

Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum – meeting notes

14:00-16.00, 12 August 2020

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 August 2020 meeting are set out below.

There is a dedicated webpage for the forum [here](#).

The generation portal for outage information is available [here](#).

For day-to-day outage queries, please contact the WPD nominated person detailed on the 4-week generator report or via the following emails:

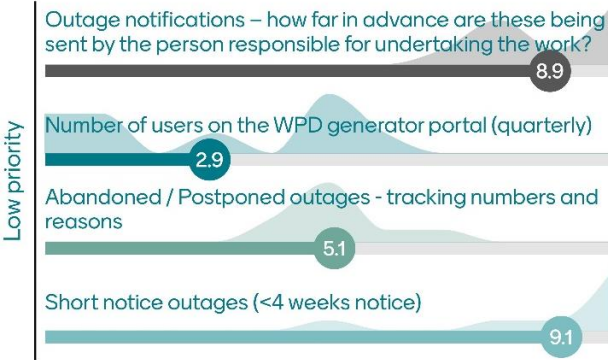
- South Wales and South West: wpdswwestwalesgen@westernpower.co.uk
- East Midlands: wpdeastmidgen@westernpower.co.uk
- West Midlands: wpdwestmidgen@westernpower.co.uk

Date of next meeting: TBC

First Name	Surname	Organization
Cameron	Beauclerk	Bright Renewables
Dale	King	Anesco
Danielle	Greedy	WPD
David	de Ulibarri	WiseEnergy
Emilie	Ehretsmann	Belltown Power
Emily	Bull	SSW UK
Gwyn	Jones	WPD
Harry	Barlow	Communities for Renewables
Ieuan	spencer	Toucan Energy
James	Whitley	RWE Renewables UK
Jose Leandro	Sancho Rodriguez	Quintas Energy
Kurt	Rubel	RES
Margit	Klendauer	Communities for Renewables
Mark	Degg	Cogen
Olly	Frankland	Regen
Hannah	Stanley	Regen

Joe	Noble	Regen
Peter	Aston	WPD
Peter	Roberts	BSR
Philip	Jenner	Ecotricity
Richard	Wilson	UK Power Networks
Thibault	Delouvrie	DNV GL
Wendy	Matthews	Bridge Wind Management

Key action areas	Views	Actions
<p>Improving industry and WPD communications to address outages/constraints</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The backlog of connection works due to COVID-19 is now quickly reducing and WPD's workload is ramping up as they increase the number of control engineers to match demand for connections. A normal working pattern is returning in the control centre and WPD are getting back to a business as usual situation. Positive feedback from customers regarding the continuation of planned outages in line with notification. Customers raised concerns over planned outages (notified by letter/email) not appearing on the DG portal and a lack of historic planned outage information available. Issues were also raised over difficulty in updating contact details on the portal. WPD reported that the portal is currently undergoing an upgrade which should fix some of these issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers to contact Neil Mansell with questions regarding portal issues (nmansell@westernpower.co.uk)
<p>Outage and constraint management Danielle Greedy – Outage Planning Engineer, WPD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Outage Management System (OMS) displays information on outages and checks if customers are affected. WPD work to minimise impact of these and, via their Outage Planner, ensure that outages are combined to one single outage where possible, to reduce impact on DG customers. Outages appear on WPD DG portal via the 4-week report, alongside a formal notification from a WPD engineer. WPD liaise with the DG owner/operator directly to apply constraints, and then monitor activity via WPD's network diagram. Once the works are finished, constraints are lifted. Connection Control Panels (CCPs) manage day to day activity of DG sites. These constrain export to that pre-agreed in the connection agreement. The 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers can contact WPD with queries regarding specific circuit performance, by emailing Danielle Greedy (dgreedy@westernpower.co.uk). Customers to contact Peter Aston (paston@westernpower.co.uk) with enquiries regarding studies to allow export during scheduled maintenance via an extra connection.

	<p>soft inter-trip scheme can be controlled by WPD for temporary new constraints during works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers reported having planned outages and the process being followed well. • A question was raised as to whether a stage 2 constraint will disconnect a G99 relay. WPD confirmed that a stage 2 constraint will trip the customer's circuit breaker, but that auxiliary power is still available for thermal generators. • Customers raised a question regarding availability of historic data for unplanned (fault) outages on a certain circuit. Faults are harder to record, although WPD can provide some detail on track records of specific circuits. It should be noted that a circuit's past performance does not signal future performance. Customers can email WPD for more information on specific circuit performance. The generation portal shows historic planned site outages. • Customers raised concern over loss of generation due to long scheduled outage periods and would like to know if it would be possible to export via another route during these times. Peter Aston confirmed that a new G99 connection would be required, but the site would not need updating from G59 standards if nothing on site is changing. 											
<p>DG community Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers were happy with the KPIs shown, and there were no objections. • The following KPI's were rated in terms of priority for stakeholders:  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>KPI</th> <th>Priority Rating</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Outage notifications – how far in advance are these being sent by the person responsible for undertaking the work?</td> <td>8.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of users on the WPD generator portal (quarterly)</td> <td>2.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abandoned / Postponed outages - tracking numbers and reasons</td> <td>5.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Short notice outages (<4 weeks notice)</td> <td>9.1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	KPI	Priority Rating	Outage notifications – how far in advance are these being sent by the person responsible for undertaking the work?	8.9	Number of users on the WPD generator portal (quarterly)	2.9	Abandoned / Postponed outages - tracking numbers and reasons	5.1	Short notice outages (<4 weeks notice)	9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers to feed back further comments/thoughts on the KPIs presented.
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<p>Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme (ALoMCP) and the impact of COVID-19 on connections Peter Aston – Primary System Design Manager, WPD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new connections since 1 Feb 2018 must have Rate of Change of Frequency (RoCoF) loss of mains protection settings increased to 1Hz/s with a time delay of 500ms. Vector shift loss of mains protection settings should be removed/disabled. All remaining connections must be on G59/3 by 31 Aug 2022. National Grid ESO has introduced an ALoMCP to pay customers to change relay settings or replace relays (if required) before the 2022 deadline. The total funding pot available is £175 million with up to £4,000 per site available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1,500 for the first setting change £500 for next five setting changes £4,000 for a relay change NB: The ALoMCP includes any tech that works with G59 settings, including some inverters which will also need settings changes/replacement covered by funding. It is the owner’s responsibility to verify whether the inverter has a LoM function and what changes might be required. There is a list of inverters on the ENA website (insert here), but this does not cover every type of inverter. Relay replacements will not be authorised for sites with inverters, but changes or removal in relay settings are funded. Applications open Oct 2019 – Aug 2021 (approx.) The ALoMCP is delivered in rounds. If current window is full or has been missed, customers will be contacted in the next window. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Window 4: closed 11th Aug 2020 Window 5: August - November 2020 Window 6: November 2020 – February 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and application through the ENA portal, along with information on the fast track scheme at: http://www.ena-eng.org/ALoMCP/. There is a dedicated WPD email address ALoMCP@westernpower.co.uk and webpage https://www.westernpower.co.uk/our-network/loss-of-mains It would be useful for customers to pass on information regarding inverters which need settings changes so that WPD can update the list of devices on the portal. Customers to alert WPD regarding relay/settings changes even if funding is not sought. Further info on process at: https://www.energynetworks.org/electricity/engineering/accelerated-loss-of-mains-change-programme.html

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is possible that applications will be extended to Windows 7 and 8, up to August 2021. • Customers can also apply for retrospective payments if changes to sites have already been made by proactive owner/operators. • All works require witnessing from a registered contractor/engineer. A current list of WPD recognised contractors for works can be found here (NB the ENA also publish a list of contractors but not all of them are recognised by WPD). Customers' in-house O&M team can be set up as a registered contractor if required. • Sites without witnessing from WPD or a registered contractor will be subject to a spot check. Sample site visits are required for payments to be released. Sample site visits do not need a contractor to be present, video conferencing just needs to demonstrate that the settings line up with the date stamped photos previously provided as evidence. It is important that customers send someone to site that knows what they are doing as a trip could be caused if done incorrectly. • The ALoMCP programme is deemed high priority, so it has continued through COVID-19 lockdown. Some completion dates were extended by 3 months. Some witnessing and sample site visits have been done via video conferencing with the contractor on site. • A customer raised a question as to whether a small rooftop site with G59 settings is eligible, and WPD confirmed that it would be. • Fast track was launched on the 29th June 2020. £5000 additional payment is available per site. This is aimed at customers and contractors that can make changes within 4 weeks of the application. Open to 100 sites initially, and then will be reviewed – customers urged to apply quickly if this applies to them. Certain parameters must be met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site capacity $\geq 500\text{kW}$, $< 5000\text{kW}$. - Existing protection: ROCOF up to and including 0.2Hz/s. • WPD are struggling to engage with smaller generators and are finding that those with sites under 500kW have a particularly low take-up rate. 	
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	<p>Customers offered the following ideas to help WPD engage better with smaller customers to get better participation in the scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Publish information in farmer's magazines for example, where smaller generators may discover the programme- Ask rooftop O&M providers to notify customers- Help to cover upfront costs for upgrading to G99 settings- Send an email/letter to all generators and make sure they are aware of the ALoMCP, using contact details on the generator portal- Send a notification of the scheme with the electricity bill- Go through suppliers who would be installing the 10kW units- Offer assistance with the application process. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Customers raised concern that some sites may be holding out for additional bonuses, but WPD confirmed that NGENSO have ruled out increasing payments in favour of increasing awareness.	
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