

Minutes of the 58th NERSAP Meeting

IGEM House, Kegworth on 30th July 2019

Attendees:

Nigel Evans (Chair)	SPEN	nigel.evans@spenergynetworks.co.uk
Paul Costelloe (Secretary)	Lloyd's Register	paul.costelloe@lr.org
Graham Cotton	ESP	graham.cotton@espug.com
Jayson Whitaker	Energy Assets	jaysonwhitaker@energyassets.co.uk
Mark Richardson	Morrison	mark.richardson@morrisonus.com
Steve Rogers	UKPN	steve.rogers@ukpowernetworks.co.uk
Joe Nolan	GTC	joseph.nolan@gtc-uk.co.uk
Martin Baker	Lloyd's Register	martin.baker-utilities@lr.org
Graham Smith	UCCG - HEA	graham@thehea.org.uk
Mike Bracey	Morrison	michael.bracey@morrisonus.com
Paul Wragg	Power On Connections	paulwragg@poweronconnections.co.uk
Paul Smith	WPD	psmith@westernpower.co.uk
Eirwyn Thomas	Power Systems UK	et@powersystemsuk.co.uk
Stuart Monk	Murphy Power Dist.	stuartmonk@murphygroup.co.uk
Ian Cairns	NPG	ian.cairns@northernpowergrid.com
Maryline Guinard	SSE	maryline.guinard@sse.com
Chris Roe	UCCG - EoN	chris.roe@eonenergy.com

Apologies:

Mel Swift	GTC	mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk
Karl Miller	Lloyd's Register	karl.miller@lr.org
Colin Jamieson	ESP	colin.jamieson@espug.com
Mike Doward	ENWL	michael.doward@enwl.co.uk

1. Introductions

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted.

2. Review of Minutes of NERSAP Meeting of 19th March 2019

NERS Website

PC advised that no comments had been received on the new website.

Action: CLOSED	All to feedback comments and questions on the new website before the next NERSAP in July 2019.
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NERS Strategy Working Group

PC gave an update on the actions from the last NERSAP meeting

Action: S. Perry of OFGEM had been invited but no response was received. CLOSED .	PC to invite OFGEM to next NERSAP meeting due to be held 30/07/2019.
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Action: CLOSED	MS and CJ to produce timeline of main developments vs scheme developments past/present and future for presentation at next working group meeting on 10 th April 2019.
Action: Carried over to next NERSAP meeting on 19 th November 2019 since MS and CJ had sent apologies for the 30 th July meeting. Action OPEN	PC to include the timeline exercise in agenda for next NERSAP on 30 th July for presentation by MS and CJ .

DNO Support in the Development of ICP SAPs

Action: Agreement had been received from SSE, WPD and UKPN who had agreed to support. To be carried over to next meeting agenda. Action OPEN	All to consider and respond accordingly to PW by next NERSAP meeting on July 30 th , 2019.
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Governance of Network Design Competence Document

Action: OPEN	MB to contact Sue Guest at EUSR to ascertain the whereabouts of this document and report before next NERSAP meeting.
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3. Update on Competency Working Group

MB advised that he and MS had recently met with EUSR to go through the recently revised mapping exercise. EUSR and NSAP are happy to fill identified gaps in the Competency Accord but need to put together a business case which includes the anticipated number of ICP employees who could become part of the Competency Accord.

The meeting agreed that clarity is required on DNOs commitment to the NSAP Competency Accord.

Action: Information received from EUSR in January 2019 is represented below. CLOSED.	PC agreed to locate the names of respective NERSAP and NSAP members previously assembled by PC and Sue Guest of EUSR
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Company	CA PSS Steering Group	NSAP Strategy Group	NERSAP rep
UKPN	Dudley Sparks (Chair) Simon Tapp	Dudley Sparks	Steve Rogers

NPG	Peter Sanderson	Andy Bilclough	Ian Cairns
SSE	Richard Gough Nicki Hussain	Elaine McGinn	Maryline Guinard
SPEN	David Bowie	Melanie Hill	Nigel Evans (Chair)
ENWL	Jo Fallows	Jo Fallows	Mike Doward
National Grid	Bryan Ashford	TBC	-
WPD	-	-	Paul Smith
GTC	Representation TBC	-	Mel Swift
Murphy	Representation TBC	-	Stuart Monk
ESP	-	-	Colin Jamieson
Energy Assets	-	-	Jayson Whitaker
UKPD	-	-	Frank Welsh

4. Update on Competition in Connections Code of Practice

Review of DNO Exclusion at 2.2.1 Modification Proposal

Four potential wording suggestions for the change were put forward and option 4 was voted as the most acceptable one. OFGEM will approve.

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. GS advised that G39 is in the process of being re-written which when published will negate the need for the proposed change. Until such time however, the proposed modification will not be withdrawn.

Elxon BSC

LR don't have a metering scope and connections with which NERS is concerned stops at the point of metering. The CT/VT is therefore outside of the contestable connections domain and therefore outside the scope of NERS. BSC is requesting a change to CoP4 in order to provide clarity of responsibilities between meter operator and DNO.

5. Update on NERS Strategy Working Group

PC gave an update on the work of this group to date:

- **'Timeline' exercise** - While it was generally agreed that the question of the NERS scheme being fit for purpose was one that should also be posed to OFGEM, it was considered useful to undertake a 'mapping' exercise to demonstrate how the NERS scheme had developed in line with industry developments such as the introduction of the CiC CoP, the increase in ICPs, technological developments etc. Also, a projection

of work currently being undertaken for introduction in future was deemed useful for presentation to OFGEM and NERSAP.

Action: S. Perry of OFGEM had been invited but no response was received. CLOSED .	PC to invite OFGEM to next NERSAP meeting due to be held 30/07/2019.
Action: CLOSED	MS and CJ to produce timeline of main developments vs scheme developments past/present and future for presentation at next working group meeting on 10 th April 2019.
Action: Carried over to next NERSAP meeting on 19 th November 2019 since MS and CJ had sent apologies for the 30 th July meeting. Action OPEN	PC to include the timeline exercise in agenda for next NERSAP on 30 th July for presentation by MS and CJ .

- **Changes to NERS scopes** - A few ideas had been discussed since the last meeting and some new proposals were discussed at the last working group meeting and further discussed with the LR NERS team. A further team meeting is planned for August 8th, 2019.
- **Potential for ‘Technical Advisor’ scope of accreditation** - for organisations offering this service to ICPs. Concern was expressed that consultants offering this service were not all fulfilling this role satisfactorily. In GIRS, organisations offering audit services are appropriately accredited and it was thought that this was worthy of further discussion about a similar accreditation in NERS. The possibility of requiring a nominated Technical Advisor for all ICP organisations and perhaps changing the job title to ‘Scheme Advisor’ was discussed.
- **ENWL is seeking clarification on the Operational scopes** identified in the NERS Requirements document, particularly with regard to the robustness of the competence requirements. Proposed clarification had been discussed within the LR NERS team and these had been forwarded to ENWL. It was thought that MD was happy with proposal but since he had sent apologies for this meeting this is to be confirmed. Further comments awaited.
- Discussion took place on the EUSR document ‘Determining Competence’

Action: OPEN	PW agreed to forward details of BTEC qualification for assessing competence to LR.
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It was advised by PC that this Working Group would meet again on August 28th at LR Offices in Birmingham.

6. Update on NERS Passports Working Group

PW showed the meeting a proposed example of a Certificate of Competency/ Authorisation / Passport.

Action: Open	M Baker to obtain feedback on the trial of the revised document from Electrical Testing Ltd. before deciding on proposed wording for the review of section 13 of the NERS Requirements document.
Action Outstanding	MS to invite business support personnel to next working group meeting
Action:	PW to present at next NERS Forum on November 5 th 2019

7. NERS 12 Month Action Plan

The 12 Month Action Plan was reviewed and updated. The presented plan is embedded below:



Microsoft Excel
97-2003 Worksheet

8. NERS Statistics

Paul Costelloe presented the NERS statistics which had been updated to include February, March, April, May and June 2019. These generally demonstrated a continued good performance by LR in meeting the required number of assessments.

The presented data is embedded below:



Microsoft PowerPoint
97-2003 Presentation

9. Tier 2 Scheme

GS raised a question regarding an ICP which had asked the DNO to carry out some work on their behalf and the DNO had asked another (non-NERS accredited) company to carry out the civils work. The question arose as to whether the civils contractor carrying out the work should be NERS accredited under Tier 2. It was agreed that everyone in the chain must be NERS accredited except where the adopting DNO (as in this case) accepts all responsibility for the execution of the work.

10. 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' or if the Technical Advisor should be reserved for ICP's with Project Management scopes and a new role of 'Scheme Advisor' with robust qualification/experience requirements detailed in the NERS Requirements document.
- 'Ad-Hoc' (unannounced) visits by LR was discussed again but there would need to be some liaison with DNOs on daily whereabouts. There is also a commercial issue where LR may visit works which are not or have already taken place.
- PC asked everyone to send Safety Bulletins to the NERS Inbox (ners@lr.org) to enable circulation to the ICP community.

PC advised the meeting that the above was being considered by the NERS team at LR and a proposal would be put forward following the NERS Strategic Review Working Group meeting on August 28th and a subsequent NERS team meeting on 24th September.

Action:	All to feedback examples of bad practice, where found. These would be 'anonymised' for the minutes.
Action:	DNO/IDNO representatives to arrange within their own organisations for ners@lr.org to be included on circulation of safety bulletins.

11. AOB

PC asked if anyone knew the whereabouts of the NSAP document 'Governance of Network Design Competence' and MS agreed to provide a link to the document.

Action:	MB agreed to enquire with Sue Guest of EUSR and to provide link to document to PC for onward circulation.
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NE and SR commented that they had carried out a recent review and were pleased with improvements made by LR in administering the NERS scheme following a review in October 2017 where some actions for improvement were identified. The conclusion being that while ongoing effort via the NERSAP and the Working Group meetings was taking place in order to continuously improve the scheme, it can be stated that LR is fit for purpose in administering the

scheme. PC thanked the meeting on behalf of LR and noted Ben Wright's significant input and Karl Miller's support in achieving this outcome.

PS raised the issue of 'Consent to Connect' to an iDNO network because the ICPs appear not to know who owns the network. i.e. the ICPs are applying to the DNO to work on an IDNO network. This will be raised at the next NERS Forum.

MB raised the issue of lack of mention of the benefits of MURS accreditation on the website.

Action:	PC to look at current wording on website to see if it can be improved, as well as consider the introduction of a 'MURS' certificate. Report at November NERSAP.
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12. Dates of Next Meetings

Dates for the meetings of the NERS Provider Forum and NERSAP in 2019 and 2020 are:

NERS Forum: 5th Nov 2019, 14th July 2020, 3rd Nov 2020

NERSAP: 19th Nov 2019, 17th March 2020, 28th July 2020, 17th Nov 2020

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