

Minutes of the MCCG Meeting

March 8th 2011

Unit B Great Central Way Rugby

Attendees

C. Bean (Chair) - CB
D. Clare (acting secretary) – DC
J. Whittaker – JW
D. Overman – DO
K. Bergin – KB
A.Lloyd – AL
S. Bolland – SB
R. Reynolds – RR
N. Fitzsimmons – NF
S. Walavalkar - SW

Apologies for absence

B. Weaver (secretary) - BW
D. Cave
A. Spreadbury
R. Farrow
J. Raymond
T. Pope
P. Read
N. Whittaker

1. Review of minutes from 11th November and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3.1 The DECC meeting feedback is recorded on the ECSG minutes

3.2 Ofgem commented on the outstanding issues list by email on February 16th.

4.2 DC has asked CN and UKPN to confirm their position in regard to S22. No response had yet been received from UKPN and CN undertook to provide a reply. NF comments that it is common place but countered that it has to be accepted by the customer. Memembrs to monitor and report back examples to NCCG / ECSG

6.2 Checklists not prepared ICP demonstrate competency / experience to similar style work and this was agreed at NERSAP.

7.2 Bonds credit rating should be in line with part B – no bonds needed. No reference in ECSG minutes – needs raising again with Ofgem. DNOs accept single bonds across multiple sites.

8.2 BW to update. NF advised of G59 update in next 12 months. DCRP matter raised with DNOs

10.0 Land transfers no response from Ofgem. CB to further follow up. Ofgem wrote to DNOs but have not presented consolidated position.

2. Future ECSG arrangements and nominations

Terms of reference review and issued. 22 members listed by Ofgem subject to closure of nominations on March 14th.

MCCG agreed that chair holds one seat and the 2nd representative is elected. DC was nominated and elected to hold the 2nd seat.

A discussion on IDNO independent representation. MCCG confirms that it would welcome all DNO / IDNO involvement at MCCG to allow competition to develop. The TOR would be amended to reflect the MCCG “open door” policy.

3. Overview of last ECSG meeting February 2nd

Draft minutes circulated for comment on February 16th and published on March 7th. The ECSG members of MCCG need to respond to the draft minutes being attendees at the meeting and MCCG will discuss published version and provide commentary within MCCG minutes. Ofgem proposed timescales for publication have to be met to allow MCCG access to the latest ECSG minutes.

From the minutes the following points were discussed

- i. Progress on quotation v budget is poor. No timescale set.
- ii. Communication on regulated margin
- iii. MCCG accept that a S22 offer cannot be determined under S23 but question remains over DNO compliance to SLC 12.2 if offer is made as S22.
- iv. Outstanding issue list should form part of the joint work plan with agreed priorities. DNOs who have not addressed MCCG concerns will be questioned over competition test application for non-regulated margin.

4. MCCG response to barriers to competition

Ofgem produced summary list of DNO responses to barriers arising from DNO behaviour. Responses are being collated. CB to seek 1 week extension to deadline set by Ofgem. MCCG members to pick of those areas they work within and provide concrete supporting evidence as opposed to anecdotal and copy comments to CB by 14th.

MCCG view the summary as a developing piece of work to evidence whether or not a DNO is able to meet any competition test. MCCG would not accept that it is held up as a definitive list or even 100% prescriptive as a measure that barriers are removed.

5. MCCG interaction with DNOs

MCCG will collectively and individually invite DNOs to engage positively with us and will reciprocate to develop best practice that allows competition to develop unobstructed.

The discussion covered numerous examples of both positive and negative means of engagement that MCCG members had experienced.

6. Final Connections Progress

CB approached 3 DNOs, CN, UKPN, and ENW. UKPN turned down the request for HV as a "low priority" and were seeking unmetered, LV and finally HV as their preferred route. CN and ENW agreed in principle in July 2010 but not able to record progress since. It was reported that DNOs are finding operational H&S obstacles that were not consistent with their own procedures. While MCCG recognise that there will certainly be H&S issues to manage, ICP are able to manage those risks as competently as a DNO and cannot accept the operational hurdles are insurmountable.

The following DNO were assigned to MCCG members

CN – CB

UKPN – DO

ENW – NP

SSE – JW

SP, CE and WPD would be assigned in due course.

MCCG members with an interest in a specific DNO area to update CB to allow MCCG to generate a coordinated approach.

MCCG to request each DNO provides formal progress report on final connections progress.

7. POC self determination

Waiting for first meeting date to be attended by DO and RR

8. DNO Performance Questionnaire

The questionnaire will be sent to all NERS / MCCG members.

Need MCCG members' comments before issue (by DNO area) by 14th

- Reference to CIR and preamble to form the basis of completion
- DO volunteer to collate data and administer its issue
- KB to pre-warn NERSAP members on 15th of its imminent arrival

9. Legal Issues

No points to cover

10. AOB

CIR

- MCCG to review and comment

Non Contestable charges

- members observe that within the new statements the charges are generally spiralling upwards.

Date, time and location of next meeting

June 22nd, time and location to be confirmed.

Note that this subsequently changed to June 20th to be held at Ofgem office 9 Millbank