

Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum

13.30-16.30, 19 July 2018

Introduction

Western Power Distribution established a forum in July 2016 for Distributed Generation (DG) owner/operators to discuss issues in relation to outages and constraints under its Incentive on Connections Engagement (ICE) work plans.

The attendee list and meeting notes for the July 2018 meeting are set out below.

There is now a dedicated webpage for the forum [here](#).

The generator portal for outage information is available [here](#).

Date of next meeting

9 October 2018, Bristol

Book [here](#).

Attendees:

First name	Last name	Company
Helen	Robinson	BayWa r.e. Operation Services Ltd
Nicholas	Burridge Redondo	Bluefield Services
Helen	Hardaker	British Solar Renewables
Jack	Malone	British Solar Renewables
Don	Weston	Chelwood Community Energy Ltd
Steve	Ellis	Ecotricity
Daniel	Withers	Ecotricity
John	Hill	Ecotricity
Clara	Perez Lobo	Foresight Group
Neil	Murdoch	GHD
Harry	Smith	Lightsource BP
Juan Jose	Cano	Octopus Investments
Greg	Felix	PSH Operations Ltd
Richard	Ellis	Quintas Energy
Merlin	Hyman	Regen
Olly	Frankland	Regen
Matthew	Green	RES
James	Haigh	South West Water
Graeme	Patton	T H White
Adrian	Warman	Thrive Renewables
Richard	Wilson	UK Power Networks
Jonathan	Berry	Western Power Distribution

Joe	Davey	Western Power Distribution
Neil	Mansell	Western Power Distribution
Stephen	Ransome	Western Power Distribution
Sean	Sullivan	Western Power Distribution
Mike	Pelmore	WiseEnergy
Oliver	Leach	WPO

Meeting notes:

Key action areas	Views	Actions
Generator portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members conveyed that they are using the portal and it is very useful. Changes to the portal have been delayed due to a change in website provider. The need for a portal is a key part of the Best Industry Practise manual published in June 2018 developed in partnership with WPD. Other DNOs are intending to follow WPD in creating their own version of a portal. Members asked for more categories to explain the reason for an outage to provide further detail, including unplanned outages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPD to investigate adding further categories to the reason for an outage on the portal along with other improvements. Forum members to help build momentum for other DNOs to create portals.
Single point of contact for planned outages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members provided very positive feedback on efforts by WPD to communicate with them and to reduce the impact of outages. Member raised a number of examples where communication regarding unplanned outages had been very good, reducing the impact of the outage. Members raised occasional issues with contact from local engineers pre and post outage. WPD asked for details to investigate further. WPD have had a number of exchanges regarding reasons for an outage. They are happy to investigate further if details are provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the forum should use Stephen Ransome for specific outage/constraint issues and any dealings with local field engineers relating to outages/constraints Email: sransome@westernpower.co.uk Tel: 02920 535701
Consortium option to reduce outage impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPD have had lots of correspondence with asset owners. No sites have been progressed so far. WPD and members specified it could require a larger outage in order to initiate a consortium solution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to continue to provide sites for investigation to Stephen (details above)
Innovation project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPD presented on project REVISE – a planned innovation project looking at providing a technical solution to reduce outages in certain instances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members interested to contact Jonathan Berry from WPD jberry@westernpower.co.uk

Outage impact assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPD are due to publish outage impact assessment on their website. Members were interested in seeing the updated version and providing feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to provide feedback on the outage impact report to jdavey@westernpower.co.uk WPD have committed to provide monetary impact from MWh lost in their Incentive for Connections Engagement (ICE) plan 2018/19
Incentive on Connections Engagement (ICE) plan 2018/19	<p>Key outputs of the next ICE plan were outlined by WPD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing the DG owner operator forum for the next year. Work with Regen and forum members on an assessment to work out the financial impact of outages on DG connected to WPD network. Further reporting on the work done by WPD to avoid outages before they are communicated to DG customers WPD are working with British Solar Renewables to confirm requirements for health and safety at DG sites Members were interested in exploring if the financial impact of outages work could be used to inform decisions on which customers should be constrained and when. WPD wants members of the forums and the wider industry to lead such a discussion around arrangements and rules regarding these decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to feedback on ICE plan.
Loss of mains protection settings update	<p>In the previous forum WPD outlined a change to the loss of mains protection settings away from vector shift type protection to Rate of Change of Frequency (RoCoF) to help preserve the stability of the electric system. Solar farm sites in southern England were offered compensation if they could shift settings before the 1 June 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPD reported that 140 sites were reported, 33 sites were approved, with 31 completed before the National Grid deadline. Over 50% of the sites involved in the National Grid project were in WPD area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPD to update on any further changes in future forums.
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean Sullivan, control room manager at WPD is being promoted. Gwyn Jones will be replacing him as the leading WPD representative at the DG owner operator forum. The Charging Futures forum consultation on network charging arrangements has now been released – details here. Regen has produced a brief explanatory blog here. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to investigate putting forward their views to these forums, as they are likely to have a big impact on DG.



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Open Networks project is a key energy sector. The future worlds consultation is available here. | |
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