

Minutes of the 65th NERSAP Meeting

The LRQA Offices, Birmingham & Microsoft Teams on 21st June 2022

Attendees:

LRQA Offices

Mel Swift (MS)	GTC	mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk (Chairperson)
Les Thomas (LT)	LRQA	les.thomas@lrqa.com (Secretary)
Karl Miller (KM)	LRQA	karl.miller@lrqa.com
Kyle Smith (KS)	WPD	ksmith3@westernpower.co.uk
Shaun Crosbie (SC)	EAN	shauncrosbie@energyassets.co.uk

Via Microsoft Teams

Martyn Crocker (MC)	UKKPN	martyn.crocker@ukpowernetworks.co.uk
Paul Wragg (PW)	Power On	Paul.Wragg@poweron-uk.co.uk
Simon Burnett (SB)	Morrison ES	simon.burnett2@morrisones.com

Apologies:

Apologies had been received from

Chris Roe (CR)	UCCG – Eon	chris.roe@eonenergy.com
Paul Costelloe (PC)	LRQA	paul.costelloe@lr.org
Symon Gray (SG)	EA	symongray@EnergyAssets.co.uk
Eirwyn Thomas (ET)	PSUK	et@powersystemsuk.co.uk
Jayson Whitaker (JW)	EAN	jaysonwhitaker@energyassets.co.uk

(Shaun Crosbie was in attendance for Energy Assets)

Tracey Taylor	ENWL	tracey.taylor@enwl.co.uk
Brian Hoy (BH)	ENWL	brian.hoy@enwl.co.uk
Andy Thomas (AT)	SSE	andy.thomas@sse.com

(Andy Thomas made a last-minute request for a Teams link that was missed as the meeting had started).

1. Introductions

As Shaun Crosbie was a new attendee, the Chairman invited the attendees to give a brief introduction of their roles and companies represented.

2. Nominations and appointment of Vice Chairperson

The chairman informed the panel that his tenure officially ends shortly and there is an urgent need to appoint a Vice chairperson. The requirement is that the Vice Chair needs to be from a DNO when the Chair is from an iDNO and vice versa.

MC informed the meeting that he was happy to nominate himself for the role, but it was agreed that the panel would need to carry out a formal vote and would need to be quorate.

Action: Elect Martin Crocker to the Vice Chair role in the next meeting or accept other nominations prior to a vote.	
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2.1 Review and acceptance of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 23rd November 2021 had been issued prior to the meeting were confirmed as a true record of events.

3. Matters arising:

3.1. Update on Competency Working Group

Action: LT & MS to discuss a new schedule and circulate proposed dates.	See Below
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3.2. Update on NERS Strategy Working group

Action: 1st Meeting held and program of meetings to be developed to ensure scheme remains fit for purpose to respond to the requirements of external impacts in the industry	See below
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3.3. Raising Standards with ICPs

The question as to which body should be representing the NERS community was not discussed at this meeting.

Action: MS agreed to raise the action at the ENA and WC (Agreed in a later session) agreed to raise at the INA	Open: The Technical Competency working group is about to reconvene which would be an appropriate body but that no further progress has been made.
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3.4. Communications (Access to Infrastructure) Regulations 2016

This action relates to new scheme for monitoring third parties' requiring access to existing apparatus. SSE have a policy document and PC asked the panel if any other NOs had such a document so that a scheme requirements document could be developed based on the statutory instrument and respective Network Operators' policies.

Action: Network owners are requested to forward any policies they do have on third party access to infrastructure to PC to inform any scheme requirements document developed.	Update: KS and MC both confirmed that there is no generic policy, but they have internal commercial agreements with BT Openreach for access to each other's assets that is deemed commercially sensitive.
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3.5. Proposed amendments to the Requirements document

Some discussion had previously taken place as to the necessity or otherwise for ICPs to hold a Design scope and a working group had been proposed to develop the requirements further. On further consideration, it has become apparent that each network owner has their own standard designs with significant differences based on their operation.

That being the case it is considered unnecessary to convene a working group as what was required is a note clarifying that Design Scope may not be required for loads that are in compliance with the adopting NO's technical design criteria. The design criteria may vary regionally, and an agreement is required between the NO and the Provider regarding actual design parameters

Action: All to review the amendments to 3.1 of the scheme requirements document.	
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3.5.1. Highway Electrical Equipment

Due to the meeting not being Quorate, no further amendments to the Requirements document were discussed.

Action: All to review the amendments to the scheme requirements document attached	
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4. LRQA Report

The Revised LRQA report was presented (See separate LRQA_Report.PDF) and the additional granularity of the details discussed. A redacted version of the Major deficiencies identified on site were discussed with companies and network owners not identified.

It was explained that moving forward it is proposed that all Major and Minor deficiencies identified since the last NERSAP meeting would be reported including the company name and network owner. However, this would be raised at the next UIP Forum to make the ICPs aware of the change and to voice any concerns.

The discussion centred on the issues regarding an ICP rating system and the need for developers and the general public to have a method of making an informed choice. The benefits of having a system of increasing and reducing Surveillance Visit frequencies based on performance were also discussed.

There was a consensus that the new systems coming online were as discussed in the February NERSAP Strategy meeting, but it was also accepted that the improvements would be iterative.

5. Review of the NERS Forum Meeting Minutes

5.1.1. New Model Distribution Safety rules

The new distribution Safety Rules are to be published in the next few weeks. Concerns were raised regarding the role out of the DSRs and the take up the rules by the ICP Community. And it was agreed that once published, LRQA would circulate the information to the ICPs. There was a consensus that once published, the ICPS should have an implementation period of 3 months before LRQA would issue deficiencies against any of the amended requirements.

It was also explained that LRQA are able to circulate Technical Bulletins as and when required.

5.1.2. Section 50 Notices

The reluctance of Nottingham council to accept Section 50 Notices was discussed and it was reiterated that the initial Department for Transport response did not provide a solution. Views differ between authorities and there is little or no consensus, consequently the DtT has once again been asked to review.

6. MOU

The finalised Version of the MOU is included with these minutes. MS asked if the Panel Members could review the document and sign in advance of the next meeting.

Action: All to review the MOU and Sign in advance of the next meeting	
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7. Working Group Updates

7.1. Competency Working Group

MS has reached out to EUSR regarding their PSS. The principles of the need for all those involved in the construction of network assets to hold the necessary qualifications and competency is paramount. EUSR have indicated that there is a need to consider the numbers of operatives that will take up the scheme and the ENA group that has been dormant for some time needs to be re-convened. However, whilst the drive has stalled, the basic principles remain.

7.2. Strategic Working Group

MS reiterated the need to get another date in the diary as whilst there is a need to sign the current MOU, there is work to do as the panel needs to take stock to ensure the scheme remains fit for purpose in a rapidly changing environment.

Ideas such as the Risk Based audit regime, Gold/ Silver / Bronze scoring methodologies or a rating system such as those issued by the Food Advisory Service are to be considered, the improvements seen to date are just a start and before delivering on a rating system there is a need to develop good data and a robust and calibrated reporting regime.

<p>Action: SWG to drive forward initiatives to conclusion and implementation as appropriate</p>	<p>Ongoing New Report presented and ideas for further enhancements discussed</p>
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8. LRQA Annual Rate Increase

As required by Section 10 of the MOU, LRQA must seek the NERSAP acceptance of proposed increases in assessment costs. It was explained that in the first few years there had been no increase so in 2013 a formula had been agreed for the annual rate increase based on the February RPI that is applied from July 1st. The formula is $NR = \text{current fee} (0.1 + 0.9(\text{February 2021 indices} / \text{February 2020 indices}))$

The calculated RPI Increase in February was 7.36%, the CPI increase was 6.2%

LRQA are seeking a 6% increase to £1028.22 an increase of £58.20. It was also clarified that this does not affect existing quotes but only affects new requests for services. The proposed increase was accepted.

9. AOB and Date of next meeting

9.1. AOB

KM raised the issue of the current Chairman’s tenure which ends at the next meeting and consequently, whoever is nominated as the Vice Chair, would be appointed and immediately take over the role of Chair. There was a general consensus that an extension to Mel’s tenure would be prudent and, subject to MC being accepted, both parties agreed in principle.

9.2. Seminar

KM reminded the panel that three years ago a Seminar was proposed covering, competency, and enhancing the industry.

KM explained that LRQA now can support such ventures as we are serious about improving the competency within the industry. During discussions, it was agreed that the ICPs may not be aware of the new innovations such as Non-SF6 Switchgear and no doubt numerous manufacturers and training organisations that would be eager to attend

Action: NERSAP are seeking nominations for a working group to help develop a Seminar	
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9.3. **Date of next Meeting**

MS thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and confirmed the dates for the next meeting were as follows:

Agreed Dates 2022

NERS Provider Forum 11th October - Teams Meeting

NERSAP 25th October – Teams Meeting