

## Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum

13.30-16.30 pm, 28 September 2016

### 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

WPD and Regen established this forum in July 2016. This is the second meeting.

### Attendees

First name	Last name	Company
Roberto	Anastasia	Bluefield Services
James	King	Bristol City Council Energy Services
Bob	Hodgetts	Everoze
Matthew	Black	Foresight Group
Aidan	Morris	Lightsource
Esther	Fombellida Ruiz	Lightsource
Will	Blackler	Low Carbon Ltd
Ben	Gowers	Magnetar Solar
Olly	Frankland	Regen SW
Merlin	Hyman	Regen SW
Philip	Santi	Renewable Energy Systems Ltd
Paul	Harding	South West Water
Monika	Paplaczyk	Thrive Renewables
Adrian	Warman	Thrive Renewables
Matthew	Clayton	Thrive Renewables
Philip	Bazin	Triodos Bank
Steve	Moore	Triodos Bank
Alison	Sleightholm	Western Power Distribution
Sean	Sullivan	Western Power Distribution
Lloyd	Bridges	Western Power Distribution
Richard	Skyte	Western Power Distribution
Joe	Davey	Western Power Distribution
Vicki	Ramsden	Wise Energy

### Dates of future meetings

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

**Other events:**

**Distributed Generation Stakeholder workshop**

11 November 2016, Birmingham

An invitation should have been sent to you via email

**Meeting notes:**

Key action areas	Views	Actions
Roles and responsibilities at WPD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean Sullivan is now responsible for the South West, South Wales and Midlands control rooms, providing more process/policy uniformity</li> <li>There are plans to recruit for another WPD position who will provide a single point of contact for generators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean Sullivan is currently single point of contact <a href="mailto:sgsullivan@westernpower.co.uk">sgsullivan@westernpower.co.uk</a></li> <li>Sean is happy to meet with DG owner/operator on request</li> </ul>
Outage management system – constraint report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The weekly outage report for the next four weeks is now business as usual and provides details of planned outages (not unplanned faults) on the 132 kV, 66 kV and 33 kV network Note – 11 kV is the responsibility of local distribution office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WPD will continue to go through the list of DG on their system and manually updating details on their network diagram (60-70 per cent complete for south west).</li> <li>Forum members to send through details of sites and contact information (if they have not already done so)</li> </ul>
Long term maintenance schedules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long term planned outage information was again requested by attendees</li> <li>WPD mentioned that linking asset maintenance schedules to work at an individual site level is very challenging</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matt at Foresight agreed to meet with WPD to discuss how information on frequency of works required on different assets could be shared.</li> </ul>
WPD generation portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The portal is at a draft stage</li> <li>Feedback on the current content was positive</li> <li>The forum recommended that a notification (via email) for a change in status of outages (planned to approved)</li> <li>Delegates noted that a post report on constraints as well as outages would be very useful. WPD noted that alternative connections are managed separately.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WPD to investigate the ability to provide notifications from the portal on a change in status of an outage</li> <li>WPD to talk to future networks team on whether the portal will include alternative connections and whether it could provide post constraint report (for alternative connections)</li> </ul>

<p>Reducing outage impact and aligning maintenance work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owner/operators normally have 2 or 4 year maintenance schedule which could be aligned with outages</li> <li>• A case study was discussed by Ben Gowers at Magnetar where discussions with local WPD engineers reduced an outage from 100 per cent to 50 per cent</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Potential for collaboration between local owner/operators to pay for off-peak works to reduce outage impact</li> <li>• Owner/operator normally has good remote control of assets so could turn off on request, reducing outage length.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WPD to investigate and feedback the technical and operational parameters to implement just-in-time outages</li> <li>• WPD to organise a session with control room shift managers to discuss how this would work in practice – Aidan (Lightsource) and Matt (Foresight) expressed interest in participation</li> <li>• Owner/operators to engage with local WPD network managers on a case by case basis regarding contributing to the costs of maintenance so as to have it carried out at a time to reduce impact on generation. Feedback on this will be invited at the next forum.</li> </ul>
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