

Minutes of the NERSAP Meeting

The National Conference Centre, Birmingham on 20th March 2018

Attendees:

Mel Swift (Interim Chair)	GTC	mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk
Paul Costelloe (Secretary)	Lloyd's Register	paul.costelloe@lr.org
Karl Miller	Lloyd's Register	karl.miller@lr.org
Lewis Binfield	Murphy Power Dist.	lewisbinfield@murphygroup.co.uk
Mike Doward	ENWL	michael.doward@enwl.co.uk
Steve Rogers	UKPN	steve.rogers@ukpowernetworks.co.uk
Graham Cotton	ESP	graham.cotton@espug.com
Maryline Guinard	SSE-N	maryline.guinard@sse.com
Graham Smith	UCCG	graham@thehea.org.uk
Mike Bracey	Morrison	michael.bracey@morrisonus.com
Paul Wragg	Power On Connections	paulwragg@poweronconnections.co.uk

Apologies:

Nigel Evans	SPEN	nigel.evans@spenergynetworks.co.uk
Stuart Monk	Murphy Power Dist.	stuartmonk@murphygroup.co.uk
Frank Welsh	UK Power Distribution	frankwelsh@ukpowerdistribution.co.uk
Brian Hoy	ENWL	brian.hoy@enwl.co.uk
Ian Cairns	NPG	ian.cairns@northernpowergrid.com
Paul Smith	WPD	psmith@wersternpower.co.uk

1. Introductions

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted. Mel Swift kindly volunteered as Interim Chairman in Nigel Evans' absence.

The membership of NERSAP going forward was discussed with the number of DNO's and IDNO's in mind and Paul Costelloe advised that the only increase in members attending would be one representative from Murphy Power Distribution.

Action: CLOSED	LR to contact IDNO's by end of August '17 asking if they wish to attend future NERSAP meetings and if so, to nominate a representative.
Action: CLOSED	Attendees at next NERSAP meeting on 21 st November '17 to suggest different scenarios of how NERSAP operates due to numbers.

2. Review of the Minutes & Actions of the NERSAP Dated 21st November 2017

2.1 NERS Website

An update on this is included in AOB below.

Action: CLOSED now that an IT team is working on this following escalation within LR.	PC agreed to escalate to LR senior management including the Global Head of Marketing Operations.
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2.2 Low Smoke Zero Halogen Cables

PC confirmed that responses received on the subject of LSOH cables received to date had been collated and re-circulated to the contributing IDNO/DNOs to check for currency and after some changes required by two DNOs had been re-circulated to NERSAP and all ICPs.

Action: *Post-meeting note – reminder sent by PC to Ian Cairns 22/11/17 by email. CLOSED	PC to send reminder to Ian Cairns of NPG before issuing a document containing all responses received to NERSAP for review in case any of the information is no longer current such is the time that has elapsed since this exercise started. (By 22 nd December 2017)
Action: CLOSED	PC to issue document containing all responses received to NERS Forum following review by NERSAP by 30 th January 2018.

2.4 Design Scopes for Unmetered Connections

PC confirmed that responses received on the subject of design scopes for unmetered connections received to date had been collated and re-circulated to the contributing IDNO/DNOs to check for currency and after some changes required by two DNOs had been re-circulated to NERSAP and all ICPs.

Action: Action transferred to action for considering changes to NERS Requirements document (v8) later in 2018. CLOSED	Designer Competency Working Group to consider potential changes / additions to NERS scopes. (Action Mel Swift/Mike Bracey by 22 nd December 2017).
Action: *Post-meeting note – reminder sent by email to Ian Cairns 22/11/17 by PC. CLOSED	PC to send reminder to Ian Cairns of NPG before issuing a document containing all responses received to NERSAP for review in case any of the information is no longer current such is the time that has elapsed since this exercise started. (By 22 nd December 2017)

3. Review of the Minutes and Actions of the NERS Provider Forum held on 6th March 2018

The minutes were reviewed and discussion took place on how the NERS Forum could be restructured to give the ICPs more opportunity to share their concerns and to raise issues that they considered important without being confined to an agenda produced by LR.

It was thought that because NERS covers such a diverse range of activities that some ICPs may not find a lot of the discussions relevant.

Action:	PC & MS agreed to put together the suggested wording for an invitation to the ICPs to suggest ways of engaging better with the IDNO/DNOs and LR as the accreditation body. By end April 2018
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4. Proposed v7 of NERS Requirements Document

PC thanked those that had commented on the recently circulated draft v7. It was confirmed by the group that the draft document contained proposed changes that had previously been agreed by NERSAP. PC asked that he circulate to the NERS assessors to get feedback prior to publishing. A final check would be made by NERSAP following consultation with the NERS assessors.

Action:	PC to circulate draft v7 to the LR NERS assessors following which recirculate to NERSAP for final sign-off prior to publication.
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5. Update on Competition in Connections Code of Practice

It was thought that Glyn Jones is no longer with Sterling Power now that the company has gone into administration. An action has been placed with MCCG to nominate a replacement for the CiC Working Group representative at NERSAP.

Action:	Paul Wragg agreed to consult with Neil Fitzsimmons at next MCCG meeting on 10 th April about who Glyn's replacement will be and to report to NERSAP so that the replacement can be invited to next NERSAP.
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6. Designer Competency Working Group

The recently issued draft 'Governance of Network Design Competence' would be owned by the National Skills Academy for Power (NSAP). The next issue (v8) of the NERS Requirements document would reference this NSAP document as examples of good practice.

PC stated that there had been actions from previous NERSAP meetings to use extracts of the NSAP document in the NERS Requirements document e.g. proposed matrix of what an ICP would use as proof of designer competency.

It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with NSAP to consider what extracts would be useful to implant in v8 of the NERS Requirements document, not just as regards designer competency but with regards to competency in general following discussions at the NERSAP Competency Working Group where there will be a requirement to further reference other NSAP publication(s) for example Industry Standards for technical skills and knowledge of cable jointers.

Action:	Mike Bracey agreed to arrange a meeting of the Competency Working Group with NSAP before end of April 2018.
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7. Update on Competency Working Group

Mike Bracey had kindly produced some slides as a briefing on the progress of the Competency Working Group. This presentation is embedded below:



NERS - Competency Working Group.pptx

It was considered that general descriptors for jointing competency should be recommended since "LV Joints" for example was insufficient to indicate what type of cable and joints the jointer had been trained on. However, going as far as being very prescriptive and producing jointing codes similar to those used by the DNOs would undermine those companies who already used such a system and would be unwilling (as indeed it would be unnecessary) to change to a standard set of codes prescribed by the NERS scheme.

Action:	The meeting to be convened with NSAP (in 6 above) and the Competency Working Group would also consider the subject of jointer competency and how far NERS should go in prescribing jointing descriptors.
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8. Update on NERS Strategy Working Group

PC gave an update on the progress made by this working group by way of a presentation of slides and these are embedded below:



Strategy WG Notes.ppt

PC advised that a further meeting of this group would be convened when LR had considered the potential for rationalising/reducing the number of NERS scopes since the NERS/GIRS comparison had highlighted the large number of NERS scopes as compared with GIRS.

Also, it had been noted that there is a GIRS accreditation for 'Audit' and with this in mind Paul Wragg advised that work had been commenced with EUSR entitled "Determining Competence" and whilst the title did not necessarily indicate fully the content of such work, it was advised that the aim of this work had been to provide consistency across auditors with the 'soft-skills' such as observation etc.

Action:	Paul Wragg to forward work done so far with EUSR to Paul Costelloe.
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9. NERS 12 Month Action Plan

PC advised that in the minutes of the last meeting in November a new 12 Month Action Plan had been created which highlighted the main objectives such as the convening, and the progress of, the Working Groups and the new issues of the NERS Requirements document.

The new Action Plan was reviewed and updated. This is embedded below:



NERS 12 Month
Action Plan.xlsx

10. NERS Statistics

Paul Costelloe presented the NERS statistics which had been updated to include November & December 2017 and January & February 2018. These generally demonstrated an improvement in LR performance although the apparent failure to achieve the required number of surveillance visits in December (67 in total) was due to the previous process of the LR office determining the surveillance visit programme without reference to the respective assessor's diary. This has now been changed so that the respective assessor determines the surveillance visit programme. A significant effort to catch up was made during January and February so that data produced at the end of February showed that the deficit had been eliminated.

The presented data is embedded below:



NERSAP Slides
March 2018.ppt

11. Domestic Properties – externally sited single housing dual utility (electric and water) steel cabinets

Mel Swift made the attending DNO/IDNOs aware of a recently found practice of siting steel cabinets containing meters separately from the property being supplied. These properties are modular, off-site constructed housing units. The concern was over the requirements of Engineering Recommendation (EREC) G12 and the requirement to have a remote earth electrode at steel cabinets and the possibility of a 'touch' potential between the steel cabinet

and the separately earthed (via the neutral) steel frame of the building and its associated internal extraneous metal components.

It was considered that the erection of off-site built housing units is increasing and this issue may become more widespread. GTC have therefore put forward a position at the relevant Technical Standards Group in an effort to seek guidance.

Concern was also raised over the satisfactory operation of smart-metering if it was to be contained within an earthed metal cabinet.

12. AOB

Karl Miller gave the meeting an update on the progress of the new LR Utilities website and it is anticipated that NERSAP members will be able to be involved in the acceptance testing. The anticipated date for implementation is June/July 2018.

Action:	Mel Swift to retrieve original functional specification requirements for use during acceptance testing and forward to group by end April 2018
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13. Dates of next meetings

Dates for the meetings of the NERS Provider Forum and NERSAP in 2018 are:

NERS Forum: 17th July 2018, 6th November 2018

NERSAP: 31st July 2018, 20th November 2018

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