

UNC Distribution Workgroup Minutes
Thursday 23 June 2022
via Microsoft Teams

Attendees		
Rebecca Hailes (Chair)	(RHa)	Joint Office
Helen Cuin (Secretary)	(HCu)	Joint Office
Adrian Symons	(AS)	CNG Services Ltd
Andy Clasper	(AC)	Cadent
Ben Hanley	(BH)	Northern Gas Networks
Ben Mulcahy	(BM)	Northern Gas Networks
Claire Louise Roberts	(CLR)	ScottishPower
Clare Manning	(CM)	E.ON Energy
David Mitchell	(DM)	SGN
Gethyn Howard	(GH)	Last Mile UK (0809S)
Hursley Moss	(HM)	Cornwall Insight
James Barlow	(JB)	Xoserve (AOB only)
Joel Martin	(JM)	SGN
John Baldwin	(JB)	CNG Services Ltd (0808 only)
Kate Lancaster	(KL)	Xoserve
Louise Hellyer	(LH)	Totalenergies Gas & Power
Mark Jones	(MJ)	SSE
Martin Attwood	(MA)	Correla (0763R only)
Oorlagh Chapman	(OC)	Centrica
Richard Pomroy	(RP)	WWU
Rhys Kealley	(RK)	British Gas
Simon Harris	(SH)	Xoserve (0809S only)
Steve Mulinganie	(SM)	Gazprom
Tracey Saunders	(TS)	Northern Gas Networks

Copies of all papers are available at: <https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/dist/230622>

1. Introduction and Status Review

Rebecca Hailes (RHa) welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief overview of the scheduled items for discussion.

1.1. Approval of Minutes (26 May 2022)

The minutes from the previous Distribution Workgroup were approved.

1.2. Approval of late papers

RHa advised there were 2 late papers, 1 Pre-modification and a paper to support AOB item 5.2. a Priority Consumer Proforma. Workgroup agreed to consider these at today's meeting.

1.3. Review Outstanding Actions

0302: Registration Timeline with REC - Xoserve (ER/DA) to advise Workgroup what the transition arrangement will be.

Update: Deferred to July. **Carried Forward.**

0104: Pre-Modification for Reverse Compression: Ofgem (HBr) to confirm where Net Zero fits into the Relevant Objectives within a Modification.

Update: An update for this Action was given at the May meeting as follows:

The relevant objectives that code modifications need to be assessed against don't change because of net zero – they come from the Gas Act and, in turn, the licence. There is a clear hierarchy here. Net zero is a policy aim and we assume that the Gas Act is consistent with this; it may change in time to prioritise or discriminate in favour of specific net zero approaches (e.g. removing the right to be connected to a gas main, for example) and that may in turn change the objectives but until primary legislation changes this we should not re-interpret the objectives. Otherwise we risk making decisions on the basis of a random interpretation of these objectives i.e. we should approve project x even though it increases costs, is not cost reflective and may discriminate against some categories of users because it is "good for net zero".

Overall net zero should fit into all relevant objectives as it is an overarching goal.

Closed.

0204: Pre-Modification for Reverse Compression: CNG Services (JB) to send a briefing on these issues [upstream metering consequences] to the Joint Office for Joint Office to share with Distribution Networks.

Update: Completed **Closed.**

0105: Joint Office, in conjunction with Xoserve, to review the Transmission Workgroup Change Horizon to assess if there is a suitable version for Distribution Workgroup.

Update: Deferred to July. **Carried Forward.**

1.4. User Representative process

RHa reminded delegates of the key stages and dates associated with the process, noting the nominations window closes on 24 June:

Key Stages	Commencing:	Respond by:
Single Point of Contact (SPoC) to submit nominations for Membership	by 06 June 2022	by 24 June 2022
Membership Election (<i>if nominations received exceed the required representative's positions</i>)	by 11 July 2022	by 29 July 2022
Notification of Membership	01 September 2022	

1.5. Industry Update from Ofgem

RHa confirmed publication of the "Code Modification / Modification Proposals with Ofgem for decision - Expected publication dates timetable", published at:

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/code-modificationmodification-proposals-ofgem-decision-expected-publication-dates-timetable>, and that this will be updated to include Modification 0674V - Performance Assurance Techniques and Controls.

1.6. Pre-Modification discussions

1.6.1. Request: Remedy should a Shipper breach its meter reading obligations in TPD M5.9.7 or M5.9.9

Richard Pomroy (RP) provided an overview of the Request to review the options should a Shipper breach its meter reading obligations and alternatives to the current must read service provided by Transporters. RP explained that the current Must-Read process is no longer tenable, noting a number of industry changes, including DNs no longer having a meter reading service, and should Modification 0674V be implemented, PAC will have increased powers to require improvements from Parties.

Steve Mulinganie (SM) enquired about the scope of the Request and if this should be considered through the Retail Energy Code (REC) rather than the UNC, suggesting the Modification title should include a reference to the Must-Read Process.

RP acknowledged the Supplier and Shipper interactions for the provision of meter readings and that there was related REC and UNC issues. He confirmed that this request was being raised to discuss options for reforming the arrangements and obligations for Shippers and Transporters.

The Workgroup considered inviting REC to the Workgroup Meetings.

1.6.2. Shipper Agreed Read (SAR) exceptions process

Steve Mulinganie (SM) provided an overview of the Modification to provide a remedy for Shipper Agreed Reads (SARs), that have failed to be progressed within a reasonable period, to be proactively managed by the Central Data Services Provider (CDSP).

The Modification identified a solution to progress SARs by having an exception process when the required actions in the current arrangements are not undertaken and enables a resolution to be triggered which involves the ability for the CDSP to enter the Shipper Agreed Read.

RHa suggested the Modification would benefit from including information on the consequences of this process not being implemented, for example the financial impact, the possible impact on Unidentified Gas, and incorrect billing of customers.

2. CSS Consequential Changes – Detailed Design Report

David Addison (DA) provided a presentation on the processes to apply where a Central Switching Service (CSS) Supply Point becomes a Non-CSS Supply Point (continue to use UK Link) – these are elective, subject to other conditions as defined in the UNC and Gas Act these typically would be Shared Supply Meter Points and Supplier Exempt. DA provided a list which are not elective, typically NTS Supply Meter Points.

DA confirmed that there are 3 Shared Sites at LDZ level and 10 Supplier Exempt sites.

DA explained that a process is required to allow a Supply Point to move from being a CSS Supply Meter Point to Non-CSS Supply Meter Point and vice versa, described at a high level within UNC. The timetable proposed would allow for a minimum of two-months' notice to ensure relevant dates align. Therefore, registrations would need to be submitted in advance to have assurance these dates would align for Non-CSS Supply effective date with the CSS deactivation date or the CSS registration date and Non-CSS Supply Point effective withdrawal date. DA confirmed this will be captured within the process documentation.

Claire Manning (CM) enquired if this could result in the supply point changing supplier. DA explained a new supplier can be involved in the process. SM asked how parties would be aware of the Shared Supply Meter Point process 2-month notice period, if wanting to change the current arrangements. DA clarified this is set out in the UNC with minimum timescales for Shared Supply Meter Points. The Workgroup considered how best to communicate this for the 13 sites impacted to ensure they are aware of the timescales involved.

DA provided the UNC references involved and a copy of the Shared Supply Meter Points guide and procedures, with marked up changes. DA provided a link to the associated Change Pack on the Xoserve website and confirmed updated documents will be re-circulated and this will include the DSC Change Management and DSC Contract Management Committees.

DA provided a list of the processes that will be impacted. For full details please refer to the presentation published.

SM expressed concern that the mechanics of the process may not work, suggesting this should be considered further. It was agreed to discuss this offline.

DA provided notification of additional changes required to the UNC Validation Rules (UNCVR), noting that version 7.0 will need to be approved for CSS Go-Live. DA notified the Workgroup of the intention to submit the UNCVR for approval to the July UNCC.

DA noted that the Gas Day Settlement will remain as 05:00 to 04:59 post the SCR and that DM Meter Readings will continue to be obtained at start/end of the Gas Day.

DA wished to note that in the CSS Programme Operational Choreography, suppliers take responsibility for a Meter Point at 00:00 in both electricity and gas (the start of a calendar day). Further he highlighted the difference of taking responsibility of a Meter Point, from a settlement perspective everything starts at 05:00 but from an emergency perspective the Supplier would be responsible from 00:00.

It was noted the reading time is not recorded in UK Link. DA provided a table indicating the settlement impacts. For full details please refer to the presentation published.

RHa asked DA to investigate consequences for emergency responsibilities from 00:00, for provision to the industry.

New Action 0601: Xoserve (DA) to investigate consequences for emergency responsibilities from 00:00

3. Workgroups

3.1. 0763R - Review of Gas Meter By-Pass Arrangements

(Due to report to Panel 21 July 2022)

<https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0763>

3.2. 0808 – Reverse Compression

(Report to Panel 18 August 2022)

<https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0808>

3.3. 0809S – Review of Unidentified Gas Process

(Due to Report to Panel 21 July 2022)

<https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0781>

4. Issues

None raised.

5. Any Other Business

5.1. XRN5316 Update

James Barlow (JB) introduced XRN5316 - Rejecting a replacement read with a pre-Line in the Sand (LIS) read date - UNC Validation Rules Update, explaining that, currently there is not a specific CDSP validation routine that checks/validates this condition. This change will therefore introduce that validation and utilise an existing rejection code should the criteria not be met.

The change proposes an exception to this rule so that, where a Meter Reading does not exist on LIS, the latest Meter Reading prior to the LIS date can be replaced.

This exception is proposed for two reasons

1. The Meter Reading may require update to allow later Meter Readings to be accepted.
2. The portion of energy post LIS is still available for reconciliation and, therefore, this allows Valid Meter Readings to be used by the Shipper User to correct their position.

JB confirm that a detailed design Change Pack has been issued for consideration and is closing for industry representations on 27 June 2022.

Oorlagh Chapman (OC) asked about the monitoring of the rejections to check if this is being taken advantage of. Xoserve agreed to provide reporting on its use to future Distribution Workgroups and PAC.

If supported, an update will be drafted and submitted to the UNCC to update the UNCVR.

Mark Jones (MJ) asked about compliance with the UNC TPD Section M5.16.1 and asked for this to be checked in case a Modification is required.

“5.16 Updated Meter Readings

5.16.1 A User may submit to the CDSP an updated Meter Reading (“Updated Meter Reading”) to replace an existing Valid Meter Reading previously submitted by the User pursuant to paragraph 4.3 and this paragraph 5 provided:

(a) the Read Date of the Updated Meter Reading and the Meter Reading which it updates are the same;

(b) the Read Date of the Updated Meter Reading;

(i) is on or after the Code Cut Off Date...”

5.2. Priority Consumer Proforma

Steve Mulinganie had provided a copy of the Priority Consumer Proforma for consideration however discussion was deferred until July.

6. Diary Planning

Further details of planned meetings are available at: <https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/events-calendar/month>

Time / Date	Paper Publication Deadline	Venue	Programme
Thursday 10:00 28 July 2022	5pm 19 July 2022	Microsoft Teams	Standard Agenda
Thursday 10:00 25 August 2022	5pm 16 August 2022	Microsoft Teams	Standard Agenda
Thursday 10:00 22 September 2022	5pm 13 September 2022	Microsoft Teams	Standard Agenda
Thursday 10:00 27 October 2022	5pm 18 October 2022	Microsoft Teams	Standard Agenda
Thursday 10:00 24 November 2022	5pm 15 November 2022	Microsoft Teams	Standard Agenda
Monday 10:00 12 December 2022	5pm 01 December 2022	Microsoft Teams	Standard Agenda

Action Table (as of 23 June 2022)						
Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Reporting Month	Owner	Status Update
0302	27/01/22	2.0	<i>Registration Timeline with REC</i> - Xoserve (ER/DA) to advise Workgroup what the transition arrangement will be.	May 2022	Xoserve (ER/DA)	Carried Forward
0104	28/04/22	1.6.1	<i>Pre-Modification for Reverse Compression:</i> Ofgem (HBr) to confirm where Net Zero fits into the Relevant Objectives within a Modification.	May 2022	Ofgem (HBr)	Closed
0204	28/04/22	1.6.1	<i>Pre-Modification for Reverse Compression:</i> CNG Services (JB) to send a briefing on these issues to the Joint Office for Joint Office to share with Distribution Networks.	May 2022	CNG Services (JB)	Closed
0105	26/05/22	6.1	Joint Office, in conjunction with Xoserve, to review the Transmission Workgroup Change Horizon to assess if there is a suitable version for Distribution Workgroup.	June 2022	Joint Office (RHa) and Xoserve (ER)	Carried Forward
0601	23/06/22	2.0	Xoserve (DA) to investigate consequences for emergency responsibilities from 00:00.	July 2022	Xoserve (/DA)	Pending