

Distributed Generation Owner/Operator Forum – meeting notes

14:00-16.00, 27 October 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 October 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

Delegate List:

First name	Last name	Organisation
Emilie	Ehretsmann	Belltown Power
Hayley	Muir	Belltown Power
Nicholas	Burridge	Bluefield Services
Taha	Bin Tariq	Bluefield Services Ltd
Roberto	Anastasia	Bluefield Services Ltd
Saga	Carle	Bright Renewables
Peter	Roberts	British Solar Renewables
Christie	Sims	BSR Energy
Mark	Degg	Cogen
Bethan	Lawson	Good Energy
Sarah	Lancaster	Greensolver
Gary	Bell	Imerys
Chiara	Guiducci	Lightsource BP
Justin	Thesiger	Low Carbon Asset Management Ltd
Martin	Stanyon	Octopus Renewables

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Juan	Cano	Octopus Renewables
Olly	Frankland	Regen
Hannah	Stanley	Regen
Matthew	Green	RES
James	Whitley	RWE Renewables
Peter	Aston	Western Power Distribution
Danielle	Greedy	Western Power Distribution
Tim	Hughes	Western Power Distribution
Gwyn	Jones	Western Power Distribution
David	de Ulibarri	WiseEnergy
Sebastien	Dot	WPO

Key action areas	Views	Actions
<p>Improving industry and WPD communications to address outages/constraints Danielle Greedy – Outage Planning Engineer, WPD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last few months have been a busy period of outages as the teams catch up on work. This should start to reduce as we enter the winter period with fewer outages for the remainder of the year. Produced new DG KPI booklet as per Incentive on Connections in Engagement. Will be published quarterly on the generation portal. Lost Generation Report for 2020 now available on the generation portal. This shows the MWhs of generation that were lost due to outage constraints. WPD will be publishing the estimated monetary impact of the lost generation for wind and solar technologies for 2020, by the next forum in January 2021. WPD have updated the generation portal and four-week report, creating a reason for change field to give more information to asset owners and operators. Coordination of outages has been harder due to the impact of Covid-19 on workplans. WPD are doing the 2021-2022 plan. 132kV and 33kV outage plans are being planned. Each outage planner will be responsible for coordinating the outages in their area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers to provide feedback on KPIs prior to the next DG forum in January 2021. Including any changes or enhancements for the portal, reports and KPIs Customers to contact WPD with their planned maintenance works to align with WPD outages Customers to contact WPD if there are any outages coming up that are close together, as WPD may be able to merge to reduce the impact on customers. Provide as much notice as possible, ideally within a week of receiving the four-week report. Use the email addresses on page 1. WPD to publish the lost generation report with cost estimates for wind and solar on the generation portal.
<p>Upgrading your network connection as a connected customer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of DG sites have a single circuit connection. Normally on or off. There could be options for % level of curtailment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers interested in changing their network connection can use connection surgeries. The modification

<p>Tim Hughes – Connections Policy Manager, WPD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the availability of the network capacity using the Energy Data Hub, to help make informed connection decisions • The WPD energy data hub - brings the information together for easy access for customers, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Network capacity map ○ Common info models ○ Embedded capacity register ○ Data portal2 • Attending a connection surgery and asking for a budget estimate are the first steps to give you an idea of the costs to connect. This is a free service. The stages following this may have costs included for feasibility studies. • Modification of existing connections can be done through a different process using this form. This could result in a no works connection offer with no cost associated. Otherwise a new connection offer will be needed with cost for the works payable. • Upgrading to a firm connection – for example changing away from Active Network Management connection agreement to a firm connection offer. • Customers shared experience on assessing their portfolios for network connection options. Finding that changes were not financially feasible and that adding battery storage to sites was not attractive proposition following a cost benefit analysis. • Customer raised a point on a new connection offer where the site can be disconnected, requesting a change to be constrained to 0 MW import instead. WPD confirmed that this could be done and to contact them for further information. 	<p>form can be used to provide information on changes to technology or other connection characteristics.</p>
<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"> • South Wales – since May 2016 there has been a restriction on new thermal plants (energy storage, gas etc) connections. With long connection dates out to 2026. This restriction has been lifted due to closure of Aberthaw power station. • Hinkley point C Connection – considerable works and extended outages have been impacting customers. Creating new 400kV line through Somerset. Diversions of lines from 11kV to 132kV lines will be impacted. Most of the works will be completed by 2024. For more information: https://www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book a connections surgery to discuss any possible development opportunities and the implications of the previous restrictions - wpdconnectappoint@westernpower.co.uk • Contact Danielle Greedy from WPD for information regarding any outages through Somerset corridor for the Hinkley connection works. Find out

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALoMCP update – all changes need to be completed by 31 Aug 2022 (requirement not optional). Applies to anything greater than 3.68kW single phase and 11 kW three phase. • Anyone connected after 1 Feb 2018 should already be compliant. Those sites connected earlier than this are the ones to look out for. • Payment of up to £4,000 per relay change • Windows for application are three months each, the next closes on the 10 November – next one is 10 November – 10 February 2021. • Inverters may contain G59 settings that need to be changed or disabled • Progress so far - 1475 applications received out of 10,000-15,000 sites. 990 sites have been completed of this and £2.5 million has been paid out to 680 sites. • Future enforcement actions could be taken if generators are not compliant after 2 Sept 2022 • WPD and other DNOs are increasing their communications on this project. Including letters to larger customers. • Fast track scheme if you can make changes within 4 weeks you can get an additional £5,000 (if you meet specific criteria). • A customer raised a question on evidence. What do they need to provide the payment? • WPD confirmed that the fast track ALoMCP scheme can be applied retrospectively. 	<p>more information on the programme here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPD contact email for ALoMCP: ALOMCP@westernpower.co.uk and freephone 0800 0328880 • Customer to contact WPD if they have any thoughts on how to engage more sites with ALoMCP. • WPD to look add a notification to the process to inform customers once the application has been approved for payment.
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