

## Minutes of the NERSAP Meeting

IGEM House, Kegworth on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018

### Attendees:

Nigel Evans (Chair)	SPEN	<a href="mailto:nigel.evans@spenergynetworks.co.uk">nigel.evans@spenergynetworks.co.uk</a>
Paul Costelloe (Secretary)	Lloyd's Register	<a href="mailto:paul.costelloe@lr.org">paul.costelloe@lr.org</a>
Colin Jamieson	ESP	<a href="mailto:colin.jamieson@espug.com">colin.jamieson@espug.com</a>
Lewis Binfield	Murphy Power Dist.	<a href="mailto:lewisbinfield@murphygroup.co.uk">lewisbinfield@murphygroup.co.uk</a>
Mike Doward	ENWL	<a href="mailto:michael.doward@enwl.co.uk">michael.doward@enwl.co.uk</a>
Steve Rogers	UKPN	<a href="mailto:steve.rogers@ukpowernetworks.co.uk">steve.rogers@ukpowernetworks.co.uk</a>
Mel Swift	GTC	<a href="mailto:mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk">mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk</a>
Maryline Guinard	SSE-N	<a href="mailto:maryline.guinard@sse.com">maryline.guinard@sse.com</a>
Graham Smith	UCCG - HEA	<a href="mailto:graham@thehea.org.uk">graham@thehea.org.uk</a>
Mike Bracey	Morrison	<a href="mailto:michael.bracey@morrisonus.com">michael.bracey@morrisonus.com</a>
Paul Wragg	Power On Connections	<a href="mailto:paulwragg@poweronconnections.co.uk">paulwragg@poweronconnections.co.uk</a>
Paul Smith	WPD	<a href="mailto:psmith@westernpower.co.uk">psmith@westernpower.co.uk</a>
Chris Roe	UCCG – EoN	<a href="mailto:chris.roe@eonenergy.com">chris.roe@eonenergy.com</a>
Sue Guest	EUSR	<a href="mailto:sue.guest@euskills.co.uk">sue.guest@euskills.co.uk</a>

### Apologies:

Stuart Monk	Murphy Power Dist.	<a href="mailto:stuartmonk@murphygroup.co.uk">stuartmonk@murphygroup.co.uk</a>
Frank Welsh	UK Power Distribution	<a href="mailto:frankwelsh@ukpowerdistribution.co.uk">frankwelsh@ukpowerdistribution.co.uk</a>
Karl Miller	Lloyd's Register	<a href="mailto:karl.miller@lr.org">karl.miller@lr.org</a>
Ian Cairns	NPG	<a href="mailto:ian.cairns@northernpowergrid.com">ian.cairns@northernpowergrid.com</a>
Eirwyn Thomas	Power Systems UK	<a href="mailto:et@powersystemsuk.com">et@powersystemsuk.com</a>

## 1. Introductions

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted.

## 2. NSAP Competency Accord - EUSR

Sue Guest of EUSR gave a presentation on the National Skills Academy for Power (NSAP) Accord.

A question was raised about the applicability and take up of the scheme within IDNO organisations. Also, a discussion took place on the potential claims from ICPs about the NSAP scheme, if it were prescribed as a condition of NERS accreditation, being a barrier to competition. The meeting agreed that NERS alignment with the NSAP Competency Accord would, in fact, facilitate competition by demonstrating competence to potential ICP clients.

Action: <b>Completed</b>	PC to circulate EUSR NSAP presentation which contains a link to the assessment modules to attendees.
--------------------------	--

### 3. Review of the Minutes and Actions of the NERSAP Meeting Held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018

#### 2.1 NERS Website

PC gave an update on progress with this. A web conference aimed at demonstrating the features of the new website using a development version of the website had failed due to technical difficulties. However, the new 'live' website has now been launched and NERSAP members are able to browse independently.

Action:	All to feedback comments and questions on the new website before the next NERSAP in March 2019.
---------	---

#### Other Actions Arising from Previous Minutes

Action: <b>Closed</b>	<b>PC</b> agreed to put together a slide outlining the forthcoming changes to the NERS Requirements document which could be used at DNO/IDNO engagement meetings with the ICPs. <b>By end of August 2018.</b>
Action: This was not now considered necessary since the recent NERS Forum was very well attended. Monitor future attendance. <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>PC/SR/GS/MS</b> agreed to put together a form of words to go with future NERS Forum meeting invitations to better describe how the meeting can benefit ICPs. <b>By end of September 2018</b>
Action: Dates issued for NERS Forums in 2019	<b>PC</b> to propose dates for only two NERS Forums in 2019 which would co-incide with two of the three NERSAP meetings in 2019 <b>as an agenda item for the November NERS Forum &amp; NERSAP meetings.</b>

### 4. Review of Draft Minutes and Actions from NERS Forum Held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018

The minutes were reviewed and since most items were agenda items for this meeting, there was nothing to action.

### 5. Update on Competition in Connections Code of Practice

#### Review of DNO Exclusion at 2.2.1 Modification Proposal

PC gave an update on a proposed Modification Proposal by PN Daly  
The Chair of the ENA CiC Panel summarised his understanding of the limited progress so far. It had been noted that there was difficulty in arranging a date that

suits all; the panel suggested making sure Patrick Daly is present as he submitted the modification proposal, and ideally 80% of working group members.

### **G39 Self-Authorisation Modification Proposal**

GS gave an update on the UCCG's Modification Proposal which he had submitted and was aimed at clarifying the position with respect to G39 authorisations, which is worded currently to apply only where employers / employees work across one or more DNO / IDNO areas. The CiC Panel went over the progress report prepared by Tom Watson (TW) of the ENA, taking note of important future dates. MG noted someone at SSEN had indicated that the ENA SHE Committee would be submitting a consultation response proposing that G39 be removed from the Code of Practice. The panel Chair reported on an internal conversation at ENA where the motivation behind the G39 modification proposal had been questioned (i.e. cost savings vs. increased competition). BH stated that the appropriate course of action would indeed be to submit a written response, and it was agreed that even if the motivation was cost reduction this would not be inappropriate. MG observed that some respondents may have misinterpreted the purpose of the consultation.

TW had provided an indication of the level of response to the consultation so far. GS expressed concerns about responses not reaching ENA due to the mistake around email addresses. TW told the group that he had confirmed receipt of every submission he had received so far, and that if there was any doubt then respondents could resubmit to be on the safe side.

## **6. Update on Competency Working Group**

There had been little progress on this other than to invite EUSR to this meeting. MB agreed to arrange further meeting with EUSR. **PMN – this took place on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

## **7. Update on NERS Strategy Working Group**

PC advised that one of the pre-requisites for a further meeting of this group was that LR were to come up with a proposal for reducing the number of NERS scopes. Ideas received so far include:

- Combining the LV Design scopes (Residential and Industrial/Commercial)
- Change Network Connections – Jointing (LV Mains & Services, LV Terminations) to become more simply Network Connections – Jointing (LV). Similarly, the HV Network Connections scopes.
- Remove the Jointing (LV Dead) scope since part of checking for dead is in fact, live working.

Other issues to be discussed included the ToR for the Working Group, the fitness for purpose of the NERS scheme, and the necessity for a Tier 2 scheme.

It was advised by PC that this Working Group would be re-convened on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2019 in order to progress the above and other points arising from the last meeting.

## **8. Update on NERS Passports Working Group**

PC advised that good progress had been made with this Working Group and although it had been proposed to combine this Working Group with the Competency Working Group, it was later felt that this may hinder the good progress made with this Group. A summary to date (28/01/2019) is given below:

- Discussions took place around “straw man” provided by Martin Baker of LR and around a possible implementation format provided by PW which incorporates

PowerOn's record of assessed and authorised competence (combination of current Passport and CoC) and their authorisation which, after some word changes, were found acceptable overall.

- The exact term to be used within the NERS Requirements document for this combined Passport/CoC and possibly electrical authorisation form is yet to be decided but the most appropriate to date appears to be "Confirmation of Competency" as this relays the fact that it both confirms the core, supporting and employer related competencies that an individual requires to carry out works on their behalf
- A number of minor changes were identified within the body of the NERS requirements document, in particular but not limited to, section 13 and appendix 4 to accommodate these proposals. Martin Baker to work on these while trial takes place so they are ready for possible inclusion in v8.
- It was agreed that if these proposals were accepted after a successful trial then any provider who wishes to adopt same should include within their processes the ability to provide details of the competencies held and assessed within a reasonable period and in a format that can be e mailed
- The benefits of having at least limited provision for the recording of site audits by other than the ICP was agreed
- Although there are overlaps with the competency working group it was decided that both WG's would be better served if the Passport WG progressed to trial stage independently
- An initial 3-month trial of these changes to understand any issues, conflicts, benefits etc. will be held by Morrison US, PowerOn plus at least one smaller ICP who ideally also works as a subcontractor
- It was agreed that there is no longer the need, or benefit, to insist that Tier Two providers use the "Blue Book" and that reference to this requirement be removed from Appendix 2
- It was also noted that the following could not be reasonably dealt with as part of this working group and therefore will be returned to the forum for further discussion and allocation:

## 9. NERS 12 Month Action Plan

The 12 Month Action Plan was reviewed in January 2019 and updated. This is embedded below:



NERSAP 12 Month  
Action Plan at Jan 201

## 10. NERS Statistics

Paul Costelloe presented the NERS statistics which had been updated to include July, August, September and October 2018. These generally demonstrated a continued good performance by LR in meeting the required number of assessments.

The presented data is embedded below:



NERSAP Slides Nov  
2018.ppt

## 11. Raising Standards with ICPs

Concern was raised by the meeting that standards needed to be raised within the ICP community who appear not to have a complete understanding of the NERS scheme. In

particular those employing the services of external Technical Advisors who have little involvement in the day-to day running of the ICP organisation. This is a subject to be considered by the NERS Strategic Review Working Group and in particular:

- Whether a new scope accrediting Technical Advisor organisations should be considered.
- Whether the Technical Advisor should be a full-time employee of the ICP.
- If the NERS Requirements document should specify in more detail what the Technical Advisor's responsibilities are.
- If the Technical Advisor role should be re-named 'Scheme Advisor'.

It was agreed that the subject 'Raising Standards with ICPs' should be a permanent agenda item.

## **12. Proposal for Election of Deputy Chair**

It was proposed that a Deputy Chair be elected in case the Chair is unable to attend. MS volunteered for this role and the meeting unanimously agreed. MS is therefore duly elected as Deputy Chairman of NERSAP. There will be a need to update the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide for the election of a Deputy Chair.

## **13. AOB**

NE raised the issue of generators on IDNO sites. This concerned a case where SPEN had attended a link box which they found to be live because of generation on site. There had been no 'Danger' notice posted. This had been reported as a 'Near-Miss' within SPEN.

## **14. Dates of Next Meetings**

Dates for the meetings of the NERS Provider Forum and NERSAP in 2019 are:

NERS Forum: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019

NERSAP: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The venue will be IGEM Offices, High Street, Kegworth DE74 2DA for 10:30am start