

Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum

13.30-16.30, 26 April 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 April 2018 meeting are set out below.

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

Date of next meeting

19 July 2018, Bristol

Book [here](#).

Attendees:

First name	Last name	Company
Roberto	Anastasia	Bluefield Services
Nicholas	Burridge	Bluefield Services
Helen	Hardaker	BSR
Don	Weston	Chelwood Community Energy
Wendy	Matthews	EcoGen
James	Whitley	Innogy
Ernesto	Chieffo	Octopus Investments
Juan	Jose Cano	Octopus Investments
Kat	Siadak	PSH Operations Ltd
Richard	Ellis	Quintas
Olly	Frankland	Regen
Merlin	Hyman	Regen
Robert	Mattholie	Renewable Energy Systems Ltd
James	Haigh	South West Water
Joe	Davey	Western Power Distribution
Neil	Mansell	Western Power Distribution
Stephen	Ransome	Western Power Distribution
Sean	Sullivan	Western Power Distribution
Tony	Berndes	Western Power Distribution
David	de Ulibarri	WiseEnergy
Gautier	Moulin	WPO

Meeting notes:

Key action areas	Views	Actions
Generator portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were interested in improving the functionality around changing a list of sites in one go. WPD can provide this functionality. Contact WPD for details (right). Members raised the need to limit permissions for certain contacts on the portal and the issue of only one login being available per organisation Members were reminded that the portal provides information for 33kV connected sites and above. It can be used to manage contact details for 11kV sites but no outage information will be shown. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To register for the outage portal, email the below with details of your sites: wpdswestwalesgen@westernpower.co.uk Forum members to contact WPD to add further sites to the portal if required WPD to add different permission level and additional login functionality as part of an upgrade to the portal.
Single point of contact for planned outages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPD explained the considerable amount of work being done behind the scenes to avoid outages for generators. This includes: bespoke load studies and alternative models of working (changing contractor working hours, increasing resource and discussions with project engineers). As a result in 2014-2018, 365 extra days of generation export allowed, enabling an estimated 2755 MW days of export (max export capacity x days). WPD noted there is a finite resource at WPD to work on reducing outages and requested that the sector prioritise their engagement on outages to help maximise the effectiveness of that resource. Members monitoring the portal information more frequently could help improve efficiency. Members provided very positive feedback on efforts by WPD to communicate with them and to reduce the impact of outages. Neil Mansell from WPD is proactively contacting and updating contact details for DG sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to check portal regularly (ideally weekly) and ahead of contact with WPD WPD contact information: South Wales and South West area wpdswestwalesgen@westernpower.co.uk East Midlands area wpdeastmidgen@westernpower.co.uk West Midlands area wpdwestmidgen@westernpower.co.uk 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 investigated 9 sites (33kV connected) that could benefit from an additional point of isolation to reduce the impact of outages. There is no network benefit but a consortium of two or three generators could pay for the work (normally an additional point of isolation). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to continue to provide sites for investigation to Stephen (details above) WPD to progress investigations with specific owner/operators



	<p>All have expressed an interest in progressing the proposal further.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential opportunities are identified from larger outages, suggestions internally and externally from owner/operators. WPD happy to look at more sites. 	
Outage impact assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD presented their first analysis on the impact of outages on DG in the WPD area in terms of generation (MWh) lost. This covers October 2017 to March 2018. The analysis uses a Regen developed model that takes generation data from sites nearby to estimate lost generation from wind and solar sites off due to outages. Results so far show that in the winter lost generation accounts for less than 1 % of total generation and typically less than 0.5%. Though it was noted more outages occur in summer months so this is likely to increase. • Members provided feedback around structure and format of output from model. Suggestions included: a consistent scale for graphs for easy comparison, different colours for wind and solar PV, a glossary for outage reasons, and presenting cumulative figures. • Members raised the potential for getting a monetary (£) impact from the MWh analysis • WPD interested in discussing further uses of this data at the forum, including performance indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD to integrate members' feedback and publish a monthly assessment on the impact of outages on DG in the WPD area in terms of generation lost (MWh). This will start with data from January 2018. The webpage will be circulated. • Members to feedback on publication • WPD expect to commit to provide monetary impact from MWh lost in next Incentive for Connections Engagement (ICE) plan 2018/19 (due to be published shortly)
Loss of mains protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Grid are looking to move loss of mains protection settings for sites in southern England away from vector shift type protection to Rate of Change of Frequency (RoCoF) to help preserve the stability of the electric system • WPD, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) and UK Power Networks are contacting solar farms sites in targeted locations to offer compensation for making the switch before the 1 June 2018. This offer is ahead of further requirements on generators to change away from vector shift. Members were urged to review portfolios and contact relevant network operator contacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to review portfolios to assess exposure to change away from vector shift loss of mains protection • A full letter has been sent to relevant sites and circulated to those on the contact list for the WPD DG owner operator forum • The WPD contact email for responses: wpsow@westernpower.co.uk