

EoC sub-group minutes – 19 October 2011

Working Group established to enable the implementation of the recommendations of the ENA’s Connections Working Group report ‘Proposed Extension of Contestability for Competition in Connections’.

From
Date and time of Meeting
Location

Rebecca Langford
19 October 2011
11:00-13:00
Millbank

Present

James Veaney (JV) (chair)	Ofgem	Regulator
David Ball (DB)	ENWL	DNO
Gary Barnes (GB)	Scottish Power	DNO
Jeff Eggleston (JE)	CE Electric	DNO
Martin Gillick (MG)	SSE	DNO
Paul Smith (PS)	WPD	DNO
Chris Bean (CB)	Power on Connections	MCCG
Dave Overman (DO)	GTC	IDNO
Patrick Daly (PD)	PN Daly	ICP
Steve Bolland (SB)	Amey	UCCG

Absent

Gareth Pritchard (GP) – ASLEC
Mike Cahill (MC) – Lloyds Register
Neil Magrath (NM) – UKPN
Rebecca Langford (RL) - Ofgem

1. Review of actions from the 20 July 2011 meeting

- 1.1. It was confirmed that ENWL had circulated its interface document to the group. Further it was confirmed that interface agreements were no longer seen to be an issue.
- 1.2. It was confirmed that RL was seeking further clarification from SSE regarding their application of SLC 15 timescales on behalf of CB.
- 1.3. The action for sub-group members to provide their views on what non-contestable costs are incurred by DNOs facilitating live jointing and how they should be recovered was carried forward. The importance of transparent non-contestable costs was highlighted.

ACTION

OWNER

Sub-group members to provide views on non-contestable costs.	ALL
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- 1.4. In terms of disconnections, a further action was placed on DNOs to summarise the issues associated with disconnections and consider whether it would be practicable to incorporate in to the sub-group’s work. It was highlighted that it might be an area for Elexon’s disconnections work stream to consider as it involved interactions with suppliers.

ACTION**OWNER**

DNOs to summarise the issues associated with disconnections and consider whether it would be practicable to incorporate into the sub-groups work.	Ofgem
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1.5. DO explained that himself, ENWL and SB had considered common criteria for trial success, to be discussed under agenda item 5 – common criteria for trial success.

1.6. Ofgem confirmed that a teleconference to discuss the process for extending contestability had taken place on 31 August 2011 and that minutes of the teleconference were available on the Ofgem website. JV summarised Ofgem's intended way forward. He explained that Ofgem planned to consult with interested parties in December before issuing an in-principle decision early next year. He explained that if Ofgem's in-principle decision is that contestability should be extended, DNOs would be expected to modify what is deemed contestable in their charging methodologies. JV explained that whilst Ofgem intends to consult in December that does not preclude any DNO modifying its charging methodology earlier. He did however still expect to consult before any decision is made.

1.7. DO explained that G81 appendix 8 was on the agenda for the next ENA engineering committee.

2. Feedback on how trials are progressing

ENWL

2.1. Four further ICPs have registered an interest in being involved in the trials (3 in the unmetered and one metered). They are currently waiting for them to provide their submissions to be included in the trials. Metered Connections: GTC have submitted their first request for involvement and have identified their first site. Aptus have completed the connection of 2 sites with a further 4 approved to connect. P N Daly start their first site week commencing 17th October. Power On Connections are to complete work on the first HV joint only trial. To date ENWL have a total of 10 sites in the trials, with a further 200 exit points to be connected. Unmetered Connection - E.On now working in Oldham & Rochdale. The first joint to main connections have been identified and work is due to commence 17th October. They now have authorised jointers to commence work in Derbyshire CC area too and expect the first joint to main connections to be submitted in the next month. Aptus continue to do work in Cumbria (10 joint to main connections in September).

2.2. PD explained that ENWL had changed its IT system and that its new Geographic Information System (GIS) was poor. DB explained that ENWL were aware that there were issues and that they were working to rectify them. He explained that he would keep ICPs informed of changes.

WPD

2.3. WPD's trial to extend contestability to the connection of LV extension assets to the existing distribution system (metered and unmetered connection) that was started in June is continuing. During the course of the trial there has been regular engagement with the ICPs via weekly meetings and as a consequence business as usual systems are being developed with their input. For example, notification of proposed works have been broadened to allow the ICPs greater flexibility. To date, the criteria we are using to determine a successful trial are being met and the plan is to move to a business as

usual process following the trial. This is dependent on Ofgem's consultation and determination relating to the required changes to the DNO specific area of the CCCM.

- 2.4. SB asked whether WPD would be able to get enough learning from limited trials to move to business as usual. He also explained that concerns regarding over auditing were currently being discussed with WPD.

Scottish Power

- 2.5. Four ICPs have approached SP to consider a Trial within Metered Scope. Six ICPs have approached SP to consider a trial within Un-metered Scope. No ICPs have yet shown any interest in LV or HV Operational Scopes.

2.6. Metered.

ICP 1 – Approached SP to discuss initial approach to the extension of contestability but has shown no further interest.

ICP 2 – SP has received a number of point of connection Requests proposing to undertake closing joints at LV. Design approval has been given on two projects within the last month. The ICP is awaiting the developer but will undertake closing joints at the appropriate time. They also have a number of sites in ENWL area at similar stage and will therefore arrange Lloyds Assessment to gain full accreditation on whichever project progresses to delivery first. The ICP currently has part Lloyds Accreditation.

ICP 5 – has previously undertaken closing joint works at LV and under operational control of SP completed HV loop-in Joints and gained Full Lloyds Accreditation. They have made no further approach to undertake trials.

ICP 6 – Has approached SP and held discussions on the processes associated with undertaking Live Jointing works for both Metered and Un-Metered connections. Within the last couple of weeks they have submitted and received Design Approval to undertake LV closing joints on a project within the Sandbach area. Indications are that works will proceed during November. The ICP has already acquired Full Lloyds accreditation.

2.7. Un-Metered.

ICP 3 - Approached SP to discuss their initial approach to trials but they have shown no further interest. SP understands that the ICP is yet to acquire resources with suitable SP authorisation to proceed under trials.

ICP 4 – Within the last month the ICP has held meetings to discuss process under the trials. They have undertaken their first New Connection to an existing main within the Warrington local authority area to acquire Full Lloyds accreditation. They have not progressed any further works under the trial. They have however confirmed that the process adopted by SP was reasonable.

ICP 6 – Has approached SP and held discussions on processes associated with undertaking live jointing works for both metered and un-metered connections. They have yet to progress works within the un-metered Scope.

ICP 7 - Has approached SP and held discussions on the processes associated with undertaking live jointing works for both metered and un-metered connections. They are yet to progress works within the un-metered scope.

ICP 8 – Has previously approached SP and held discussions on processes associated with undertaking live jointing works for un-metered connections. They are yet to progress any further works.

ICP 9 - Has approached SP within the last week to discuss the processes associated with undertaking live jointing works for un-metered connections. SP has a meeting planned with the ICP for beginning of November.

SP has recently written draft interface procedural documents setting out the process to be adopted when undertake Un-metered connections under trial. SP are in the process of reviewing their metered connections interface process document Asset-04-030 with a view of formally re-issuing this in late 2011 \ early 2012. SP are still willing to

accommodate ICPs to undertake HV Closing Joints under operational control of SP Engineers. ICPs with no operational accreditation for undertaking works within HV Closing Joint Scope should not be excluded.

2.8. SB highlighted that ICPs were experiencing issues with NERs accreditation for live working. He also explained that the UCCG would be happy to review any documentation if asked.

CE Electric

2.9. In CE there has not yet been any trial for extension of contestability. The company is continuing to draft policy documents for this work and the intention is to publish the policy by the end of November. These policy documents will take account of experiences of those companies who have been able to work on trials, as discussed at the subgroup. The company wishes to assist ICP partners to undertake suitable trials and will proactively seek to jointly identify projects to facilitate work on a trial basis.

SSE

2.10. MG explained that SSE had background policies and procedures in place to allow live jointing trials to go ahead but that as yet none had commenced.

UKPN

2.11. Whilst UKPN were not able to attend the sub-group they have since provided an update on trials which is included here. Unmetered Live Jointing to Mains - 1st pilot with Nationwide Distribution Services – 135 mains joints completed to date. 2nd pilot with David Webster Limited – 12 mains joints completed to date. A draft 'measures of success' document has been provided to NDS and Amey LG for comment, and comments now received that will be considered for next version. The measures of success document will form the basis of appraisal at the end of a pilot in consideration for transfer to 'business as usual'. Metered Live Jointing to Mains - The first 'Agreement' for Metered Live Jointing to Mains has been entered into with Power Jointing and Distribution Services. First live jointing under the pilot is expected to take place shortly. A pilot initiation meeting was held with GTC on 15 September and discussions regarding start date are continuing. Dragon Infrastructure Solutions, Matrix Networks and Harlaxton were invited to a joint pilot initiation meeting to be held on 21 October. HV Jointing to Mains - Two meetings have been held with Power on Connections to develop a process for HV network release. The first pilot is expected to start in November.

3. Common criteria for trial success

3.1. DO explained that he, ENWL and SB had considered common criteria for trial success and had come up with the following:

- Participation of a minimum of 5 ICP in trials.
- Trials having being completed in unmetered, LV Metered and HV metered market segments.
- Total number of connections in the unmetered trials to be in excess of 300.
- Total number of LV metered exit points 20.
- Total number of HV energisations 2.

The criteria by which the trials will be measured could be:

- Zero reportable incidents relating to electrical safety.
- Completion of at least 100 new connections in a 6 month period
- Participation in the trials of more than one ICP
- 95% compliance of quality audits

- Agreement from the participating ICPs that the ENWL process is workable
- Customer service improvements for ICP delivery as measured by the end customer of the process Council or Developer (timescale or delivery timelines)
- ICP in control of timescale (within the standard DNO Control requirements)
- At least one DNO agreeing to the business as usual process by March 2012

One other factor that could be considered would be Lloyds accreditation achieved by a number of ICPs within a six month period (10?)

3.2. JV considered that the criteria for trial success needed to be revisited and developed at a higher level. He explained that Ofgem needed assurances that DNOs procedures and policies are acceptable to all parties and that they are not causing barriers to competition.

ACTION

OWNER

ACTION	OWNER
Group to reconsider criteria for trial success before the next meeting.	DO