Entry Customer Forum

MINUTES

Tuesday 28 November 2023 at 12.30PM – 2.00PM

MS Teams Meeting

ATTENDEES

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| **Name** | **Initials** | **Company** |
| Flávio Ascenco | FA | ADBA |
| Wasundara Doradeniya | WD | ADBA |
| James Smith | JS | Advantage Biogas |
| Lee Firth | LF | Biomethane Assist |
| Harry Jones | HJ | Bohr Limited |
| Jadie Lawley | JL | Cadent |
| Alison Cartwright | AC | CNG Services |
| John Baldwin | JB | CNG Services |
| Matt Rosenfeld | MR | ENA |
| Ian McCluskey | IMC | IGEM |
| Emmet McFadden | EMF | Mutual Energy |
| Ben Hanley | BH | NGN |
| Daniel Laverick | DL | NGN |
| Peter Thomson | PT | NGN |
| Russell Brown | RB | nZero |
| Sara Bartle | SB | REA |
| Andrew Brown | ABr | SGN |
| Elysia Roy | ER | SGN |
| Hollie Easton | HE | SGN |
| Joel Martin (Chair) | JM | SGN |
| Tony Gillespie | TG | SGN |
| Matt Clarke | MC | ST Green Power |
| Andy Bidston | ABi | Thyson |
| Charlotte Marcel | CM | WAGA |
| Bethan Winter | BW | WWU |
| Catherine Litster | CL | WWU |

APOLOGIES

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| **Name** | **Initials** | **Company** |
| David Hurren | DH | BCGA |

MEETING NOTES AND ACTIONS

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| **2. Action Log Update** | **MR** |
| The forum’s action log was updated, noting that:   * The initial phases of commissioning for OptiNet were completed, however Cadent were unable to fully commission the compressor until mid-February 2024. JL to catch up with AC offline to discuss what learnings could be shared at this point. * GDNs were planning to host another SGS Refresher Course in late January/early February 2024, alongside other measures to reduce the number of SGS issues, e.g., issuing cylinder change checklists to sites, continued 1-2-1s etc. * GDNs had decided that it would not be appropriate to include indicative costs in the standardised capacity study template. GDNs to agree a go-live date in December’s GECTWG meeting. | |

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| **3. EnCF Action Plan Tracker** | **JM** |
| The forum’s action plan tracker was updated, noting that:  *CV Blips* (RB)  RB had been approached by a few companies looking to implement the software change on-site. The solution may be implemented as a trial on an NGN or WWU site.  *Biomethane Blending* (JL)  Cadent’s one-page strategy summary document had been circulated to the group. All responses from potential blending sites had been received; the sites on which blending was not possible has been informed, and Cadent were dealing with the analysis on those sites which interacted with each other. The full strategy document would be circulated to the GDNs shortly.  *SGS Issues* (JM)  Update covered in *Item 2. Action Log Update.*  Note links with CNG’s suggestion to review the Letter of Direction (*Item 5b*), whence these issues arise.  *ME2* (BH)  Document still with Kelton for review, with the first draft due in new year. The governance document will remain in UNC, but the technical document will move away from Joint Office ownership (to e.g., IGEM).  *Operator Competence Accreditation* (n/a)  No update.  *Review of Capacity Studies* (DN)  Update covered in *Item 2. Action Log Update.*  *In-Grid Compression* (AC)  UNC Mod 808 had been accepted. *To remove from the Action Plan and instate as a standing item, to cover any updates to Cadent and WWU’s compression projects.*  *Capacity/Low Flow through NTS Meters* (AC)  Cadent were looking to add metering upgrade investments into their RIIO-GD3 plans. Additionally, Cadent were submitting a number of capacity-related problem statements into the ENA Energy Innovation Basecamp 2024, *see Item 5b.* WWU were actioning this issue by looking at valving off parts of the network during low-demand periods (possible due to the design of the network).  *Gas Entry via IGT Pipelines* (JM)  A linked/mirrored IGT-UNC Mod had also been raised; Mod 842 was looking to go to the UNC Panel in December for a decision (more details available on the Joint Office website). | |

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| **4a. Standing Item: Commercial Propane Quality** | **IMC** |
| The Gas Utilisation Committee and Gas Distribution Transmission Committee were reviewing RB’s report on contamination caused by heavies in propane. No comments yet to feed back to the EnCF. | |

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| **4b. Standing Item: GS(M)R Amendments** | **ALL** |
| GDNs were still working through the procedures necessary to make updates to the SI, ICF, Relative Density and Wobbe number (the latter being the most involved). GDNs to keep the group informed of any updates. | |

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| **5a. Communication from DFOs: Data on Gas Flared** | | **ADBA** |
| Based on discussions with DESNZ, ADBA had shared a questionnaire in their newsletter and wider comms on quantifying the amount of gas flared as a result of CV and capacity issues. Please reach out to WD directly with any information or further questions. | | |
| Actions | ADBA to report back to the forum on results from their “Data on Gas Flared” questionnaire when available. | WD |

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| **5b. Communication from DFO: Initiatives to reduce barriers for injection projects** | | **CNG** |
| CNG’s presentation slides were taken as read, as they had been shared in advance and presented at various industry events. The main items for discussion were as follows:  *Review of Injection Regime*   * The forum had reviewed Ofgem’s letter of direction to biomethane sites in 2015, however there were no changes arising from the review. CNG were proposing the formation a new review (sub)group to re-review and present unanimous recommendations to Ofgem to consider. * CNG’s reasoning was that the current standards could be more fit-for-purpose, as they were not appropriate for small sites with small flows, and the measures in place to ensure correct CV measurement (etc.) could be brought more in line with those on the continent. The limit on propane injection above 7.1bar to meet high target CVs was cited as an example of an unanticipated consequence of the current set of rules. * BH queried if CNG could substantiate the cost-savings associated with this piece of work and the changes proposed to the letter of direction.   *Adoption of the RTU and ROV*   * CNG queried the need for adoption of the RTU; National Gas did not require adoption of the RTU, and network adoption of the RTU added significant workload/paperwork to the process. CNG also queried the need for the ROV in light of having gas quality measurement and the diverter valve on site, which were not adopted by networks. * Continuing comparisons with the continent, CM and RB noted that sites in France *did* have ROVs, and the full GEU was adopted by the distribution network operator. * JM noted that cybersecurity would be a challenge with changes to GDN telemetry. * BH emphasised that there was a need for the ROV; the ROVs do shut, often automatically and fairly regularly. Despite the gas quality measurements and diverter valve, the human-machine interface left room for error, which was often the case for closing the ROV (e.g., if the operator of the site moves a limit, changes a setting, etc.)   *Innovation*   * AC queried how biomethane innovations could move more quickly, particularly around new GEU design in line with a new letter of direction. * JL noted that Cadent were submitting two capacity-related problem statements into the ENA Energy Innovation Basecamp 2024, on i) appropriate offtake metering (USM was the best available), and ii) using AI for blending without needing to install instrumentation. Additionally, Cadent were starting discussions internally around using NIA funding for work on reverse compression. | | |
| Actions | ENA to locate and re-circulate the 2015 review of the letter of direction “Reducing Costs and Removing Barriers for Low-flow Gas Entry Sites: Transforming the Caloric Value (CV) Regime for Small Sites”.  GDNs to provide an initial view on reviewing the contents of the letter of direction; if value is seen, GDNs to then propose names for a subgroup (CNG-led) to review the document, suggest amendments and formulate a response to Ofgem.  GDNs to assemble high-level data on the frequency and reasons behind ROV closures (re: consideration of the need for the ROV).  GDNs to consult their teams and return with a view on the possibility to *not* adopt the RTU and ROV. | ENA  GDNs  GDNs  GDNs |

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| **6a. AOB: Cadent Biomethane Consultation** | **JL** |
| Cadent were launching a biomethane consultation at the ADBA Conference 06/12/2023. A tabletop session was planned for the day, and an email would go round to the group more formally at a later stage. The consultation (sans branding) was already live on the biomethane section of Cadent’s website. | |

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| **6b. AOB: 2024 Meeting Dates** | | **MR** |
| The following meeting dates were proposed for 2024 (i.e., the final Tuesday of every other month).  January 30th, March 26th, May 28th, July 30th, September 24th & November 26th | | |
| Actions | MR to update diaries with 2024’s Meetings. | MR |