

## Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum

13.30-16.30, 24 July 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 July 2019 meeting are set out below.

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

Date of next meeting: 8 October 2019 (TBC)

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Marc	Scambler	Amberside Energy
Alec	Minter	Amberside Energy
Alex	Lockton	Belectric
Ben	Grieve	Belltown Power
Bill	Primarolo	Belltown Power
Paula	Naranjo	Bluefield Services
Pedro	Silva	Bluefield Services
David	Harris	Bright Renewables
Anna	Benson	BSR O&M
Natalie	White	BSR O&M
Don	Weston	Chelwood Community Energy
Temí	Gocheva	DNV GL
Thibault	Delouvrié	DNV GL
John	Hill	Ecotricity
Neil	Filkin	Green Frog Power
Dave	Law	Green Frog Power
Helen	Hardaker	Green Nation
Sarah-Jane	Smith	Lightsource BP
Konstantinos	Triantafyllou	PSH Operations
Hannah	Stanley	Regen
Olly	Frankland	Regen
Gwyn	Jones	Western Power Distribution
Andy	Hood	Western Power Distribution

Key action areas	Views	Actions
WPD generation portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Customers confirmed the WPD generation portal for outages is being well used by all those customers in the room.</li> <li>It was noted that incorrect email addresses are being used for notifications and customers data on the portal needs to be updated.</li> <li>Customers were reminded that there is a more localised system for sites connected at 11kV. Sites connected at 33 kV and above are managed at the central WPD control rooms and are part of the more detailed notification process using the portal. Customers were interested in progressing the integration of these separate systems. WPD informed customers that this it is a long-term aim to do so.</li> <li>Customers also raised the need for clarity in the language in the notifications to ensure it is clear when the outages are happening, and the work is being done.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WPD to ensure there is clarity in notifications from the generation portal.</li> <li>Customers were reminded to update their contact details on their sites (11 kV and 33 kW+ connected) using the portal.</li> </ul>
Notifications (letters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Customers of the forum raised delays in outage notification letters arriving and the lack of notice period in specific instances.</li> <li>Customers also said that no letters are sent to inform customers when outages have been cancelled and this could be an added communication option.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WPD to investigate individual circumstances and review internal processes to ensure consistency.</li> </ul>
Local flexibility tenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local flexibility services are being procured in certain WPD areas under the Flexible Power brand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Customers interested in WPD local flexibility tenders should access <a href="http://www.flexiblepower.co.uk/">www.flexiblepower.co.uk/</a></li> </ul>
Connect and Manage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Connect and Manage project is a potential new revenue stream for generators. It uses the same communication system as Active Network Management (ANM) to help manage transmission network constraints using distribution connected assets in the south west distribution area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For more information refer to the slides on the forum webpage and email <a href="mailto:commercial.operation@nationalgrid.com">commercial.operation@nationalgrid.com</a></li> </ul>
Adding points of isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some customers have investigated adding points of isolation as a method of reducing outage impacts.</li> <li>WPD raised the point that other network connection configurations are available (rather than a standard T connection). This could</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Customers who want further information on changing their connection to the electricity network and/or adding additional points of isolation contact</li> </ul>

	<p>improve the reliability of the connection and reduce impacts from outages but will come with additional costs.</p>	<p><a href="mailto:sransome@westernpower.co.uk">sransome@westernpower.co.uk</a></p>
<p>Engineering Recommendations G98 and G99</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New G98 and G99 engineering recommendations came into effect on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and will apply to all new connections and may apply to significant changes to existing sites (e.g. inverter replacement).</li> <li>• WPD confirmed that many more manufacturers now have type tested equipment compliant with G98 and G99.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customers need to check any new equipment used on their sites is G98 or G99 compliant.</li> <li>• Customers who are interested can find more information at the Energy Networks Association Distributed Energy Resources technical forum webpage: <a href="http://www.energynetworks.org/electricity/engineering/distributed-generation/ena-dno-der-technical-forum.html">www.energynetworks.org/electricity/engineering/distributed-generation/ena-dno-der-technical-forum.html</a></li> <li>• WPD will update customers via the forum on any significant changes in the interpretation of the new requirements.</li> </ul>
<p>Loss of mains protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customers raised the continued programme of changes to the loss of mains settings, with sites being altered from vector shift to Rate of change of Frequency (RoCoF). National Grid is working with WPD and others to engage DG sites. A payment scheme is in operation to help fund the cost of the changes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further details of the accelerated loss of mains protection programme (vector shift to RoCoF) are available on the webpage: <a href="http://www.energynetworks.org/electricity/engineering/loss-of-mains.html">www.energynetworks.org/electricity/engineering/loss-of-mains.html</a></li> </ul>
<p>Health and safety reminder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WPD have recently been made aware of occasions where unsafe practices have been used at generation sites and presented an example of one such occurrence (e.g. a lack of safety processes and earthing protocol for a 132kV connected site). WPD were not made aware of that works were being carried out.</li> <li>• Customers need to ensure contractors have the right expertise in order to give WPD authorisation to energise a site after an outage. On a site with a shared connection, where there are multiple parties involved, customers need to be even more organised and rigorous in their communications between parties to avoid unsafe situations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customers need to ensure the contractors they use are fully trained and qualified for the works they are undertaking.</li> <li>• On complex sites with multiple parties, customers need to have robust communication processes to ensure safety is maintained.</li> <li>• Customers should always inform WPD when significant works are being carried out on generation sites.</li> </ul>