

**UNC Demand Estimation Sub-committee Minutes**  
**Tuesday 17 November 2015**  
**31 Homer Road, Solihull B91 3LT**

**Attendees**

Helen Cuin (Chair)	(HC)	Joint Office
Karen Visgarda (Secretary)	(KV)	Joint Office
Christian Ivaha	(CI)	British Gas (Member)
Colin Thomson*	(CT)	Scotia Gas Networks (Member)
Fiona Cottam	(FC)	Xoserve (Alternate)
Fiona Speak	(FS)	RWE npower
Jason Blackmore*	(JB)	British Gas
Joe Lloyd	(JL)	Xoserve
Lucy Manning	(LM)	Gazprom
Mandeep Pangli	(MPa)	Xoserve
Mark Perry	(MP)	Xoserve
Martin Attwood	(MA)	Xoserve
Rob Nickerson	(RN)	National Grid NTS (Member)
Sallyann Blackett	(SB)	E.ON UK (Member)
Tim Wong	(TW)	British Gas (Alternate)
Tony Davey	(TD)	SSE (Member)

\* via teleconference

Copies of papers are available at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/DESC/171115>

**1. Introduction****1.1. Apologies for absence**

Richard Pomroy, Wales and West Utilities and Chris Warner, National Grid Distribution

**Note of Alternates**

Fiona Cottam (Xoserve) for Transporters, National Grid Distribution, and Wales & West Utilities.

**2. Review of Minutes and Actions from previous meeting (29 July 2015)****2.1. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**2.2. Actions**

**DE0501:** FC to investigate with National Grid NTS adding the Unidentified Gas values on to the National Grid Data Website.

**Update:** FC explained this is on-going and asked for it to be deferred until the next meeting. **Carried forward.**

**UNCC0902:** All UNCC Sub-Committees to review their Terms of Reference to ensure they are delivering an annual report to the UNCC.

**Update:** HC highlighted an Action from the UNCC for all sub-committees to review their Terms of Reference to ensure the delivery of an annual report to the UNCC. JL confirmed the DESC Terms of Reference already has a requirement for monthly reporting to the UNCC, it was therefore agreed that an update to the Terms of

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Reference wouldn't be necessary. The Joint Office and Xoserve agreed to provide regular updates to the UNCC going forward of key topics being considered. **Closed.**

### **3. Model Smoothing Methodology / Use of Shipper data decision**

FC provided an overview of the model smoothing discussions held by the DESC Technical Workgroup and suggested following the Workgroup's consideration it was acceptable to continue with a 3 Year average. The Workgroup had recommended it would be best to continue the use of the 3 Year model smoothing including Spring 2016, Spring 2017 and Spring 2018. With a view to reviewing the Work Plan in Summer 2017, ahead of the Spring 2018 analysis, as a checkpoint.

Members also considered the recommendation from the DESC Technical Workgroup, regarding the use of Shipper data. MPa had concluded that Xoserve can utilise third party supplied NDM sample data providing that; the data is provided in an agreed format; the data is provided on a frequent basis (preferably monthly) and any missing consumption is minimised.

DESC members unanimously agreed to both recommendations for the model smoothing methodology and use of Shipper data from the DESC Technical Workgroup. FC agreed to write out to as many industry participants as possible including EUK, ICOSS, and the smaller Shipper Forum, for representations.

### **4. NDM Sample Update**

JB enquired what agreement was in place for shippers to supply NDM Sample data, SB confirmed that UNC (Under Section H) allows Transporters to obtain sample data from third parties.

FC confirmed the proposal going forward will be for Shippers to provide sample data on a trial basis, however this data would need to be reliable, complete and timely, and would need to pass the Xoserve validations, and be from a consistent set of meter points.

JB suggested parties should commit to proving the data for more than 12 months.

JB enquired about the visibility of data for third parties and whether other parties would be able to see the same levels of data, despite them being provided by a third party. FC confirmed that the data would be anonymised, however the providers of data need to be sure that this could be provided to the industry to allow it to be used appropriately.

JB then asked about any shortfalls in the data. MA explained the purpose of the Shipper data would be to top up the NDM Sample.

MA subsequently went on to provide an update on the current NDM sample sizes for AMRs,

MA explained the battery replacement programme had resulted in a number of lost sites from the sample, which had mainly affected Band 1 sites. In 5 of the 7 LDZs, which were mostly complete, the sample size had fallen below the preferred target. Of the remaining 5 LDZs it was anticipated that 3 of these, may also end up below the preferred target.

MA provided a detailed slide illustrating the 'active' NDM Sample Data Logger sample size as a population against the total population, based on the AQ on Sites & Meters.

MA confirmed that Xoserve continue to work with the Transporters for sample deficits. Following acceptance of third party data to the sample, numbers can be topped up from the next Spring Analysis.

## 5. Work plan and meeting dates for 2016

MP provided the DESC Work Plan for the key dates for 2016/2017

## 6. Any Other Business

### 6.1. R- Ventures

CI and TW wished to show the group the information regarding the Apache Hadoop, a programming tool, together with the open-source programming language 'R' as an alternative analytical tool to SAS. They demonstrated the graphical output as well as packages they wished to raise awareness of.

HC suggested those parties who are interested may wish to contact CI offline to discuss the advantages and presenting this an appropriate industry forum for further consideration of its use.

### 6.2. Unidentified Gas

FS enquired about the simulation of Unidentified Gas for Gas Year 2014/15. FC anticipated providing an update at the February meeting. FS also enquired whether the simulation would be extended into 2015/16: FC stated that it might be reviewed after the end of the first 6 months, but that it would only cover a Winter, and UG appeared more volatile over the Summers.

## 7. Diary Planning

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

### DESC and DESC Technical Workgroup Meetings 2015

Time/Date	Venue	Meeting	Programme
10:00 16 February 2016	31 Homer Road	<b>DESC</b>	Evaluation of Algorithm Performance: NDM Sample data TWG recommendation for Spring 2016 Approach
10:00 26 April 2016	Teleconference	<b>DESC TWG</b>	Discuss and confirm modelling runs to take forward based on data aggregations and WAR band definitions
10:00 17 May 2016	Solihull	<b>DESC TWG</b>	Review single year modelling results and provide approval to commence model smoothing stage
10.00 22 June 2016	Solihull	<b>DESC TWG</b>	Review Technical Workgroup responses to draft proposals and agree key messages for DESC
10.00 06 July 2016	Solihull	<b>DESC</b>	Review and Approval of 2016/2017 NDM Algorithms as recommended by the Technical Workgroup
10.00 26 July 2016	Solihull	<b>DESC</b>	Response to industry representations on 2016/2017 NDM Algorithms Review of Autumn/Winter ad hoc

			Work Plan 2016/2017
10.00 15 November 2016	Solihull	<b>DESC</b>	Evaluation of Algorithm Performance NDM Sample Update

<b>DESC Action Table (17 November 2015)</b>					
<b>Action Ref</b>	<b>Meeting Date(s)</b>	<b>Minute Ref</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Status Update</b>
<b>DE0501</b>	19/05/15	DESC 3.0	FC to investigate with National Grid NTS adding the Unidentified Gas values on to the National Grid Operational Data Website.	Xoserve (FC)	<b>Carried forward</b>
<b>UNCC0902</b>	17/09/15	139.5	All UNCC Sub-Committees to review their Terms of Reference to ensure they are delivering an annual report to the UNCC.	All	<b>Closed</b>

<b>DESC TWG Action Table (17 November 2015)</b>					
<b>Action Ref</b>	<b>Meeting Date(s)</b>	<b>Minute Ref</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Status Update</b>
<b>DTW0502</b> <i>(transferred to DESC TWG)</i>	21/05/14	DESC TWG 3.0	DESC and Xoserve to work together to look at ways to enhance the current data sets with a target to have additional data for October.	All	<b>Closed</b>
<b>DTW1201</b> <i>(transferred to DESC TWG)</i>	03/12/14	DESC 2.2	FC to prepare an email for circulation to the industry inviting parties to support DESC Technical Workgroup analysis and data sets.	Xoserve (FC)	<b>Carried forward</b>
<b>DTW0901</b>	16/09/15	DESC TWG 3.0	Xoserve to normalise the Shipper validation data using the ALP formula applied to demand.	Xoserve (MP)	<b>Closed</b>