

# Minutes of the NERSAP Meeting

## IGEM House, Kegworth on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Attendees:**

Nigel Evans (Chair)	SPEN	<a href="mailto:nigel.evans@spenergynetworks.co.uk">nigel.evans@spenergynetworks.co.uk</a>
Paul Costelloe (Secretary)	Lloyd's Register	<a href="mailto:paul.costelloe@lr.org">paul.costelloe@lr.org</a>
Graham Cotton	ESP	<a href="mailto:graham.cotton@espug.com">graham.cotton@espug.com</a>
Jayson Whitaker	Energy Assets	<a href="mailto:jaysonwhitaker@energyassets.co.uk">jaysonwhitaker@energyassets.co.uk</a>
Mike Doward	ENWL	<a href="mailto:michael.doward@enwl.co.uk">michael.doward@enwl.co.uk</a>
Steve Rogers	UKPN	<a href="mailto:steve.rogers@ukpowernetworks.co.uk">steve.rogers@ukpowernetworks.co.uk</a>
Mel Swift	GTC	<a href="mailto:mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk">mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk</a>
Steven Johnson	Lloyd's Register	<a href="mailto:steven.johnson@lr.org">steven.johnson@lr.org</a>
Graham Smith	UCCG - HEA	<a href="mailto:graham@thehea.org.uk">graham@thehea.org.uk</a>
Mike Bracey	Morrison	<a href="mailto:michael.bracey@morrisonus.com">michael.bracey@morrisonus.com</a>
Paul Wragg	Power On Connections	<a href="mailto:paulwragg@poweronconnections.co.uk">paulwragg@poweronconnections.co.uk</a>
Paul Smith	WPD	<a href="mailto:psmith@westernpower.co.uk">psmith@westernpower.co.uk</a>
Eirwyn Thomas	Power Systems UK	<a href="mailto:et@powersystemsuk.com">et@powersystemsuk.com</a>

**Apologies:**

Chris Roe	UCCG - EoN	<a href="mailto:chris.roe@eonenergy.com">chris.roe@eonenergy.com</a>
Stuart Monk	Murphy Power Dist.	<a href="mailto:stuartmonk@murphygroup.co.uk">stuartmonk@murphygroup.co.uk</a>
Karl Miller	Lloyd's Register	<a href="mailto:karl.miller@lr.org">karl.miller@lr.org</a>
Colin Jamieson	ESP	<a href="mailto:colin.jamieson@espug.com">colin.jamieson@espug.com</a>
Ian Cairns	NPG	<a href="mailto:ian.cairns@northernpowergrid.com">ian.cairns@northernpowergrid.com</a>
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### 1. Introductions

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted.

### 2. Update on Competency Working Group

Mike Bracey gave an update on progress with this working group. Meetings had been held with EUSR to discuss areas of alignment (and mis-alignment) between NERS and the National Skills Academy for Power (NSAP) Competency Accord. A 'mapping' exercise had been carried out to identify gaps. PC stated that the 'Grandfather Rights' deadline which NSAP had set may not be long enough if promotion of the Competency Accord is to take place with ICPs. MD also re-iterated that ENWL are not yet fully committed to the Competency Accord. MB is having a further meeting with EUSR on 27<sup>th</sup> March, following which a further meeting of the working group will take place to discuss the next steps.

Action:	PC to arrange meeting of the working group after the EUSR meeting on 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2019.
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### 3. Review of the Minutes and Actions of the NERSAP Meeting Held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018

#### 2.1 NERS Website

PC advised that the new website had been launched and some cases of inaccuracy were being addressed (e.g. design scopes for some ICPs were missing)

Action:	All to feedback comments and questions on the new website before the next NERSAP in July 2019.
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### 4. Review of Final Minutes and Actions from NERS Forum Held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018

The minutes were reviewed and since most items were agenda items for this meeting, there was nothing to action.

### 5. Update on Competition in Connections Code of Practice

#### Review of DNO Exclusion at 2.2.1 Modification Proposal

PC gave an update on a proposed Modification Proposal by PN Daly. The public consultation on this has now finished and the options resulting from this consultation are to be considered by the working group.

#### G39 Self-Authorisation Modification Proposal

GS gave an update on the UCCG's Modification Proposal which he had submitted and was aimed at clarifying the position with respect to G39 authorisations, which is worded currently to apply only where employers / employees work across one or more DNO / IDNO areas. Understanding had been reached with ENA SHE Committee resulting in understanding with all DNOs that they will accept HERS training in all DNO areas. Working group will test in the first week of March. Issue likely to be taken out of Code of Practice; working group would like to be involved with G39 redrafting.

### 6. Update on NERS Strategy Working Group

PC gave an update on the work of this group to date:

- **'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 30/07/2019.
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Action	<b>MS and CJ</b> to produce timeline of main developments vs scheme developments past/present and future for presentation at next working group meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2019.
Action	<b>PC</b> to include the timeline exercise in agenda for next NERSAP on 30 <sup>th</sup> July for presentation by <b>MS and CJ</b> .

- **Changes to NERS scopes** - A few ideas had been discussed since the last meeting and some new proposals were discussed at the last working group meeting and further discussed with the LR NERs team.
- **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.
- **Proposals by SSE for some additional scopes** – Design scope for: Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points connected onto unmetered street furniture, and for small LV metered connections to street furniture.
- **ENWL is seeking clarification on the Operational scopes** identified in the NERS Requirements document, particularly with regard to the robustness of the competence requirements.

Other issues to be discussed included the ToR for the Working Group, the fitness for purpose of the NERS scheme, and the necessity for a Tier 2 scheme.

It was advised by PC that this Working Group would meet again on April 10<sup>th</sup> at LR Offices in Birmingham.

## 7. Update on NERS Passports Working Group

PW gave an update on progress with this working group. A proposal had been put forward for a combined Certificate of Competency which is combined with Authorisation Certificate/NERS Passport. Electronic passports were being discussed. JW of Energy Assets expressed an interest in being involved in any trials. MS agreed to ask the business support people at GTC to provide a demonstration at the next working group meeting of what can be done with a view to presenting a proposal at the next NERSAP meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Action:	<b>PC</b> to arrange next meeting of this working group in May 2019.
Action	<b>MS</b> to invite business support personnel to next working group meeting

## 8. NERS 12 Month Action Plan

The 12 Month Action Plan was reviewed and updated. The presented plan is embedded below:



Microsoft Excel  
97-2003 Worksheet

## 9. NERS Statistics

Paul Costelloe presented the NERS statistics which had been updated to include November and December 2018 and January 2019. These generally demonstrated a continued good performance by LR in meeting the required number of assessments.

The presented data is embedded below:



Microsoft PowerPoint  
97-2003 Presentation

## 10. Raising Standards with ICPs

Concern was raised by the meeting that standards needed to be raised within the ICP community who appear not to have a complete understanding of the NERS scheme. In particular those employing the services of external Technical Advisors who have little involvement in the day-to day running of the ICP organisation. This is a subject to be considered by the NERS Strategic Review Working Group and in particular:

- Whether a new scope accrediting Technical Advisor organisations should be considered.
- Whether the Technical Advisor should be a full-time employee of the ICP.
- If the NERS Requirements document should specify in more detail what the Technical Advisor's responsibilities are.
- If the Technical Advisor role should be re-named 'Scheme Advisor' or if the Technical Advisor should be reserved for ICP's with Project Management scopes and a new role of 'Scheme Advisor' with robust qualification/experience requirements detailed in the NERS Requirements document.

It was agreed that the subject 'Raising Standards with ICPs' should be a permanent agenda item and NERSAP members were invited to come to future meetings with examples of bad practice not previously brought to the attention of LR.

Action:	<b>All</b> to feedback examples of bad practice, where found. These would ne 'anonymised' for the minutes.
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## 11. DNO Support in the Development of ICP SAPs

PW raised this issue and explained that the SAP resource that Power On use for self-connect work is a combination of ex-DNO trained staff they have recruited and ex-DNO staff who now operate as SAP Contractors. To supplement this resource PW wants to develop some of the Power On staff who already have 11kV AP and SAP status to operate on GTC Networks. The challenge is ensuring that the people requiring training can gain experience of operating a wide range of the older DNO type switchgear. With this in mind Power On have gained agreement with WPD that they will develop a policy that allows an ICP SAP, who is authorised to operate on their network, to provide "Under Personal Supervision" (UPS) operational training to ICP staff on Option 3 self-connect jobs. Power On have recently started undertaking self-connect jobs in SPEN who agreed in principle to also allow UPS for training purposes on Option 3 jobs.

PW asked that apart from WPD, all DNO representatives will want to take this request away to discuss further within their respective businesses.

Action:	<b>All</b> to consider and respond accordingly to PW by next NERSAP meeting on July 30 <sup>th</sup> 2019.
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## 12. AOB

PC requested that a deviation to the current v7 of the NERS Requirements document be allowed which changes the current process for accreditation renewals which takes account of scopes seen in the preceding 12 months, to the (expiring) 3-year period of accreditation. This would reduce the incidence of 3-year renewals over-running past the accreditation expiry date.

The meeting agreed that this deviation could take place with immediate effect pending a change to the NERS Requirements document which would describe the change.

A slide was presented detailing the proposed change and is embedded below.



Microsoft PowerPoint  
97-2003 Presentation

PC asked if anyone knew the whereabouts of the NSAP document 'Governance of Network Design Competence' and MS agreed to provide a link to the document.

Action:	<b>MS</b> to provide link to document to PC for onward circulation.
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PC raised on behalf of MG of SSE an issue which she had raised at the NERS Strategy Review working group which decided it should be raised at NERSAP, and concerns the request to consider 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. The meeting however agreed that adding another NERS scope was undesirable and that anyway an ICP requiring accreditation to carry out such work would have to obtain the existing LV Design scope.

PC raised the issue of requiring a process to escalate NERS related complaints from, but not limited to, ICPs where escalation from LR management to NERSAP was required. The meeting agreed that such complaints could be routed from LR to the NERSAP Chairman who would arrange for the complaint to be heard by a panel formed by him with the judgement being routed back to LR for communication to the complainant. Also, it was suggested by JW that NERSAP should be briefed on all complaints including those not requiring escalation to NERSAP.

Action:	<b>PC</b> to consider producing a 'complaints' briefing for future NERSAP meetings.
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NE (Chairman) raised an issue for the meeting's information of an instance where an individual operative whose present employers refuse to renew their SPEN competencies and the operative believes that this reduces their options and their desirability to other future employers should they leave. The meeting's opinion was that it is the employer's choice if they wish to renew or not, as many operatives would still leave and take the competency with them leaving the company out of pocket. The operatives would still have the option to pay to renew themselves.

### 13. Dates of Next Meetings

Dates for the meetings of the NERS Provider Forum and NERSAP in 2019 are:

NERS Forum: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019

NERSAP: 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019

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