

## Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum

13.30-16.30, 31 January 2019

### 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 January 2019 meeting are set out below. Unfortunately, due to extreme weather and snow, we had a significant number of last-minute drop outs. Those in bold attended on the day.

There is now a dedicated webpage for the forum [here](#).  
The generator portal for outage information is available [here](#).

### Date of next meeting

25 April 2019

[Book here.](#)

### Attendees:

| First name       | Last name        | Company                      |
|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Matt             | Harvey           | Anesco                       |
| <b>Stephen</b>   | <b>Beasley</b>   | <b>Anesco</b>                |
| Jamie            | Grayson          | BayWa r.e.                   |
| <b>Hayley</b>    | <b>Muir</b>      | <b>Belltown Power</b>        |
| <b>Nicholas</b>  | <b>Burridge</b>  | <b>Bluefield Services</b>    |
| <b>Roberto</b>   | <b>Anastasia</b> | <b>Bluefield Services</b>    |
| Anna             | Benson           | British Solar Renewables Ltd |
| Natalie          | White            | British Solar Renewables Ltd |
| <b>Temí</b>      | <b>Gocheva</b>   | <b>DNV GL</b>                |
| <b>Thibault</b>  | <b>Delouvrie</b> | <b>DNV GL</b>                |
| <b>Wendy</b>     | <b>Matthews</b>  | <b>EcoGen</b>                |
| John             | Hill             | Ecotricity                   |
| Clara            | Perez            | Foresight Group              |
| Richard          | Park             | Green Frog Power Ltd         |
| <b>Helen</b>     | <b>Hardaker</b>  | <b>Green Nation</b>          |
| James            | Whitley          | Innogy                       |
| <b>Simone</b>    | <b>Mandica</b>   | <b>Innova Capital Ltd</b>    |
| Federica         | Rappoli          | LightsourceBP                |
| Giorgia          | Marting          | LightsourceBP                |
| <b>Juan Jose</b> | <b>Cano</b>      | <b>Octopus Investments</b>   |
| <b>Ben</b>       | <b>Burgess</b>   | <b>Octopus Investments</b>   |

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|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Thomas</b>   | <b>Rosser</b>    | <b>Octopus Investments</b>        |
| <b>Kerry</b>    | <b>Hayes</b>     | <b>Regen</b>                      |
| <b>Olly</b>     | <b>Frankland</b> | <b>Regen</b>                      |
| <b>Matthew</b>  | <b>Green</b>     | <b>RES</b>                        |
| Jonathan        | Bensted          | Solar South West                  |
| Graeme          | Patton           | T H WHITE                         |
| <b>David de</b> | <b>Ulibarri</b>  | <b>WiseEnergy</b>                 |
| <b>Matt</b>     | <b>Watson</b>    | <b>Western Power Distribution</b> |
| <b>Gwyn</b>     | <b>Jones</b>     | <b>Western Power Distribution</b> |
| <b>Joe</b>      | <b>Davey</b>     | <b>Western Power Distribution</b> |
| <b>Stephen</b>  | <b>Ransome</b>   | <b>Western Power Distribution</b> |

| <b>Key action areas</b> | <b>Views</b>  | <b>Actions</b>   |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Generator portal        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WPD reminded the group that outages, including National Grid outages, will be posted on the portal. WPD are trying to combine outages where possible to reduce downtime for generators, so there are currently not many outages on the portal. This will change over the coming weeks as further planned outages for the spring and summer are confirmed.</li> <li>One company commented positively that he had checked the portal and noticed WPD were planning an outage just ahead of a period of planned downtime, and upon speaking to WPD, they moved the outage to coincide, saving the developer thousands of pounds.</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Register and log on to the WPD generator portal available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>  |
| Single point of contact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group were reminded that Stephen is the single point of contact and that all options can be approached with him.</li> <li>A company brought up a specific example, a communications failure at an ANM site. This communications error meant that WPD didn't have visibility of the outage. The issue has been resolved through updating the communications onsite, but the group were reminded that it is always best to notify WPD if they spot problems, rather than assuming WPD have visibility of a planned outage or fault.</li> <li>WPD made an offer to members of forum to go and visit the control rooms (Derby and Cardiff).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that WPD have the right contacts to ensure outage reports and that incident reporting gets to right person in a timely manner.</li> <li>Get in touch with WPD to arrange a control room visit (Derby or Cardiff). Contact Gwyn Jones <a href="mailto:gjones@westernpower.co.uk">gjones@westernpower.co.uk</a></li> </ul> |

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|---|---|--|
| <p>Outage impact assessment update</p> <p>Cost of lost generation due to outages update</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The preliminary figures suggest that for solar and wind at 33 kV, there was 3.7 TWh exported to the network and of this, 0.65% was lost to outages. The worst months for outages were August, September and November.</li> <li>There are a few hiccups with the cost of lost generation model but on average, the model suggests there was approximately £40-70k a month lost, other than January which was significantly higher.</li> <li>WPD has started to learn some lessons for scheduling outages; by looking at profiles, they can start to see best time to schedule outages (for example, end of outage season is better for large solar projects).</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members welcome to give Joe Davey any ideas they would like to include in the report in the future.</li> <li>Circulate lost generation report to group once confirmed and published.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Options for reducing outage impact</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group heard that planning and connections teams are currently working to be able to offer additional points of isolation for sites that experience higher levels of outages. This would be at a cost to the owner/operator.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If generators are interested in investigating additional points of isolation for their sites to reduce the impact of outages, get in touch with Stephen Ransome – <a href="mailto:sransome@westernpower.co.uk">sransome@westernpower.co.uk</a></li> </ul> |
| <p>Local flexibility market update</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WPD shared an update of the huge growth in generation and predicted growth in demand on the network, which highlights that by 2030 the way the network is operated has to be changed, which has paved the way for local flexibility markets.</li> <li>WPD explained the different product strategy they have developed, the different types of responses required, and the potential value to generators in the market. WPD has settled on set unit rates per MW, rather than competitive tenders, given new markets.</li> <li>WPD are due to announce the next set of constraints to be included in flexibility markets in early 2019. Currently they are going to be focused on 12 constraints in 80 zones. These are predominantly controllable and are likely to be around “ramping-up of generation” and “turning-down of demand”. The process is technology agnostic.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See more here: <a href="https://www.westernpower.co.uk/network-flexibility-map">https://www.westernpower.co.uk/network-flexibility-map</a></li> </ul>   |



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|-----|--|--|
|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WPD has been working on improving signposting of what they require.</li> </ul>  |  |
| AOB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Development Plan for South West and work with National Grid to provide further network capacity. This could include further ANM connection types and local flexibility tenders.</li> <li>• One generator raised an issue regarding several letters from WPD offering a change of connection type to a more flexible ANM network connection, explaining they had felt that messaging had been unclear and didn't feel it was an option. WPD to discuss options with the generator and to follow up with generators separately.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group to get in contact with Regen to highlight future topics and issues for future forums.</li> <li>• Update on process and policy for moving from firm to ANM network connections likely to be a part of the next forum.</li> </ul> |