Entry Customer Forum

MINUTES

Tuesday 25 July 2023 at 12.30PM – 2.00PM

MS Teams

ATTENDEES

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Initials** | **Company** |
| Lee Firth | LF | Biomethane Assist |
| Tom Knight | TK | Bohr Energy |
| Jadie Lawley | JL | Cadent |
| Alison Cartwright | AC | CNG Services |
| John Baldwin | JB | CNG Services |
| Matt Rosenfeld | MR | ENA |
| Nick Primmer | NP | Future Biogas |
| David Hurren | DH | Independent (formerly Air Liquide) |
| Daniel Laverick | DL | NGN |
| Emma Buckton | EB | NGN |
| Peter Thomson | PT | NGN |
| Russell Brown | RB | nZero |
| Andrew Brown | AB | SGN |
| Elysia Roy | ER | SGN |
| Joel Martin (Chair) | JM | SGN |
| Tony Gillespie | TG | SGN |
| Charlotte Marcel | CM | WAGA |
| Catherine Litster | CL | WWU |
| Helen Fitzgerald | HF | WWU |

MEETING NOTES AND ACTIONS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2. Action Log Update** | **MR** |
| The group’s action log was updated -   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **#** | **Date** | **Action** | **Person** | **Status** | **Notes** | | **16** | 31-Jan-23 | GDNs to review the outcomes of the Biomethane Investor Workshop and form an action plan | GDNs | Closed |  | | **20** | 28-Mar-23 | MR to table a session for the GDNs to look at DN's capacity study template in more detail, assess what should be added/removed, and whether to adopt this consistent methodology | MR | In progress | Session in calendar July 31st. | | **23** | 28-Mar-23 | RB to test his CV Blips solution with NGN site data has been tested; MR to set up a session with GDNs and RB to review, and if/how the GDNs intend to implement it, to report back to the EnCF. | RB / MR | In progress | Session with GDNs/RB took place July 24th; GDN decision pending on whether to adopt this solution. | | **27** | 28-Mar-23 | GDNs to investigate the level of difficulty associated with adapting systems for the lowering of the Wobbe Number limit | GDNs | **Ongoing** | Session date TBC. | | **31** | 30-May-23 | JB to circulate notes and photographs from GTRF compressor site visit; all open to express interest in a further visit to a compressor site in Denmark. | JB | Closed |  | | **32** | 30-May-23 | JL to share Cadent's tool for outlining in-grid compression scope to the GDNs. Ruth Burden to set up a session going through the tool. | JL, RB | **Ongoing** | Ruth has emailed round with potential dates; expect that the workshop will take place in next month or so. | | **33** | 30-May-23 | JL to share the (NIA) OptiNet Closeout Report with the group once published | JL | **Ongoing** | Target date for Closeout Report – November. | | **34** | 30-May-23 | RB to send IMC a copy of his technical report on propane contamination, and brief IMC to raise the issue at the Gas Utilisation Committee. | RB / IMC | **Ongoing** | IMC to report back in September meeting. | | **35** | 30-May-23 | RB to brief TH on his report on propane contamination, for TH to follow up with ADBA | RB / TH | Closed | MR to circulate RB’s report to the EnCF distribution list; ADBA to pick up from there if appropriate. | | **36** | 30-May-23 | GDNs to consider other actions re: lobbying for better quality commercial propane. | GDNs | Closed | Covered by other existing actions. | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **3. EnCF Action Plan Tracker** | **JM** |
| The group’s Action Plan Tracker was reviewed –  *1. CV Blips (RB)*  RB recapped the discussion from 24/07/2023; RB had previously issued a slide pack with some fictitious data, showing what would happen if the software was installed with various tolerances, and what size/combination of blips would cause excursions or be permitted. The call served as a follow-up/Q&A.  Now that a firm proposal was in place, the GDNs resolved to decide by September whether to allow the software to be implemented on sites on their part of the network (ideally a unanimous decision, so that sites would not be penalised based on their location on the network).  JM queried the suitability of the solution for sites which were not served by nZero (Thyson/Orbital) GEUs; RB clarified that this software solution would be implementable for any GEU provider, and allow flexibility in how the tolerances were configured, to allow for differences between the GDNs.  *2. Biomethane Blending (JL)*  JL updated that the final sign-off of Cadent’s biomethane blending strategy was due in the week commencing August 14th, with a view that the document could be shared towards the end of August.  JB queried how many sites on the network had blending facility at the time being (none from NGN and WWU, one from SGN and *potentially* one from Cadent).  *3. SGS Issues (JM)*  SGS Issues numbers for Q2 were being collated but had not all been received; to discuss at September’s meeting. JM suggested that, based on SGN’s numbers, another refresher might be necessary to deal with non-compliance issues. TG added that SGN had started implementing 1-on-1s with repeat-offending sites.  *4. Standardisation of ME2 (//)*  No update.  *5. Operator Competence Accreditation (//)*  Workstream on hold for the time being, with no new lead identified. JB suggested that this workstream may have been overtaken by other events, as the industry had seen a significant upskilling in the past few years.  **Action: ALL to consider new leads for the Operator Competence Accreditation workstream.**  *6. Standardisation of Capacity Studies (DN)*  A GDN meeting was scheduled for 31/07/2023 to review the newest iteration of the template, and ensure that the template had not strayed too far from its original direction of travel.  *7. In-Grid Compression (AC / JL)*  Ref. Action 33, JL updated on [OptiNet](https://smarter.energynetworks.org/projects/nia_cad0061) (short for Optimised Network), the first reverse compressor to be installed on Cadent’s network, in Doncaster. As it was the first of its kind, the project was NIA-funded (the Network Innovation Allowance). Outstanding snagging work had been completed, as had work on other subsystems in the last few months (with the compressor safety review causing a slight delay). The new commissioning date for OptiNet was in October, with field trials written into the NRO to enable a quick turnaround for the report (expected c. November).  HF updated on WWU’s contribution to work on Smart Pressure Control to influence the compressor and maximise the use of green gas in the network; the write-up and learnings would be included in the closeout report but may be available sooner as a standalone report on the Smarter Networks Portal.  JB updated that UNC Mod 808 was out for consultation and would return to the August panel for a vote.  *8. Low Flow through NTS Meters (AC)*  As an outcome from a Technical Working Group Deep Dive in June, the GDNs shared the following.  *The issue of volume flow rates falling below acceptable uncertainty levels at National Gas Transmission to GDN offtakes, caused by increasing biomethane flow rates has been raised at industry forums in relation to possible constraints placed upon the development of new biomethane sites. The current GDN position relates to the requirements specified in both the Supplemental Agreements (between National Gas Transmission and the relevant GDN) and the obligations detailed in Appendix D of UNC OAD Section D which specifies an uncertainty level of +/- 1.0% for instantaneous volume flow rates. Where offtake flow rates are forecast to reduce below these permitted uncertainty levels as a direct result of new biomethane connections, the GDN, in line with Licence Condition D12 (which requires the GDN to charge the entrant to carry out activities to enable the gas entry point to be made available) will fully cost upgrade solutions required to offtakes to maintain the required uncertainty levels as required. Solutions can include metering and Local Gas Treatment upgrades or conversion from pressure to volumetric control to facilitate the entry connection.  The GDNs are aware of communications made to Ofgem regarding this issue and whether the level of measurement certainty should be adhered to in these scenarios; at this stage the GDNs are not aware of a definitive view from Ofgem in response to these communications and as a result will adhere to the current requirements detailed in the UNC and Supplemental Agreements.*  JB suggested sharing the above with Steve Brown at Ofgem; additionally, following a decision at the Technical Working Group, it was suggested to share JB’s original letter to Steve Brown with the Performance Assurance Committee.  *9. Gas Entry via IGT Pipelines (JM)*  JM updated: UNC Mod 842 had been raised and was due for discussion at the Distribution Work Group on 28/07 (but was still in development). The main challenges were about how Network Entry Agreements and Network Entry Provisions were structured in the UNC and IGT-UNC (“not unsurmountable, just complex.”) | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **4a. Commercial Propane Quality** | **ALL** |
| Ref. Action 36 - MR to re-share RB’s report “Commercial Propane & Biomethane Systems: The Use & Issues Faced” with the group.  Additionally, a questionnaire had been circulated to sites to gain more information, covering: their propane supplier, supplying refinery (if known), GEU supplier, metering technology in place, details of any filtration in place, current meter cleaning frequency, and proactive measures in place to recognise contamination.  **Action: NP to follow up through the European Biogas Association if propane contamination has been causing similar issues for biomethane sites in Europe.** | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **4b. GS(M)R Amendments** | **ALL** |
| CL updated on WWU’s stance: DFOs had been informed of changes to GS(M)R by email. As WWU did not own or influence the running of their sites, it was the responsibility of the sites to make changes to the system. Any changes to the telemetry (requiring end-to-end checks) could be booked in with WWU. It was also the responsibility of the sites to determine whether they needed to provide a safety case (Oct 2024).  JM noted that the situation was slightly different for SGN, as a reconfiguration of the system was required, not just an amendment to the divert valve logic (which would have been within the remit of the DFO).  Ref Action 27., the other GDNs were to provide an update on their stance next meeting. | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AOB – On-site incident on the network** | **EB** |
| EB reported on an explosion on an NGN site last week. An investigation had been launched but not much more information could be shared at this time. Note that nobody was hurt as a result of the incident. | |