

Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum

12.45-4pm, 15 July

Introduction

The Western Power Distribution (WPD) Incentive of Connections Engagement (ICE) work plan 2016/17 contains a number of initiatives in relation to outages and constraints. One of these actions is to establish a forum to discuss the issues with Distributed Generation (DG) owner/operators. Regen organised this initial forum for WPD.

Attendees

First name	Last name	Company
Hayley	Muir	Belltown Power Limited
Francesco	Girardi	Bluefield Partners LLP
Roberto	Anastasia	Bluefield Services
Matthew	Black	Foresight Group
Julian	Elsworth	Foresight Group
Rob	Lowe	Good Energy
Aidan	Morris	Lightsource
Mike	Young	Low Carbon Ltd
Abid	Kazim	NextEnergy Capital Ltd
Alan	John	Osborne Clarke LLP
Richard	Ellis	Quintas Energy
Merlin	Hyman	Regen SW
Oly	Frankland	Regen SW
Graham	Pannell	Renewable Energy Systems Ltd
Sean	Sullivan	Western Power Distribution
Lloyd	Bridges	Western Power Distribution
Mark	Gale	University of Bath

Date of next meeting

Afternoon of 28th September, Bristol

Other events:

Future Networks - a balancing act

9:30 - 16:00, 8 September 2016

Further details and registration [here](#)

Distributed Generation Fora 2016

London - 15 September 2016

Cardiff - 21 September 2016

Further details and registration [here](#)

Meeting notes:

Key action areas	Views	Actions
Role of forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendees agreed that the DG owner/operator forum was a useful addition to Western Power Distribution engagement activities and should continue. • Attendees agreed that WPD's action plan in its ICE plan is focused on the right issues and were keen to work with WPD on the detail and implementation of those actions. • The agenda of the group should remain focused on outages and constraints and link to other WPD engagement opportunities on topics such as innovation. • It is helpful to have regular meetings to avoid loss of momentum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise regular DG owner/operator forum with the next meeting in September/October 2016. • WPD to produce an update on actions it is taking forward after 6/8 weeks.
Operational contact details for sites incorrect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assets can change ownership quickly and there needs to be a process to maintain an accurate contact database • WPD currently use connection agreement as source of contact information – this isn't fit for purpose and they are trying to update details. • WPD often have difficulty in contacting the correct person operationally in relation to outages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send Sean Sullivan sgsullivan@westernpower.co.uk the correct contact details for operational issues for each generation site • WPD to establish a web based portal to provide an ongoing process for updating operational contact details.
Development of further services to provide outage information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outage costs are significant to DG sector. • It is important for the DG sector to be able to forecast to owners/investors when their will be outages. • WPD want to work with the sector to help reduce any outage impact • Any outage information would be better than current situation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop portal for provision of operational and outage information to operational contacts for a given site - expected by end of 2016 • Provide outage forecast (up to 4 weeks) to all generator projects effected by extending current trial • Investigate potential for longer term forecast for upcoming year



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate short term forecasts combined with longer term (annual) forecasts with an indication of the degree of confidence of the forecast would be welcomed. • One benefit of better information would be the opportunity for owner/operator to carry out maintenance work when there is an outage. • WPD noted that accuracy of outage forecasting will get more difficult the longer ahead they are. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide post outage report – with exact timings and contact attempts.
<p>Potential to shorten outage period by working together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operators asked if sites with technical and proven ability to curtail generation within 30 mins, in response to signal from WPD, could be given more accurate outage periods – reducing the times they are off. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate potential for approved sites being able to curtail for a shorter period if they can prove they have the capability to reliably respond quickly to a WPD signal. • Send Sean Sullivan sgsullivan@westernpower.co.uk any information on discrepancies between planned outage timings and when actual work is done to evidence the need
<p>Potential to amend outage timing away from peak generation periods (Solar PV 10:00 -14:00, May to July)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A general feeling was expressed that DG generators are not prioritised in planning outages. • Some owner/operators proposed funding the extra cost of works out of peak generation periods. Others felt this was not appropriate. • WPD noted their normal working hours for maintenance work is 8am-4pm (there are extra costs for out of hours) • Resourcing of work out of peak generation times could be challenging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD to investigate potential for delivering works out of peak generation times and the costs associated • Circulate daily cost estimates to DG owner/operators of outages to WPD engineers/stakeholders so they can appreciate impact