

Minutes of the NERS Strategic Review Working Group

Lloyds Register EMEA Birmingham on 24th January 2019

Attendees:

Paul Costelloe - Lloyd's Register
Mel Swift - GTC
Colin Jamieson - ESP
Maryline Guinard - SSE
Steve Rogers - UKPN
Mike Doward - ENWL
Graham Smith - HEA/UCCG
Karl Miller - Lloyd's Register

Apologies:

Eirwyn Thomas - Powersystems UK
Chris Roe - Eon

1. Introductions

Since there was no agenda, a discussion took place to detail the group's terms of reference. The main headings agreed are detailed below.

2. Is NERS Fit for Purpose?

2.1 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	PC to invite OFGEM to next NERSAP meeting due to be held 19/03/2019.
Action	MS and CJ to produce timeline of main developments vs scheme developments past/present and future for presentation at next NERSAP due to be held 19/03/2019.

3. NERS Scope of Accreditation

It had been identified at the previous meeting of this Working Group on January 30th 2018, that a review of the number of NERS scopes should take place, following a comparison exercise of GIRS and NERS which PC presented at that meeting.

A few ideas had been discussed since the last meeting and some new proposals were discussed at this meeting and a summary of all is detailed below:

- Network Connections – Jointing (LV Mains & Services, LV Terminations) to be changed to Network Connections – Jointing (LV).
- Network Connections – Jointing (HV Mains & Services, HV Terminations) to be changed to Network Connections – Jointing (11kV, 33kV, 132kV as appropriate).
- Unmetered (network connections) to be changed to Unmetered (new connections) or (mains connections). This is to differentiate between the Network Connections – Jointing scopes.
- Unmetered (unmetered) to be changed to Unmetered (transfers).
- Eliminate Cable Jointing (LV Dead) since checking for dead is in fact live working.
- 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.
- It was noted that the Design scopes ‘LV Cable Networks to Domestic Properties’ and ‘LV Cable Networks to Industrial Commercial Properties’ had already, in v7 of the NERS Requirements document been combined to become ‘LV Cable Networks’.
- There was discussion on an additional Design scope for ‘Generation Design’ where automation on smart networks takes place since it was considered that most ICPs holding Design scopes don’t have this expertise.
- MD is seeking clarification on the Operational scopes identified in the NERS Requirements document, particularly with regard to the robustness of the competence requirements. MD agreed to write to PC with proposals.
- MG had proposed an additional Design scope for the electrical design of small LV metered connections to street furniture (such as: advertising panels, broadband fibre cabinets, etc.) which require to be metered and fitted with a 100 Amps cut-out fuse, and also for Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging points connected to unmetered street furniture. This request is for ICPs who are usually delivering unmetered connections and do not wish to get the full LV Cable Networks design scope where they need to deliver such small LV metered connections, as this current design scope is quite onerous to smaller companies who do not normally deliver such works.

Action	MG proposal for additional Design scope to be carried forward for discussion at NERSAP.
Action	PC to discuss potential scope changes above with LR NERS team.
Action	MD to write to PC with proposals for clarification of description for Operational scopes.

4. Is the 2nd Tier NERS Scheme Required?

This question had been proposed for discussion at the last meeting held on January 30th 2018 at ENWL offices. The general consensus was that there would be no advantage in removing this. Therefore no further action proposed.

5. Close-Out Actions from October 2017 Review by S. Rogers/N. Evans

SR agreed to contact Nigel Evans (NERSAP Chair) to discuss the necessity or otherwise to review close-out actions from the NERS review they carried out in October 2017 and subsequently followed up by SR in December 2017.

Action	SR to discuss with NE
--------	-----------------------

6. NERS Involvement with National Skills Academy for Power (NSAP)

PC gave the meeting an update on recent meetings between the NERSAP 'Competency' Working Group Energy & Utility Skills Register (EUSR) who are administering the NSAP scheme.

MD stated that ENWL were not fully committed to the NSAP scheme yet and that any suggestions that his was the case are premature.

PC stated that he had advised NSAP of the respective IDNO/DNO representatives on NERSAP so that some communication could take place between the IDNO/DNO NSAP representatives and their respective IDNO/DNO NERSAP colleagues. PC agreed to close the circle by asking NSAP for the IDNO/DNO representative names for communication to NERSAP.

The general consensus was that whilst NERSAP is keen to raise levels of competence and the NSAP scheme seems to fulfil a lot of the requirements for achieving this, there is still some work to do by NSAP in bringing IDNO/DNO's on board with it before we can begin to promote or require it with ICPs.

Action Email circulated to WG members 05/02/19. CLOSED	PC to ask NSAP (Sue Guest) for names of respective IDNO/DNO reps on NSAP and communicate to NERSAP members.
---	--

7. Date of Next Working Group Meeting

10th April 2019 at 10:30am. LR Birmingham Offices.