

Minutes of the 66th NERSAP Meeting
Microsoft Teams on 25th October 2022

Attendees:

Mel Swift (MS)	GTC	mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk (Chairperson)
Paul Costelloe (PC)	LRQA	paul.costelloe@lrqa.com (Secretary)
Stephen Davies (SD)	LRQA	stephen.davies2@lrqa.com
Kyle Smith (KS)	NG	ksmith3@westernpower.co.uk
Paul Thomas (PT)	SPEN	paul.thomas@spenergynetworks.co.uk
Martyn Crocker (MC)	UKPN	martyn.crocker@ukpowernetworks.co.uk
Paul Wragg (PW)	Power On	paul.wragg@poweron-uk.co.uk
Steven Matthias (SM)	SPEN	steven.matthias@spenergynetworks.co.uk
Les Thomas (LT)	LRQA	les@kayanelconsultingltd.com
Gareth Pritchard (GP)	HEA	gareth.pritchard@thehea.org.uk
Andy Thomas (AT)	SSE	andy.thomas@sse.com
Tracey Taylor (TT)	ENWL	tracey.taylor@enwl.co.uk
Chris Roe (CR)	UCCG-EoN	chris.roe@eonenergy.com
Symon Gray (SG)	EA	symongray@energyassets.co.uk

Apologies:

Apologies had been received from:

Dave Ellis	LRQA	dave.ellis@lrqa.com
Michael Proctor	LRQA	michael.proctor@lrqa.com
Nigel Evans	LRQA	nigel.evans@lrqa.com
Eirwyn Thomas	PSUK	et@powersystemsuk.co.uk
Simon Burnett	Morrison ES	simon.burnett2@morrisones.com
Colin Jamieson	ESPUG	colin.jamieson@espug.com
Karl Miller	LRQA	karl.miller@lrqa.com

1. Introductions

There were no new attendees requiring introduction to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from those identified above.

3. Nominations and Appointment of Vice Chairperson

The Chairman reminded the panel that his tenure officially ends shortly and there is an urgent need to appoint a Vice Chairperson. The Chairman advised that he was happy to have his tenure extended if the meeting so decided, in order that the Vice Chairman could gain more experience of the panel meetings before being appointed as Chairman in the future.

MC advised that he was happy to stand for nomination as Vice Chairman, and therefore PC proposed that MS be re-elected as Chairman for a period of 1 year. The meeting unanimously agreed and therefore MC is elected as Vice Chairman and MS is re-elected as Chairman, both for a period of 1 year.

Action: Elect Martin Crocker (MC) to the Vice Chair role in the next meeting or accept other nominations prior to a vote.	Action Closed
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4. Review of Minutes & Actions from NERSAP Meeting of 21st June 2022

The minutes of the NERSAP meeting dated 21st June 2022 had been issued prior to the meeting were confirmed as a true record of events. Matters arising are detailed below:

4.1. Update on Competency Working Group

Action: PC & MS to discuss a new schedule and circulate proposed dates with possibility of combining both current Working Groups into one.	Open:
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4.2. Update on NERS Strategy Working Group

Action: Program of meetings to be developed to ensure scheme remains fit for purpose to respond to the requirements of external impacts in the industry. MC/MS/PC/KM to meet via Teams in order to set direction.	Open:
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4.3. 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 which meets soon.	Open:
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4.4. 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. KS and MC had previously advised that they have internal commercial agreements with BT Openreach for access to each other's assets that is deemed commercially sensitive. PC advised that LRQA had been unsuccessful in trying to arrange meetings with the DNO which originated this proposed scheme.

Action: MS agreed to take this up with the originating DNO so that LRQA can progress if still required.	Open:
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4.5. **Proposed amendments to the NERS 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.

PC explained that the major changes incorporated into the proposed v9 of the NERS Requirements document included the change from 'unmetered' to 'Highway Electrical equipment' agreed at a Working Group meeting some time ago which was led by the (then) HEA Chief Executive Graham Smith.

4.6. **New Model Distribution Safety Rules (DSRs)**

MS advised that the new Model Distribution Safety Rules have now been issued and provided a link to these which is below:

<https://www.energynetworks.org/operating-the-networks/safety>

Action: All are encouraged to view the new DSRs and confirm at next meeting.	Open:
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5. **Review of Minutes & Actions from NERS Providers Forum of 11th Oct 2022**

The minutes of the NERS Providers Forum meeting dated 11th October 2022 had been issued prior to this meeting. Matters arising are detailed below:

5.1 **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 DfT has once again been asked to review. PT advised that he had not seen anything similar to this situation but was concerned.

5.2 **Best Practice Discussion**

This part of the NERS Providers Forum meeting focused on the general consensus that a common competency scheme was long overdue. There may be a change in the stance on this scheme by WPD now that WPD has become National Grid who are a supporter of such scheme. MC agreed to check on the level of support which UKPN are now prepared to maintain. Likewise, PT agreed to determine SPEN's level of support.

It was noted that whilst the NERS Provider's Forum meeting had re-iterated that there ought to be a common scheme for basic competence such as sub-station entry, that there is in fact such a qualification called Basic Electrical Safety Competence (BESC).

PW re-iterated the strength of support having also attended the NERS Provider's Forum meeting.

CR suggested that IDNOs could influence the DNOs via the INA.

Action: MS agreed to raise this at ENA and INA	Open:
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It was noted that the NERS providers Forum had discussed the subject of Project Management and that LRQA's suggested 'Schedule of Responsibilities' had been re-circulated to the Forum. MS asked the meeting about any Project Management training which had been identified. PT responded that SPEN have a PM apprenticeship scheme and agreed to forward basic details to LRQA for circulation.

Action: PT to forward basic details to LRQA of project management apprenticeship for circulation	Open:
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6. LRQA Report

PC presented the data showing the activity on the NERS scheme noting that the highest number of visits by LRQA took place in the UKPN, WPD, NNPG areas. The meeting agreed that in presenting such data LRQA were on a journey to providing finer detail of visits and respective findings, there was still more to do.

MS asked if one of the deficiencies noted by LRQA in the ENWL area was an issue related to ENWL's systems and PC said that he believed it was an ICP technical issue not an ENWL issue. TT said that access was available, and no issues had been reported that she was aware of.

The meeting agreed that the major deficiency identified in one of the slides (LV cable not adequately identified) was a concern and that more information should be provided. It was agreed that such identified deficiencies would be advised to all NERSAP members, naming the ICP concerned. There are words to this effect in the GIRS Requirements document and it was agreed that this should be in the NERS Requirements document.

Action: PC to obtain more details on the identified major deficiency including action taken to prevent recurrence.	Open:
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Action: PC to obtain words described above from GIRS Requirements document and implant them into the soon to be published v9 of the NERS Requirements document.	Open:
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7. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

No additional comments had been received since this was circulated by LRQA on 7th July 2022 and this is circulated with these minutes with the request that each Network Operator representative sign it or pass it on to someone in their respective organisation who has authority to sign it.

Action: All to sign MoU or pass onto someone in their organisation with authority to sign it.	Open:
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8.0 Working Group Updates

8.1 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 and has been re-iterated by the recent NERS Providers Forum. 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.

8.2 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.

There was general agreement that the two Working Groups could be combined.

Action: MC/PC/MS/KM to convene in order to agree future direction of these Working Groups	Open:
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9. Proposed v9 of NERS Requirements Document

It was agreed that this could now be published and that the words mentioned in section 6 above would be implemented without further approval of the document from NERSAP being sought.

Action: PC to publish v9 of the NERS Requirements document	Open:
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10. AOB and Dates of 2023 Meetings

10.1. AOB

There were no other issues to be discussed since there had been a full and frank discussion during the body of the meeting.

10.2. Proposed Dates of 2023 meetings

NERS Provider's Forum: 14th Feb 2023, 4th July 2023, 7th Nov 2023

NERSAP: 28th Feb 2023, 18th Jul 2023*, 21st Nov 2023

*It was agreed that the July meeting of NERSAP should be a 'face-to-face meeting.

Action: PC to issue invites for NERSAP Meetings for 2023	
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Since LT had advised that he was now working as an external consultant primarily on GIRS, MS thanked him for his service to NERSAP and wished him well.