Imperial College London



Integrated Planning in Network Industries - Learning from Energy, Telecoms, Rail and Airports

Imperial College London, 20th December 2012, 9.00 for 9.30 start, until 17:30

The purpose of this workshop is to explore transferable lessons from across the energy sector and other utility sectors for delivering a coordinated approach to electricity transmission network investment planning. All utility sectors involve core infrastructure assets which provide services to multiple purchasers. The intention is to share experience and discuss the potential cross-sectoral application to electricity transmission planning. An important motivation is that all sectors need to have a process for collecting information on the needs of network users and other stakeholders and translating this into network investments approved by the regulator/government. It is this mechanism which we want to focus on.

Key questions to be addressed are:

- 1. **System Planning**. How can obligations and incentives on the multiple parties involved in a sector ensure that the core network assets develop in line with the overall needs of the sector?
- 2. **Conflicts of interest**. How can the competitive interests of companies within the sector be reconciled with the interests of regulated entities (especially where the regulated company also has competitive interests)?
- 3. **Regime interfaces**. How can multipurpose projects with competitive, environmental and/or social elements which depend on a number of different funding sources be delivered efficiently?

Possible issues to be covered in presentations are the mechanism for planning system investments, how multi-purpose projects get delivered, how competition is made use of within the process. Inter alia, the topics of interest to Ofgem are how uncertainty is dealt with, timeliness of delivery, handling of complexity, role of the political process, regulatory incentives, required market structures and the degree of risk sharing.

These questions are generic to all the sectors we intend to cover in the workshop. The first speaker will speak for 45 mins with a 15 min response from another stakeholder. We will then have a 30 minute discussion.

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Programme

9.30-11.00

Stephen Littlechild – Electricity and Gas experience with Constructive Engagement/Negotiated Settlements around the world and their applicability to the UK

Hannah Nixon - Ofgem's experience of and approach to constructive engagement

11.00-12.30

Martin Cave – How competition and network planning coexist in telecoms: BT, Openreach and next generation networks

Francis Nathan – Who plans the telecoms network?

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch

1.30-3.00

Chris Bolt – Deciding network investment in the rail sector: lessons from UK rail

Cathryn Ross – ORR's approach to multi-purpose projects

3.00-4.30

Harry Bush – The CAA's experience with constructive engagement in a UK context: key success factors for regulators

Emma Gilthorpe – A network user's perspective on network monopoly asset planning

4.30-5.30

Roundtable discussion: Lessons Learned for ITPR

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Venue

Room 611, Level 6, Electrical Engineering Building 16, Imperial College, South Kensington Campus

Nearest tube station:

South Kensington and Gloucester Road tube station

Map:

