

National Grid Electricity Transmission Independent User Group

Minutes and actions of the National Grid Electricity Transmission Independent Stakeholder Group (ISG) Meeting 03

ISG	NGET-ISG03
Meeting Date:	6 th June 2024
Location:	NG office, The Strand, London
Start Time:	9:15 – 16:45
Attendees:	<p>Chair: Trisha McAuley (TM)</p> <p>Technical Secretary: Amelia Affum (AA), Support Tech Sec: Theresa Potter (TP)</p> <p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eddie Proffitt (EP), Major Energy Users Council• Stew Horne (SHo), Energy Savings Trust• Zoe McLeod (ZM), Independent Consumer Advocate• Karl Drage (KD), Independent Member• Denise Massey (DM), Energy Innovation Centre• Julian Leslie (JL), National Grid, Electricity System Operator• Cheryl Hiles (CH) West Midlands Combined Authority <p>National Grid Representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robert Salter-Church (RSC), National Grid, Head of UK Regulatory Strategy• Alice Delahunty (AD), National Grid President of Electricity Transmission• Martin Winter (MW) - National Grid Electricity Transmission Regulatory Policy Senior Manager - Future Price Controls Architect • Strategic and External Affairs <p>For agenda item ...</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeni Ray (JR) – National Grid Strategic Electricity Transmission, Head of Stakeholder Management & Insights• Akram Farook (AF) - Stakeholder Data and Digital Lead • Strategic and External Affairs <p>Connections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adam Brown (AB) - National Grid Electricity Transmission Commercial Strategy Manager• Grace Garner (GG) - Connections Regulation Manager, National Grid Electricity Transmission <p>IT Digital & Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sarah Milton-Hunt Winter (SMH) – Chief Information Officer, IT & Digital, National Grid Electricity Transmission

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nicola Foot (NF) - Regulatory Policy Manager IT/Property/Cyber/Optel Non-Op Totex • National Grid Electricity Transmission <p>Maintain our Assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roisin Quinn (RQ) - Director of Asset Operations, National Grid Electricity Transmission • Jonathan Hennah (JH) – Technical Lead, Asset Operations, National Grid Electricity Transmission
Apologies:	<p>IUG Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry Hatton (BH), UKPN • Alex Schoch (AS), Octopus Energy • Roz Bulleid (RB), Green Alliance • Jane Cooper (JC), RenewablesUK

Minutes

Agenda Reference	<p>During this month's ISG meeting several topics were discussed.</p> <p>The first topic covered was the Stakeholder Engagement Update. The approach to maintaining an engagement log and the optioneering/testing of the network plan with stakeholders were discussed. The objectives were to inform the ISG of the progress made in stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>The ISG agreed with NGET's approach to the engagement log. NGET was tasked with engaging with wider energy network stakeholders and assessing how to utilize regional feedback gained by other organizations, such as other utilities. Additionally, NGET was requested to provide evidence of internal engagement.</p> <p>The second topic focused on Connections. The current status of customer connections, updates on connections reform, and the T2 process were provided. The T3 connections business plan was also discussed. The objectives were to seek the ISG's view on considerations for connections options and the development of the RIIO-T3 plan.</p> <p>Effective discussions on connections reform and the T3 plan were held, leading to constructive challenges. NGET was requested to set out success criteria for connections reform and demonstrate understanding of customer/consumer needs, considering fairness and engaging with parties outside of the industry. Moreover, NGET was expected to demonstrate longer-term social value and customer confidence in investment choices. It was also suggested that NGET consider implementing a customer charter to help set expectations on both sides.</p> <p>The third topic centred around IT Digital and Data. The strategic context, progress on the T2 plan, the 2024 Digitalisation Strategy and Action Plan, and an overview of the T3 business plan were presented. The importance of whole system collaboration and compliance with Data Best Practice and T3 Plan guidance were emphasized. The objectives were to seek the ISG's views on various questions related to this topic.</p>
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The ISG commented positively on the messaging in the IT Digital and Data space. NGET was advised to better articulate the environmental impact and dependencies of strategic challenges. It was recommended that NGET use third-party assurance to review the approach to digital tools and provide evidence for continued stakeholder engagement. Furthermore, the ISG suggested that NGET's Virtual Energy System plans should be incremental and start at the regional level.

The fourth topic addressed the need to maintain our assets. The performance of the RIIO-T1 and T2 plans, the approach to building the T3 plan, and optimizing the T3 plan while considering trade-offs were discussed. The objectives were to seek the ISG's views on sharing T2 performance, T3 plan principles, and the approach to trade-offs regarding best value and deliverability.

There was a focused discussion on the T3 plan with detailed feedback from the ISG. NGET was requested to demonstrate value for money on asset health investments and highlight the golden thread of stakeholder engagement. Specific questions were raised regarding T3 plan optimization and learnings from T1/2, such as clarifying the overall risk level and ensuring customers aren't paying twice. NGET was asked to clarify resource allocation on overhead lines (OHL) and innovations to address the challenges.