factors and provide an update, and ascertain the appropriate forum for reviewing the process/concerns.	Xoserve (FC)	Carried forward to 13/11/13
DE1001	08/10/13	3.0	<i>Hulme Library Presentation (slide 14)</i> – Graph data to be checked and confirmed.	Xoserve (MPa)	<i>Post meeting note provided, see 3.0 above.</i> Closed
DE1002	08/10/13	3.0	<i>Rostherne 2 data cutover</i> - Xoserve to confirm when the data cuts over to using Rostherne 2.	Xoserve (FC)	Pending
DE1003	08/10/13	4.3	<i>CCM Focus Group</i> - Xoserve to request member nominations; members to respond by 14 October 2103 together with an indication of availability to attend an initial meeting.	Xoserve (FC) and DESC Members	Responses by 14/10/13

Action Table: Demand Estimation Sub-committee – Technical Workgroup

Action Ref	Meeting Date(s)	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
DTW0403	24/04/13	4	<i>'Improvements Log'</i> - Xoserve to update for review at the DESC meeting on 10 July 2013.	Xoserve (FC/MP)	Closed