

Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum

13.30-16.30 pm, 24 January 2017

Introduction

Western Power Distribution's (WPD's) Incentive on 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.

WPD and Regen established this forum in July 2016. The attendee list and meeting notes are below.

Attendees:

First name	Last name	Company
Vasileios	Chatzimpaloglou	Belectric
Jeremy	Parks	Belltown Power Limited
Hayley	Muir	Belltown Power Limited
Roberto	Anastasia	Bluefield Services
Matthew	Lawrence	Bluefield Services
Helen	Hardaker	British Solar Renewables
David	Lacey	British Solar Renewables
Don	Weston	Chelwood Community Energy
Andrew	Neild	Ethical Power
Julian	Elsworth	Foresight Group
Francis	Williamson	Good Energy
Nigel	Davie	Green Nation
Charles	Kane	Greener for Life
Federica	Rappoli	Lightsource
Aidan	Morris	Lightsource
Will	Blackler	Low Carbon Ltd
Greg	Felix	PS Renewables
Morgan	Donnelly	REG Power Management
Johnny	Gowdy	Regen
Olly	Frankland	Regen
Merlin	Hyman	Regen
Craig	Ibbetson	ReGen Energy
Philip	Santi	Renewable Energy Systems Ltd
Kevin	Dodd	RWE Innogy UK Limited
William	Silverstone	Silverstone Energy
Becky	Bessel	Silverstone Energy
Dominic	Cadman	Wind Prospect Operations
Vicki	Ramsden	Wise Energy

Sean	Sullivan	Western Power Distribution
Joe	Davey	Western Power Distribution
Lloyd	Bridges	Western Power Distribution

Dates of future meetings

27 April and **11 July** 2017 - all taking place in the afternoon in Bristol

Other events:

ENA 2017 Transmission Distribution Interface Stakeholder Engagement Workshops

London 15 February

Details [here](#)

Smart Energy Marketplace

Exeter, 28 March

Details [here](#)

Meeting notes:

Key action areas	Views	Actions
Final draft of generator portal shown to attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from forum attendees has been used to improve portal Still a need for data protection/security testing Very positive feedback from forum members Need for DG owners to have control over which O&M contractor has access to data on their sites. Forum members felt that launching portal soon was more important than getting a perfect offering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portal due to be ready at the end of February 2017 WPD to pilot portal with forum members Forum members to provide feedback on portal when launched Asset owners will be responsible for managing who has access to the portal (e.g. for a change in O&M contractor) WPD to investigate whether the portal can include the contact detail information for all sites at the 11kV level (currently 33kV and above)
Outage contact details update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPD are continuing process of manually updating contact details for the different licence areas details on their network diagram (close to complete for south west and south Wales). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum members to send through details of sites and contact information (if they have not already done so)
Longer term outage forecasts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPD have started formalising the planned maintenance schedule at 33 and 66kV level – providing more long term visibility. This will feed into the outage information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPD to work to include outage information on the portal as soon as requested by its engineers and to notify DG owner/operators when the

	<p>on the portal enabling longer term notification than the four weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will take time to work its way through and information on outages further ahead is more likely to change. • The forum agreed that earlier notification would be a very positive step and that information should be put on the portal as early as possible with details of status (requested/planned/approved) 	<p>status of the outage changes to planned and then confirmed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD to provide generic details of the maintenance frequencies for different asset types
<p>Reducing impact of outages</p> <p>“Just-in-time” approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum attendees cited positive examples of moving or shortening outages following discussion with WPD representatives. • Feedback from meeting of Foresight, Lightsource and WPD with draft outage flowchart presented • WPD felt there was a need for a separate process for “just-in-time” and standard outage pathways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD and Foresight to update the flow chart. • WPD network engineers happy to discuss options to reduce outage impact on a case-by-case basis <p>Questions to ask WPD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the outage be moved? • Can the outage be shortened in any way (e.g. extend the working day)? • Is there a cost to shifting outages which the asset owner could contribute to? <p>Internal questions for owner/operator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we move maintenance schedule to match outage? • Will a site visit be necessary for re-energising?
<p>Consortium option</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD confirmed they are open to generators contributing to the costs of carrying out maintenance in order to reduce its impact on generation. This should be discussed on a case by case basis with the local network manager. • Could be issues with different technologies preferring specific outage times/seasons and WPD left to judge how to accommodate conflicting customer needs. • WPD suggested that a trial may be the best way to move forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum members and WPD to investigate a potential trial for a consortium approach to reduce the impact of a significant outage (a number of generators and days/weeks in length)
<p>New priorities for the forum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD are developing their ICE strategy and are looking for further themes/areas which could be covered by the forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum members feedback ideas using form (attached) to Sean sgsullivan@westernpower.co.uk



AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aidan raised question about letters on power factors that WPD have sent out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sean to ask a WPD expert to speak on this at next forum meeting.
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