

CiC Group Meeting

Notes from the meeting held 24th July 2018 at WPD's Gloucester office

Present:

Dave Overman – GTC
Nathan Smith - GTC
Arwel Lloyd – UCM Ltd
Andrew Butcher – Stormport
Tom James – Stormport
David Morris – Glenelley
Garry Turner – Power On Connections
Lawrence Wall – Power On Connections

Simon Pett – WPD Network Services Manager
Vanessa Buxton – WPD Connection Policy Co-ordinator
Paul Jewell – WPD Policy Manager
Paul B. Smith – WPD Connection Policy Engineer
Penny Carolan – WPD Connection Policy

1. Introduction

Simon Pett introduced the agenda for the day.

2. Purpose of the Group

The Terms of Reference have been emailed out prior to the meeting. If you require a new copy, it can be obtained from our website [here](#).

The objectives of the group will be to:

- Update on progress
- Identify improvement areas
- Share ideas and options for improvements
- Develop agreed action

3. Update

Simon gave a high level update on our ICE progress. The 2018/19 Workplan has been published, along with the 2018 Looking Back and Looking Forward report. These can be viewed [here](#).

Inspection & monitoring reports have now been implemented. Anonymised reports are published on our website [here](#) and individual reports are issued to ICPs. It was noted that other DNO's provide a number of the anonymised report so individual ICP's know where they sit on the chart. Simon advised that the individual results sent directly to ICPs are more detailed to identify in which inspection areas they have incurred failures.

Information page for ICP's is now live at www.westernpower.co.uk/Information-for-ICPs

HV overhead line works under option 4 – ST:NC2L has been amended to remove the restriction which didn't allow overhead works under option 4, at the request of an ICP. If any ICPs are interested in undertaking these works, they need to first become accredited in Option 4. One ICP noted they are undertaking the connection of overhead line equipment on another DNO network and will consider the opportunity for HV overhead work within the WPD regions.

Design approval reports have been implemented, with an overall table published online [here](#) and individual reports sent to each ICP. It was noted that another DNO provided a learning session on common areas for rejections, areas of good practice seen etc. A query was raised whether self-approval figures are included. Vanessa advised self-approval vs WPD approval is detailed within the KPI pack for 2018 ICE Looking Back report.

Extending the scope of contestability for disconnections is to be considered under ICE action 6.6, due for completion by Q1 2019. Stakeholders felt this would be useful to extend to highway disconnections as will be a benefit for regeneration schemes. The policy for disconnections on brownfield sites is already in place. Simon advised that if an ICP wants to work with WPD on developing a process for highway disconnections, please let WPD know.

Actions for WPD:

- SP to investigate the possibility of providing learning points from our own design approval process.
- SP to investigate the possibility of including ICP self-approval of design volumes within the published design approval tables.

Actions for stakeholders:

- ICPs present to review their individual inspection reports issued and compare with other DNO's reports to identify if anything further is required from WPD.

4. Engineering Policy

Paul Jewell provided an update on constraint panels for alternative connections, now referred to as a connection constraint panel rather than generation constraint to be inclusive of alternative demand connections.

We have standardised the process to use only ZiV boxes rather than ZiV or SGS to ensure consistency in approach and availability of the correct wiring diagrams. The associated software will remain at WPD's discretion as SGS software is compatible with ZiV boxes. ST:TP18A has been updated with the changes and standardisation.

Query on the slides not mentioning RN6. Paul advised that this does also include RN6 but will usually have RN2.

The programming must be carried out by WPD and our plant teams build up a frame with the box, software, switch etc. On that basis, the provision of control equipment currently remains non-contestable. If the process causes an issue in practice please contact us and we will review.

Paul provided a draft view of WPD's material list with a view to making the spreadsheet available on our website. Paul asked whether the contract dates were useful, bearing in mind that these can sometimes be extended. Feedback is that this is useful to understand in relation to the stock levels held by ICPs as they are aware that contracts can be replaced and this can effect changes to the equipment used on future scheme. Paul advised it is normal practice for 6 months grace period to be given following any change of equipment/specification.

Query on whether the policy author can be included against the specification number. Paul advised this may not be possible as this information is not held in the same location as the rest of the material list content but he will look into it.

Stakeholder query on whether we are moving away from Lovink. Paul advised no current thoughts as the silicone joints provided by Lovink have provided satisfactory service. However, the 11kV contract is up for tender next and as always we will consider our options which may look to find a more suitable alternative in some instances, e.g. single core to single core plastic. No minded to position at present though.

Stakeholder query on how Brexit affects procurement for WPD. Paul advised we don't know at present, we already try to be fair with suppliers, e.g. in material and currently cost adjustments. We will need to await the outcome of Brexit negotiations before we can understand any impact.

Query on the escalation point for areas of dispute around proposed materials etc. Paul advised that the ST's provided on the [Technical Information](#) pages of our website are the same ST's our own planners and engineers are required to work to, therefore it may be worth referencing the ST in the first instance. If escalation is still required, this is usually via the Team Manager for the local team who may refer to the policy team where they are unsure. If necessary, ICPs may contact Paul Jewell or a member of his team.

Actions for WPD:

- Issue a copy of the materials list to the group for comment prior to publishing

5. Connection Policy

Vanessa updated on the actions from the previous meeting. Discussions for improving online services will result in changes being made under ICE action 6.1, due for completion by Q4 2018. This will include discussions on the options available for online payments.

Attendees were provided with a hard copy of the current version of the Allowable Changes to a Connection Offer document. Any updates will be published on our website [here](#). Stakeholder queried whether this was in line with ENA documents. Vanessa advised that this document was written with awareness of ENA guidance. Any future recommendations for best practice from the ENA will also be considered and amendments made to WPD's guidance where appropriate.

ECCR refunds will be based on the associated costs as set out in draft Ofgem/DNO/IDNO working group guidance. Although this is not yet released, we have aligned our process to match the working groups views. Query on whether WPD planners have been made aware of the process to obtain detailed works from the ICPs as there have been instances of

planners contacting the ICP's customer directly to ask for costs. Vanessa advised that a reminder was issued when this issue came to light.

Vanessa updated on DCP 294 which was approved and changes have now been made to our charging statements, including the change from 3 years to 5 years for a development phase. Stakeholder comment that 5 years covers 95% of projects however further work needed on the remaining 5% where longer timescales are required. Vanessa advised that timescales and processes for securing capacity on long term developments are being considered as part of our capacity consultation.

Update provided on the capacity consultation. Responses have been reviewed; a response document should be issued in August followed by a decision document. Stakeholder comment was that this is a wider issue than just electrical infrastructure, costs need to be determined then the developer sells off parcels of land and things change. It cannot be black and white rules for everything. A commitment should be given and this should not change.

It was noted that the DNO interpretation of the definition of "speculative" in the common charging methodology differs across the networks. There was also a query over whether electric cars are speculative, e.g. if a capacity request includes an increased ADMD to account for potential future car charging, does this then become a speculative requirement. Vanessa advised that our role is not to question the capacity requirements, simply to confirm that there is a valid requirement. If an application for a firm connection offer is made with a higher than usual ADMD, we may query it but if the response is valid we will proceed with providing an offer of connection for the requested capacity.

Actions for WPD:

- VB to issue a reminder to group members of the availability of a form to provide detailed information on works carried out to ensure more accurate ECCR refunds for their customers are calculated

6. Summary

Simon summarised the output from the day and reviewed to ensure all previous actions had been met or an update provided for ongoing progress. Simon noted that the Technical Information webpages provided the source of information on processes, techniques and technical specifications. A recent review identified low use. Users may access as a guest or sign up which will provide them with notifications of any updates.

Query raised on the option of electronic signatures, e.g. for BCA's. Some DNO's accept scanned documents; there could be an option of going further with electronically provided signatures. Vanessa advised that these discussions are already ongoing and future updates will be provided should any changes be agreed.

Query raised on WPD mailboxes due to an email being rejected when a mail box became full. Simon agreed to feedback to our IR teams.

Query on whether there are any plans to extend A&D fees to 11kV. Vanessa advised no current minded to position, we are aware of some stakeholder views on inconsistency of approach amongst all DNO's given that some restricted to larger schemes whilst others applied to all market segments. We will monitor the situation but we are also undertaking a review of the impact on the EHV schemes affected by the new process within WPD.

7. Wrap up and next steps

Simon asked if there are any topics required for November's meeting. No specific areas identified.

Future CiC Group meetings:

	Suggested areas for discussion
20 th November 2018	TBA