

**UNC Distribution Workgroup Minutes**  
**Thursday 28 January 2021**  
**via Microsoft Teams**

<b>Attendees</b>		
Alan Raper (Chair)	(AR)	Joint Office
Helen Bennett (Secretary)	(HB)	Joint Office
Andy Clasper	(AC)	Cadent
Chris Hooper	(CH)	E.ON Energy
David Addison	(DA)	Xoserve
David Mitchell	(DM)	SGN
Ellie Rogers	(ER)	Xoserve
Fiona Cottam	(FC)	Xoserve
Fraser Mathieson	(FM)	SPAA/Electralink
Guv Dosanjh	(GD)	Cadent
James Barlow	(JB)	Xoserve
John Welch	(JW)	PAFA
Josh Myers	(JM)	CNG
Kate Lancaster	(KL)	Xoserve
Kirsty Dudley	(KD)	E.ON
Laurie Hayworth	(LH)	Cornwall-Insight
Lorna Lewin	(LL)	Orsted
Mark Jones	(MJ)	SSE
Mark Perry	(MP)	Xoserve (Agenda item 1.5.1 only)
Oorlagh Chapman	(OC)	Centrica (pm only)
Richard Pomroy	(RP)	WWU (0664V and AOB only)
Steve Mulinganie	(SM)	Gazprom Energy
Tracey Saunders	(TS)	Northern Gas Networks

Copies of all papers are available at: [www.gasgovernance.co.uk/dist/280121](http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/dist/280121)

## 1. Introduction and Status Review

Alan Raper (AR) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 1.1. Approval of Minutes (14 December 2020)

The minutes from the previous meetings were agreed.

### 1.2. Approval of late papers

AR advised Workgroup of the late papers received and asked Workgroup if they would accept them:

- Agenda item 1.3 Action 0103 & 0104 update
- Agenda item 5.0 Faster Switching SCR-REC
- AOB: Discussion on XRN4850 (FM)

Workgroup agreed to accept the late papers and the AOB item.

### 1.3. Review Outstanding Actions

**Action 0103/0104:** *Change of Tenancy Flag / CSS issues Original Action:* DA to liaise with SM regarding the possibility of having to raise a Change Request to Ofgem, or Shippers will not be provided the information.

**Update:** In providing an update with regards to this outstanding action, Dave Addison (DA) explained this has been quite a complex piece of work to deliver, mainly due to getting access to the system back tables as the data needed is not stored in the same file format as it is generated.

DA went on to remind Workgroup of how this action originated and advised that the Change of Tenancy flag does not suppress the objection window for the outgoing Shipper information whether or not they intend to object to the transfer. The Change of Tenancy flag is not a data item that will be provided post the Central Switching Service (CSS) program and, so far, there has been little support from the program to make the changes necessary.

DA explained, following Nexus implementation, Shippers were able to ask for consumption data which would be provided via the Q51 record. The data would be provided in kWh and would cover a maximum period of 12 months. Where there are not at least 2 readings within that period, the information would not be provided. Within the enquiry response, additional AQ information is provided which differs from the raw consumption data, which not subject to adjustment for seasonal weather.

DA clarified that the Q51 record is not a record that Xoserve stores, hence the difficulty in obtaining historic performance information.

In providing the information to Workgroup, DA asked Workgroup to consider if they have any objection to leave the Change of Tenancy Flag as it is and not pursue the change through the CSS program and therefore close the action.

Steve Mulinganie (SM) said that the analysis speaks for itself.

AR commented that there appears to be little evidence that such a change is required and on that basis from the information provided, there is little appetite to take the matter further with the CSS project.

SM commented that CSS set a very high bar and there is little point in proceeding forward based on the information provided. **Closed**

**Action 1201:** Joint Office (AR) to contact Gemserv to identify if there are any concerns and if an IGT modification is required to complement Modification 0730V.

**Update:** It was confirmed that the IGT UNC Code Administrator, (CA), view is that an IGT modification may be required to complement Modification 0730V depending on the legal text, but they are not taking this further at the moment.

**Post meeting note:** following a further discussion with the IGT UNC CA, as the legal text for Modification 0730 is contained within the Transition Document, an IGT UNC modification would be required to accommodate Modification 0730V in the IGT UNC. **Closed**

**Action 1202: CSS Consequential Changes – Detailed Design Report** - DA to provide a view of the issues that he is thinking through in relation to CSS Consequential Changes ahead of next meeting for review in Workgroup.

**Update:** This will be covered under agenda item 5.0. **Closed**

#### 1.4. Modifications with Ofgem

AR advised that no further update has been provided and reminded Workgroup of the update provided by Ofgem that the modifications listed below have been de-prioritised:

##### **0701 - Aligning Capacity booking under the UNC and arrangements set out in relevant NExAs**

A DSC change has been implemented which flags sites with a NExA so some benefit to sites already, so modification has been deprioritised.

##### **0696V - Addressing inequities between Capacity booking under the UNC and arrangements set out in relevant NExAs**

DSC change has been implemented which flags sites with a NExA so some benefit to sites already, so modification has been deprioritised.

##### **0687 - Creation of new charge to recover Last Resort Supply Payments**

This has been deprioritised whilst an alternative system for recovery of levy payments is developed under the REC.

##### **0730V - COVID-19 Capacity Retention Process**

This was discussed at the January 2021 UNC Panel where it was not recommended for implementation and has now been passed to Ofgem for an Authority Decision.

#### 1.5. Pre-Modification discussions

##### **1.5.1. Draft Request: Advanced Analytics NDM Demand Modelling**

Mark Perry (MP) addressed Workgroup to advise the Xoserve Unidentified Gas (UIG) Task Force reported that the Non-Daily Metered (NDM) modelling error is a significant factor in UIG volatility and that the use of advanced analytics, such as Machine Learning, may contribute to reducing this error.

MP advised that the results of the Xoserve led industry consultation on the future of the NDM Algorithm concluded there was strong support for investigating advanced analytic options within certain boundaries, (e.g. retain Annual Load Profile (ALPs) and Daily Adjustment Factor (DAFs)). MP added that using more advanced analytical tools could contribute to reducing the error and that it was worth having consultation in order to get a better understanding of where the advanced analytics could be used.

MP clarified that improved NDM Allocation would result in a reduction in UIG volatility and subsequent Meter Point reconciliation/UIG volumes.

MP advised that the Proposal suggests a UNC Review Group to investigate different options using advanced analytic techniques.

The Request Scope and objectives would be:

- Investigate different options of advanced analytic techniques to produce the underlying EUC Demand Models that are required to create the key parameters of ALP, DAF and Peak Load Factor (PLF).
- Simulate NDM Allocation / UIG over recent historic periods in order to prove the benefits of any proposed options when compared to current approach.
- Provide recommendations/results to DESC to consider as part of its obligations to manage the Demand Estimation process.

The UNC Review Group would allow work to proceed at a reasonable pace and would increase visibility of progress across the industry and allow the work to be done outside of the Demand Estimation Sub-Committee (DESC).

A collaborative industry approach is likely to generate more ideas/options which would benefit everyone.

In conclusion of the presentation, MP advised that a sponsor would be required to take the Request forward.

SM advised he had two questions:

- As part of considerations, the Review Group should assess how this might be funded.
- What would be the term of the Review Group. MP advised this is quite a big piece of work and clarified he thought it would progress towards the end of 2021 with a view to any solutions being implemented in 2022/2023.

Tracey Saunders (TS) commented that there needs to be time set aside to develop any modifications that will come out of the Review Group.

MP clarified that a modification might not be required, depending on the change required, it could just be a change to a UNC related document.

Kirsty Dudley (KD) commented that it sounds like the Review Group would be “hands-on” and that active participation would be required. She asked what the impact would be if people do not get involved. MP clarified that the more involvement means the more options that can be explored. If User participation is limited, this in turn would limit the amount of progress and may reduce the options that could be defined and investigated. KD explained her reason for questioning is that a lot of time has been spent on *Review Group 0693R - Treatment of kWh error arising from statutory volume-energy conversion*, which concluded without anything being determined. Fiona Cottam (FC) clarified that members of the Review Group do not have to be analysts and do not have to be participating. KD questioned if the Review Group will make the progress that is required. FC further clarified that MP has a team to support the Review Group whereas Review Group 0693R did not had less support as the industry had prioritised COVID-19 related issues.

AR advised he has reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Request, which are embedded into the Request, and commented there is a long list of items for discussion. MP advised that since the taskforce recommendations there has been a change to the modelling process which has brought improvement and clarified that regardless of the Review Group, progress is being made.

AR advised, in terms of next steps and with normal constraints of time and availability, it is the intention to present the Request to the February 2021 UNC Panel.

SM offered to sponsor the Request for the purpose of undertaking the Review and commented that he thought, in instances like this, Xoserve should be able to raise their own modifications.

When SM asked, MP confirmed he would present the Request to UNC Panel in February 2021.

**New Action 0101:** MP to forward a Word version of the Request to SM in order for him to review it.

AR confirmed that Joint Office will critically friend the Request when it is submitted.

## 2. Workgroups

### 2.1. 0693R – Treatment of kWh error arising from statutory volume-energy conversion (Report to Panel 17 December 2020)

<https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0693>

### 2.2. 0734S – Reporting Valid Confirmed Theft of Gas into Central Systems (Due to report to Panel 18 February 2021)

<https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0734>

**2.3. 0746 - Clarificatory change to the AQ amendment process within TPD G2.3**  
(Report to Panel early on 15 April 2021)

**3. UIG Update**

**3.1. UIG Update**

Ellie Rogers (ER) provided an update:

The LDZ National UIG continues to be published on the Xoserve secure section of their website: <https://xoserve.sharepoint.com/sites/XEUKLINKDev/>

**4. COVID-19 Issues**

AR confirmed that *Modification 0750FT - Amendment to regulations relating to COVID Modifications* had been implemented. This Modification, which was originally consulted upon as part of Modification 0730, updates the Statutory Instruments quoted in the Uniform Network Code (UNC) Transitional Arrangements Document Part VI for the devolved governments with the new regulations that replace them, as well providing clarity to obligations and future proofing against further to the regulations, should that occur.

TS clarified the intention of Modification 0750FT is to better future proof and make it clearer for everybody.

AR confirmed that *Modification 0730V – COVID-19 Capacity Retention Process* was presented at the December 2020 UNC Panel and is now with Ofgem awaiting decision. UNC Panel had recommended not implement this modification.

**5. CSS Consequential Changes – Detailed Design Report**

DA provided a general update to the Faster Switching Significant Code Review based on the Retail Energy Code REC v3 CSS Go Live.

**Background**

DA explained there are two facets to the Faster Switching Significant Code Review, (SCR), the Retail Codes Consolidation, (REC v2.0), which is currently out for consultation and is planned to go live in September 2021 and CSS Go Live, (REC v3.0), is planned to go live in Summer 2022.

DA advised that work was still ongoing to cater instances where sites had their master registration through the UNC, (as opposed to being mastered on CSS).

Overall, Uniform Network Code itself (UNC) Section G will have very few updates, although it is expected that the Modification Rules would be changed to allow the REC Code Manager and the UNC Code Administrator to raise UNC Modifications, where there is a cross-code impact with the REC.

**Faster Switching SCR - REC v3 CSS Go Live**

In advising of the CSS SCR Text, which will be pertinent to REC v3.0, DA advised this will include Transition; GT-D and Transition between CSS and UNC Registration.

SM asked, in terms of the REC Code Manager, if there would be three service providers for facilitating the REC, these are REC Code manager performance assistance; Professional services and Non-technical services, and at what level would CDSP be providing information.

DA clarified there will be a Transition workstream within the program and any changes as part of the Transition workstream will be progressed in a separate modification. There is a current working assumption that in-flight switches will be allowed.

## Switch Stream

SM commented that this would be a basic service available to all Users and, as an Xoserve product should be contemplated in UNC. DA clarified that this the presentation did not reference Switch Stream and, given then that further discussion on how Switch Stream would be taken forward were yet to take place, but at the moment, he did not see the service being included in the UNC.

DA advised that his initial view is that it is not anticipated the Switch Stream as file transactions would not be relevant UK Link communications. DA and SM will have an offline discussion about this topic.

## CSS SCR Text (REC v3.0) - Functional

DA went on to explain the text that will be considered as part of the CSS SCR REC v3.0:

- Transition is expected that this will be covered in a separate Modification.
- GT-D
  - Changes to CDSP Services definitions by adding REC related activities.
  - Incorporation of DPM into GT-D
  - And possibly some others
- Transition between CSS / UNC Registration

## Reminder of functionality

- Registration will be mastered under CSS.
- Settlement would be processed under the UNC using both a:
  - Base Registration Nomination, (the Settlement elements of an existing Confirmation).
  - Detailed Registration Nomination, (the existing Nomination File), – where applicable.
- UK Link will 'Associate', (this is a new UKL term), the two and make the BRN 'Operative' in relation to a Relevant CSS Request.
- Default Settlement Values will be used where an Operative BRN is not available, i.e.
  - has not been received, or
  - has been rejected, or
  - cannot be Associated, (this might be because of dates in the Switch Request, or changes at the site)

Therefore, in certain circumstances, Supply Point Class would default to Class 1, even if Class 1 specification is met, which may not be appropriate.

DA clarified that the Class Change functionality would have a 2-month validation and thinks this is something to contemplate within the UNC in terms of default rules. This interaction between codes and the rules on Class change are being looked at in more detail. In the absence of any objections, DA advised the program is looking to add some extra flexibility into the Code.

## Provision of Information

DA explained that Annex G-1 provides the specification for providing information, this is being checked in detail and have identified two required amendments:

- DN Interruption Details – the details are being indicated as being provided in the DRN Response (Nomination) – which currently are not available until Confirmation.



- It is proposed that this is provided at BRN response (Settlement Detail Response)
- Seasonal Large Supply Points – the details are provided in the Nomination Response today, whereas these are not shown in the text until the BRN response.
  - It is proposed that this is provided at DRN response – consistent with the UKL Design.

This concluded the update on the CSS aspects of Faster Switching Significant Code Review

**Action 1202: CSS Consequential Changes – Detailed Design Report** - DA to provide a view of the issues that he is thinking through in relation to CSS Consequential Changes ahead of next meeting for review in Workgroup.

DA provided a presentation to update to this outstanding action and advised of the further detail into a UNC opportunity that was highlighted at the Regulatory Design User Group (RDUG).

### **Faster Switching SCR: Retail Code Consolidation - REC v2**

#### **Background:**

DA advised that, within SPAA there are specific schedules that detail processes for determining Meter Readings between the Suppliers (Schedule 11), and submission to the CDSP (Schedule 21). It was highlighted at RDUG that some aspects of the above Schedules were not being taken into the REC, although it was concluded that the additional detail would probably not need to be defined within the UNC, but views were requested.

#### **Schedule 21:**

DA provided Workgroup with further detail and references that are in UNC regarding the requirement in UNC for the New Shipper to submit the Meter Reading and clarification of the source of the Meter Reading.

#### **Provision of Meter Readings:**

DA clarified that Meter Readings are provide to CDSP via a number of files depending on the Meter Point's characteristics.

#### **Conclusion:**

DA confirmed that the recommendation is to leave Code as it stands for Section M.

- **Read Source: No change needed.**
  - Schedule 21 currently specifies the means for provision of Meter Readings to the CDSP
  - Relevant Read Sources (POS and Shipper Estimate) are valid sources within UK Link Communications – **no specific change to UNC recommended.**
- **Submission: Arrangements already aligned.**
  - SPAA states that only the New Supplier can submit the Meter Reading (via their Shipper) for a Change of Supplier Meter Reading
  - UNC states that the New Shipper is responsible for providing the transfer Meter Reading.

In summary, DA confirmed that the recommendation is to leave UNC as it stands for Section M.

#### **Close Action**

## **6. Issues**

None raised.

## 7. Any Other Business

### 7.1. Large Loads Letters

TS advised Shipper participants that NGN have issued letters referring to 2021 forecast demand for large -load sites.

### 7.2. SPAA Change Proposal 443 and XRN4850 (Provision of customer contact data to Transporters)

AR showed onscreen Change Proposal XRN4850 – Notification of Customer Contact Details to Transporters, which aims to improve communications with end consumers during planned and unplanned gas supply disruptions.

It was explained that the SPAA Executive Committee have discussed the SPAA Change Proposal 443 – Provision of customer contact data to Transporters, relating to the backfill of customer contact data.

In essence, the SPAA Executive Committee have approved work to help improve the level of data being provided by Suppliers, which is of benefit to Transporters in contacting consumers during emergencies and other, strictly prescribed use cases.

The reason this is being discussed at Distribution Workgroup is to raise and to encourage Suppliers to provide the required customer contact data.

SM highlighted that the obligation exists and to date only 8 million records have been submitted across the whole portfolio.

An update was provided in that the SPAA Expert Group have recently discussed that rather than reporting on everyone, it might be better to individually report on those that have not backfilled their customer contact data.

## 8. Diary Planning

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

Time / Date	Venue	Workgroup Programme
Thursday 10:00 25 February 2021	Teleconference	Distribution Workgroup standard Agenda
Thursday 10:00 25 March 2021	Teleconference	Distribution Workgroup standard Agenda
Thursday 10:00 22 April 2021	Teleconference	Distribution Workgroup standard Agenda
Thursday 10:00 27 May 2021	Teleconference	Distribution Workgroup standard Agenda
Thursday 10:00 24 June 2021	Teleconference	Distribution Workgroup standard Agenda
Thursday 10:00 22 July 2021	Teleconference	Distribution Workgroup standard Agenda
Thursday 10:00 26 August 2021	Teleconference	Distribution Workgroup standard Agenda
Thursday 10:00 23 September 2021	Teleconference	Distribution Workgroup standard Agenda



Thursday 10:00 28 October 2021	Teleconference	Distribution Workgroup standard Agenda
Thursday 10:00 25 November 2021	Teleconference	Distribution Workgroup standard Agenda
Thursday 10:00 13 December 2021	Teleconference	Distribution Workgroup standard Agenda

<b>Action Table (as of 28 January 2021)</b>						
<b>Action Ref</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Minute Ref</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Reporting Month</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Status Update</b>
<b>0103 &amp; 0104</b>	23/01/20	3.0	<b>Change of Tenancy Flag / CSS issues:</b> (Original Action: DA to liaise with SM regarding the possibility of having to raise a Change Request to Ofgem, or Shippers will not be provided the information.)	<b>January 2021</b>	CDSP (ER)	<b>Closed</b>
<b>1201</b>	14/12/20	1.3	Joint Office (AR) to contact Gemserv to identify if there are any concerns and if an IGT modification is required.	<b>As soon as possible</b>	Joint Office (AR)	<b>Closed</b>
<b>1202</b>	14/12/20	5.0	<b>CSS Consequential Changes – Detailed Design Report:</b> CDSP (DA) to provide a view of the issues that he is thinking through in relation to CSS Consequential Changes ahead of next meeting for review in Workgroup.	<b>January 2021</b>	CDSP (DA)	<b>Closed</b>
<b>0101</b>	28/01/21	1.5.1	<b>Draft Request: Advanced Analytics NDM Demand Modelling:</b> MP to forward a Word version of the Request to SM in order for him to review it.	<b>February 2021</b>	CDSP (MP)	<b>Pending</b>