

Meeting Minutes

Liaison Group Meeting #36

CER Office, 04 February 2014

Attendance by Liaison Group Members or Approved Substitute

Name	Company / Organisation	Member (M) or
Denis Cagney	CER	M
Lisa Fahy	CER	M
Deirdre Bell	CER	M
Lisa McMullan	EirGrid	M
Marie Hayden	EirGrid	M
Shane Maher	EirGrid	M
Dick Lewis	EirGrid	M
Fiona O'Donnell	ESB Networks	M
Ivan Codd	ESB Networks	M
Mary Doorly	IWEA	M
Pat Blount	Meitheal na Gaoithe	M
Aine Dorran	ESB Wind	M
Brian Linton	Energia	M
Donal Smith	Bord Gáis Energy	M

Additional Attendees

Name	Company / Organisation
Cormac McCarthy	EirGrid
Brian Nunan	ESB Networks

Apologies

Name	Company / Organisation
Peter Coyle	MRIA
Anne-Marie Kean	ESB Networks
Tom Bruton	IrBEA
Paul Brandon	CER
Caitriona Diviney	IWEA

1 Introduction and Approval of Minutes

The CER opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. The minutes for meeting #35 were discussed. There were no comments on the minutes.

2 SO Update

The SOs gave an update on Gate 3 offer acceptance to date. The update is published alongside these minutes.

3 CER Update

The CER gave an update on current work streams including Installed Capacity Cap, DS3 and Gate 3 disputes. The CER noted that the high level design of the new wholesale electricity market was agreed at the last SEMC and would be published shortly. Industry requested that more should be done to explain the new market to smaller generators. The CER noted that stakeholder days were planned.

4 Industry Update

Industry requested an update at the next meeting from TSO on the impact of the independent pylon review group on the timelines of the related projects.

5 Standard Charges for Transmission

The TSO is undertaking a complete review of standard charges for transmission. The TSO expect to submit the charges for CER approval by the end of June 2014.

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
1.	TSO to undertake complete review of standard charges for transmission and submit to CER for approval. Submission before end June 2014.	CER/TSO	Open

6 Short Circuit Upgrades

A presentation on Short Circuits was given by TSO at meeting #36. The presentation provided an update to industry following on from the presentation given at meeting # 35. The presentation outlined the TSO's intention to communicate the revised short circuit associations to generators by end April 2014. TSO will also include the status of short circuits in the quarterly ATR update commencing in April 2014. TSO intends to consult on aspects of policy and process with respect to short circuits.

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
2.	TSO to add status of short circuit upgrade projects to quarterly ATR projects status updates. This action to be completed once short	TSO	Open

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
	circuit project in completed in Q1 2014.		
3.	Note to be published on mechanism for advising parties if they can connect in advance of Short Circuit uprates being completed.	TSO/DSO	Open
4.	The SO's to notify generators of revised short circuit associations by end April 2014.	TSO/DSO	Open

7 Impact of Grid Optimisation

EirGrid submitted a paper on Grid Optimisation to the CER for review. The CER has asked the TSO to re-examine the paper to ensure it is still relevant following the recent update of Gate 3 offers and the emerging view on likely grid re-optimisations to connect contracted generators.

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
5.	EirGrid to submit Grid Optimisation paper to CER for review. Paper to be submitted in Q1 2014.	TSO/CER	Open

8 COPP: Installed Capacity

At meeting #31 industry gave a presentation on installed capacity and highlighted their view that the limit should be re-considered. At the time the TSO advised that one of the considerations originally outlined relating to curtailment may change as part of the Tie Breaks decision therefore it would not be unreasonable to re-examine the cap. CER confirmed that it was open to reviewing the cap on increases to installed capacity which is outlined in COPP.

The CER published a consultation paper on installed capacity in Q3 2013. At meeting #35 CER agreed that if it was decided that further modelling was required, they would seek the views of industry to agree the assumptions to be used. CER discussed the need for further modelling with TSO and received a note from EirGrid which was considered in the preparation of the decision paper.

At meeting #36 the CER noted that a decision paper is being prepared and it is expected to be published by the end of February 2014.

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
6.	CER to consider whether additional modelling is necessary following receipt of information from TSO. If so, industry to input on modelling assumptions. CER to publish decision paper by end of February 2014.	CER	Open

9 ESB Networks Gate 3 Delivery Presentation

At meeting #33 ESB Networks gave a presentation on the delivery of Gate 3 projects.

At meeting #36 Brian Nunan of ESB Networks presented on the Renewable Connections Work Programme Delivery 2014-2015. The presentation covered items such as difficulties in progressing work if disagreements in subgroups arise and highlighted improved workflow processes and resourcing required for delivery of the work programme. The presentation noted that ESNB was committed to delivering all customer connections despite the complexity and difficulties being encountered. 2015 was highlighted as a particularly challenging year due to outage shortages.

At meeting #36 ESB Networks confirmed that the information pack was published.

It was noted that the SOs plan to publish a joint consultation paper on how they propose to progress connection works when issues arise within subgroups. The SOs intend to submit the consultation paper to the CER by end of February 2014.

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
7.	Information pack to be published on ESNB website. This is due for publication by end 2013.	ESBN	Closed

10 System Harmonics

The TSO gave a presentation on system harmonics outlining some of the key issues they have identified at meeting #33. Industry raised concerns at the time over who would pay for changes to system and how the cost could be attributed to individual generators. They also noted that a pricing policy would need to be established and that meters would be necessary to differentiate between generators in areas where harmonics is a problem. Following meeting #33, the TSO published an information note on harmonics. At meeting #34 they noted that there are likely to be a series of notes rather than one with the next due later in September.

At meeting #34, the TSO gave a brief presentation on the progress to date and project timelines. They also provided information on potential approaches to charging for harmonics which they intend to publish a paper on for comment. Industry expressed concern over this and called for a CER consultation on the subject. The TSO held a workshop on system harmonics on 21 November 2013 in Dublin.

At meeting #36 the TSO noted that it will publish a consultation paper on Harmonics by the end of February pending CER approval. Industry questioned if the CER should publish the Consultation Paper. The TSO noted that the consultation does not propose to alter the charging methodology statement, but will be an interpretation of it, so it is appropriate that they publish it. CER confirmed that all responses received, along with a recommendation paper from TSO will be submitted for consideration to the CER in advance of approving the interpretation of the Charging Policy.

There was some discussion on harmonics in general and industry noted that it would be useful to include an indication of the spectrum of costs in the consultation. The TSO noted while a broad spectrum would be included it is difficult to provide specific cost information. The TSO confirmed that it has sought information

from its contacts in Europe to assist with giving more specific cost information but has not received feedback. It also advised that until the procurement process is finalised it will be difficult to assess the costs in detail.

During the discussion the issue of whether or not the data from the studies conducted by the TSO on harmonics should be published was discussed. The TSO noted that it did not intend to publish the data. Amongst other things the TSO noted that as developers would not have access to the full spectrum of information available to the SOs about the connection methods of other parties including those in modification process, using publicised data could give misleading results for developers. Industry noted that the data would be very useful to developers and it could be published with the caveat that the data is for information purposes.

The TSO noted that over 100 participants attended the harmonics workshop on 21 November 2013 and feedback on the day was positive. However, there was no further engagement from industry on any of the points that were raised at the liaison group meeting #36 at the time.

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
8.	Harmonics will be included as a standing item on the liaison group agenda.	CER	Closed
9.	TSO to publish consultation paper on Harmonics at end of February pending CER approval.	TSO/CER	Open

11 Pre-energisation Data

Prior to energisation generators are contractually obliged to provide dynamic models to the SO's 12 months prior to energisation¹. These models must be grid code compliant and should enable the TSO to study the impact of the new generation on power system stability. The SO's are concerned that energisation could be delayed if this information is not provided 12 months in advance. This action is still open, paper to be published in advance of meeting #35. TSO gave an update on pre-energisation data at meeting #35 confirming that an application fee is applicable if pre energisation data is submitted late. At meeting #36 TSO confirmed that this paper would be published in advance of the next meeting.

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
10.	Joint DSO/TSO paper on pre-energisation data requirements and associated process to be published prior to next meeting.	DSO/TSO	Open

¹ Although for some pre-Gate 3 generators, they may be contractually obliged to provide the detail only 6 months in advance, the SO's would still encourage a submission 12 months in advance where possible

12 Modification related queries

The SOs in meeting #33 addressed the issues being encountered with modification related queries e.g. Capacity relocation, merging/splitting, cables etc. and stated that these requests must be submitted as modifications. In meeting #34 the SOs requested that industry inform them as soon as possible if they are considering a modification to their offer even if they are unsure as to what exactly the modification requested may be. They also highlighted the fact that one modification may have an impact on other in a subgroup etc.

At meeting #36 both of the SOs presented on this topic. The presentations highlighted that the significant volume of modification applications was causing a delay in the processing. They noted that engagement with customers before and after the modification process was very time consuming but acknowledged that such engagement was often necessary to ensure that all parties were clear on requirements prior to submitting a modification request. This is especially the case for group modification requests.

The TSO noted that they expect to have an electronic mod application system in operation by Q3 2014.

A discussion was held on how industry might assist with the backlog of mod requests. The SOs noted that if a generator was submitting several mods they should highlight to the SOs if one mod was required more urgently than another. The SOs also noted that it would assist if mod applications were submitted in a timely manner and that only fully completed applications should be submitted. Industry noted that it would also be helpful to generators if feedback on applications was also received in one response rather than in several responses.

A discussion was held as to whether a standard template could be provided to developers requiring a letter of assurance for financial institutions. The SOs suggested that it would be preferable for generators to submit a request for any specific confirmations required from the SOs on a case by case basis. TSO confirmed that it has published guidelines on Advanced Works Packages for transmission customers.

13 Capacity relocation

SOs have received a high volume of queries in relation to this topic. The COPP ruleset is applied but some clarity is required particularly to do with additional impacts on the system such as harmonics, evidence of need to relocate and negligible impact on the system. It should be noted that evidence must be provided to support need to relocate and to outline impacts this may have on others etc.

At meeting #35 the CER confirmed that they were reviewing the note provided by the SOs. CER agreed that they may publish a clarification on this matter, but would circulate any such paper to the group for comments before circulating to Industry

At meeting #36 the CER confirmed that it was reviewing the note and would provide an update at the next meeting.

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
11.	SOs to provide a note on capacity relocation clarifications prior to next meeting	SOs	Closed

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
12.	Discussion ongoing between SOs and CER. Intend to circulate paper to group for comment prior to publication.	CER	Open

14 Status of Gate 3 offers

At meeting #36 The TSO suggested removing the 'Accepted – Firm Only' column in the Gate 3 Project Status Update, as made projects easily identifiable. The TSO also suggested removing the constraints report column. The DSO also suggested adding an energisation column. All suggestions were agreed on.

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
13.	SOs to update Gate 3 Status Update Template	TSO/DSO	Open

15 TSO payment schedule

Industry requested that CER would review the TSO payment schedule with a view to harmonising with the DSO schedule. CER stated that it was unclear on the need for a review and that it may be too late in the Gate 3 process to carry out this review. Industry stated that this issue had been raised previously. CER undertook to reflect on the Industry views expressed at the meeting and to consider whether it was appropriate to harmonise the TSO schedule with the DSO schedule.

The CER will meet the SOs in the coming weeks to discuss issues around alignment and whether it is appropriate, with a view to publishing a note on this and clarifying the position. At meeting #35 the CER stated its intent to publish the paper by the end of year.

At meeting #36 the CER indicated that they are not proposing to align the payment schedules at this time and confirmed that note on this was being reviewed internally with the intention of publishing it by the end of February.

No.	Actions:	Owner	Status
14.	Information note to be published providing clarification on payment schedules.	CER	Open

16 AOB

No items raised under AOB.

17 Documents Distributed with these Minutes

The following documents are published on the CER's website with the minutes of meeting #36:

- Agenda for Gate 3 Liaison Group #36
- SO & CER updates
- ESB Networks presentation on Modification Application Processing
- EirGrid presentation on Modification Application Processing
- ESB Networks presentation on Renewable Connections Work Programme Delivery 2014-2015
- EirGrid presentation on Short Circuits

18 Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for 01 April 2014.