

## Minutes of the 60<sup>th</sup> NERSAP Meeting

### Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020

#### Attendees:

Mel Swift (Chair)	GTC	<a href="mailto:mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk">mel.swift@gtc-uk.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>
Andy Thomas	SSE	<a href="mailto:andy.thomas@sse.com">andy.thomas@sse.com</a>
Steve Rogers	UKPN	<a href="mailto:steve.rogers@ukpowernetworks.co.uk">steve.rogers@ukpowernetworks.co.uk</a>
Ian Cairns	NPG	<a href="mailto:ian.cairns@northernpowergrid.com">ian.cairns@northernpowergrid.com</a>
Dave Ellis	Lloyd's Register	<a href="mailto:dave.ellis@lr.org">dave.ellis@lr.org</a>
Graham Smith	UCCG - HEA	<a href="mailto:graham@thehea.org.uk">graham@thehea.org.uk</a>
Grant Rogers	WPD	<a href="mailto:grogers@westernpower.co.uk">grogers@westernpower.co.uk</a>
Paul Wragg	Power On Connections	<a href="mailto:paulwragg@poweronconnections.co.uk">paulwragg@poweronconnections.co.uk</a>
Karl Miller	Lloyd's Register	<a href="mailto:karl.miller@lr.org">karl.miller@lr.org</a>
Mike Doward	ENWL	<a href="mailto:michael.doward@enwl.co.uk">michael.doward@enwl.co.uk</a>
Chris Roe	UCCG - EoN	<a href="mailto:chris.roe@eonenergy.com">chris.roe@eonenergy.com</a>

#### Apologies:

Simon Burnett	Morrisons	<a href="mailto:simon.burnett2@morrisonus.com">simon.burnett2@morrisonus.com</a>
Nigel Evans	SPEN	<a href="mailto:nigel.evans@spenenergynetworks.com">nigel.evans@spenenergynetworks.com</a>
Eirwyn Thomas	Power Systems UK	<a href="mailto:et@powersystemsuk.co.uk">et@powersystemsuk.co.uk</a>
Colin Jamieson	ESP	<a href="mailto:colin.jamieson@espug.com">colin.jamieson@espug.com</a>

## 1. Introductions

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted. The meeting welcomed Grant Rogers of WPD who replaces Paul Smith following his retirement.

PC informed the meeting of the untimely passing of Mark Richardson of Morrison Utility Services who had been a contributor to the work of NERSAP and NERS Forums up until the most recent NERS Forum in March 2020. The meeting agreed to record its condolences.

## 2. Review of Minutes & Actions of NERSAP Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The minutes were agreed to be a true reflection of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

It was agreed that a further attempt be made to involve OFGEM in the work of NERSAP.

It was agreed that the Working Group previously requested would be convened to review the work which LR had carried out to date on the Investigation/Suspension process.

It was noted that there were no further issues identified with the NERS Provider website as regards its speed which had previously been reported.

Action: Open	<b>PC</b> to contact OFGEM
Action: Open	<b>PC</b> to convene 'Teams' meeting
Action: <b>Closed.</b>	<b>PC</b> to check with Ben Wright about any known issues.
Action: Action addressed within minutes of current meeting. <b>Action Closed.</b>	<b>PC</b> to clarify requirements for issue of C of C in next issue of NERS Requirements.

### 3. Review of Minutes & Actions of NERS Forum of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

The minutes were agreed to be a true reflection of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**MS** enquired about the uptake of the NERS scheme in Northern Ireland. **KM** responded that a small number of ICPs were involved and accreditations were growing.

The colour-blindness tests suggested as a result of a request had all been identified as having shortfalls and GTC are evaluating the best one(s). It was recognised and appreciated that Morrison Utility Services had provided useful information.

Action: <b>Closed.</b>	<b>Mike Bracey</b> and <b>Mark Richardson</b> to provide <b>MS</b> with details as they undertook such testing.
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It was agreed that the issue of training for Assessing Officers would be the subject of discussion at the next NERS Strategic Review Working Group.

### 4. Summary of Proposed Changes to NERS Requirements Document

DE gave a presentation summarising the proposed changes to facilitate issue of v8 of the NERS Requirements Document. Comments received are summarised below:

Discussion about the word 'certificate' on the Confirmation of Competency document proposed.

3.3.1 Un-metered scopes – (change to Highway Electrical Equipment) and suggestion of change from '3-phase' to 'Multi-Phase' so as to allow for connection to split-phase supplies.

Strengthen the requirements for Jointing (LV Dead) i.e. the exposed cable and both ends of cable can be seen to be not connected to a source of supply. The meeting kept in mind

previous discussions about dispensing with this scope since checking for dead is in fact, live working. Not for v8 but carry forward for v9.

Thought to be given to putting words in as regards the requirements for competence of 'Scheme Advisor' (presently NERS Consultants or similar) – not for v8 but carry forward for v9.

Separate description in section section 4 relating to Technical Advisor incl. qualifications and experience may be required.

Discussion took place on the minimum training requirements table 4.2.13 and the need to revise or eliminate it.

Discussion took place about 'Specialist Sub-Contractors and the need for certification / passports. Not for v8 but carry forward for v9.

The presentation given by DE is embedded below for information.



Proposed Changes

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

Nothing to Report

## 6. Update on NERS Strategy Working Group

It was agreed that a further meeting be convened to pick up and re-focus on the work of this group to date.

Action: Open	PC to arrange via 'Teams'
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## 7. Update on NERS Passports Working Group

It was agreed that a further meeting be convened to pick up and re-focus on the work of this group to date.

Action: Open	PC to arrange via 'Teams'
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## 8. Update on Competency Working Group

It was agreed that a further meeting be convened to pick up and re-focus on the work of this group to date.

Action: Open	<b>PC</b> to arrange via 'Teams'
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## 9. Raising Standards with ICPs

Some ideas were discussed on raising the standard of compliance with the NERS Requirements:

MS re-iterated the need for this Advisory Panel and its subsidiary Working Groups to continue its work, particularly with respect to raising competence levels, despite there being some uncertainty on the future direction of the PSS scheme and the involvement of all DNOs/IDNOs. A better idea on future direction is aimed for prior to the next NERSAP/PSS meeting planned for 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

MS advised that the HSE still has the view that the industry needs a fit-for-purpose workforce if incidents such as the ones that HSE have recently prosecuted, are to be avoided in future.

## 10. AOB

PC asked the meeting if the NERS Stats which are routinely presented at NERSAP meetings are still relevant and continue to fulfil the requirements of NERSAP to be confident that LR continue to administer the scheme satisfactorily. It was agreed that the latest statistics would be evaluated by all members to ensure continued compliance. The statistics are embedded below.



NERS Stats July 2020

**PW** asked if LR were catching up with assessments which had been delayed due to the COVID-19 crisis. **PC** responded that in addition to the NERS (and other schemes) Assessors monitoring delayed/postponed visits as they usually do, the LR Office at Birmingham is also monitoring completion of such visits, and a copy of the office spreadsheet will be circulated to NERSAP members separately.

**KM** asked for the opinion of NERSAP regarding remote assessment and the general consensus was that it should not replace site visits but that there are circumstances where it would be beneficial to carry out a remote site visit e.g. long distances in bad weather that would need to be travelled for a routine job such as a street light transfer, where the risks involved in travelling outweigh the benefit of an 'in-person' visit. **JW** agreed that the option of remote inspection should be embraced as an option rather than the 'norm'.

## 11. Dates of Next Meetings

Dates for the meetings of the NERS Provider Forum and NERSAP in 2020 are:

NERS Forum: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020      NERSAP: 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020

The venue will be notified in advance of the above meetings.

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