

## Minutes of the 67<sup>th</sup> NERSAP Meeting

### Microsoft Teams on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

#### Attendees:

Mel Swift (MS)	GTC	<a href="mailto:mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk">mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk</a> (Chairperson)
Paul Costelloe (PC)	LRQA	<a href="mailto:paul.costelloe@lrqa.com">paul.costelloe@lrqa.com</a> (Secretary)
Nigel Evans (NE)	LRQA	<a href="mailto:nigel.evans@lrqa.com">nigel.evans@lrqa.com</a>
Kyle Smith (KS)	NGED	<a href="mailto:ksmith3@nationalgrid.co.uk">ksmith3@nationalgrid.co.uk</a>
Matthew Mason (MM)	SPEN	<a href="mailto:matthew.mason@scottishpower.com">matthew.mason@scottishpower.com</a>
Martyn Crocker (MC)	UKPN	<a href="mailto:martyn.crocker@ukpowernetworks.co.uk">martyn.crocker@ukpowernetworks.co.uk</a>
Clare Roberts (CRo)	NPG	<a href="mailto:clare.roberts@northernpowergrid.com">clare.roberts@northernpowergrid.com</a>
Stephen Davies (SD)	LRQA	<a href="mailto:stephen.davies2@lrqa.com">stephen.davies2@lrqa.com</a>
Eirwyn Thomas(ET)	PSUK	<a href="mailto:eirwyn.thomas@powersystemsuk.com">eirwyn.thomas@powersystemsuk.com</a>
Gareth Pritchard (GP)	HEA	<a href="mailto:gareth.pritchard@thehea.org.uk">gareth.pritchard@thehea.org.uk</a>
Andy Thomas (AT)	SSE	<a href="mailto:andy.thomas@sse.com">andy.thomas@sse.com</a>
Brian Hoy (BH) (for AOB)	ENWL	<a href="mailto:brian.hoy@enwl.co.uk">brian.hoy@enwl.co.uk</a>
Chris Roe (CR)	UCCG-EoN	<a href="mailto:chris.roe@eonenergy.com">chris.roe@eonenergy.com</a>
Kelly McLaughlin (KMc)	NGED	<a href="mailto:kmclaughlin@nationalgrid.co.uk">kmclaughlin@nationalgrid.co.uk</a>
Sean Aldridge (SA)	EA	<a href="mailto:seanaldridge@energyassets.co.uk">seanaldridge@energyassets.co.uk</a>

#### Apologies:

Apologies had been received from:

Dave Ellis	LRQA	<a href="mailto:dave.ellis@lrqa.com">dave.ellis@lrqa.com</a>
Michael Proctor	LRQA	<a href="mailto:michael.proctor@lrqa.com">michael.proctor@lrqa.com</a>
Karl Miller	LRQA	<a href="mailto:karl.miller@lrqa.com">karl.miller@lrqa.com</a>
Paul Thomas	SPEN	<a href="mailto:paul.thomas@spenergynetworks.co.uk">paul.thomas@spenergynetworks.co.uk</a>
Simon Burnett	Morrison ES	<a href="mailto:simon.burnett2@morrisones.com">simon.burnett2@morrisones.com</a>
Paul Wragg	PowerOn	<a href="mailto:paul.wragg@poweron-uk.co.uk">paul.wragg@poweron-uk.co.uk</a>

## 1. Introductions

Introductions were made and the meeting welcomed Matthew Mason, Clare Roberts, Kelly McLaughlin and Sean Aldridge as 'first-time' attendees.

## 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from those identified above.

### 3. Review of Minutes & Actions from NERSAP Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022

The minutes of the NERSAP meeting dated 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 had been issued prior to the meeting were confirmed as a true record of events. Matters arising are detailed below:

#### 3.1. Update on Competency Working Group

<b>Action:</b> PC & MS to discuss a new schedule and circulate proposed dates with possibility of combining both current Working Groups into one.	<b>Closed – Meeting set for 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>
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#### 3.2. Update on NERS Strategy Working Group

<b>Action:</b> 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.	<b>Closed – MS/MC/KM/PC met 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023. Strategy Working Group Meeting set for 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>
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#### 3.3. 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. MS advised that there is refreshed interest in this and we await proposals from SSE on the way forward.

<b>Action:</b> MS agreed to take this up with the originating DNO so that LRQA can progress if still required.	<b>Open:</b> MS took this up with the originating Network Operator and we await proposals
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#### 3.4. Proposed amendments to the NERS Requirements document

PC advised that v9 of the NERS Requirements document would appear on the website, and come into use on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

#### 3.5. 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>

## 4. Review of Minutes & Actions from NERS Providers Forum of 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023

The minutes of the NERS Providers Forum meeting dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 had been issued prior to this meeting. Matters arising are detailed below:

### 4.1 Notification of Major Deficiencies to Respective Network Operator

Discussion took place on the mechanism for reporting major deficiencies noted by LRQA to respective network operators. Such deficiencies may require notification to different people within network operator organisations depending upon whether the issue was related to e.g. safety, operations, asset management. CR commented that maintaining such a contact list would be a challenge and the meeting agreed that the NERSAP representative for each respective network operator would receive the notifications and would direct them to the relevant part(s) of their organisation.

<b>Action:</b> All NERSAP members to nominate a deputy to receive notifications in case of absence.	<b>Open:</b>
<b>Action:</b> PC to obtain more details on the identified major deficiency at last NERSAP meeting including action taken to prevent recurrence.	<b>Closed:</b> PC described action taken to prevent recurrence.
<b>Action:</b> PC to obtain more details on the identified major deficiency including action taken to prevent recurrence.	<b>Closed:</b> PC described action taken to prevent recurrence.
<b>Action:</b> 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.	<b>Closed:</b> Appropriate wording appears in the recently published v9 of the NERS Requirements document

### 4.2 Energy Networks Association (ENA) Competency Group

MS advised that there is an ongoing conversation with ENA and HSE about refresher training for individuals working in the electricity industry and it was agreed that there was potential for NERS to join this discussion in light of ongoing work to introduce the Energy & Utility Skills Competency Accord. The initial meeting approx. 1 month ago had focused on the subject of refresher training (operational and craft) and what 'good looks like'. Academic qualifications seemed to focus more on electrical/electronic engineering than power engineering.

<b>Action:</b> MS agreed to keep NERSAP briefed on ENA/INA developments.	<b>Open:</b>
<b>Action:</b> PT to forward basic details to LRQA of project management apprenticeship for circulation	<b>Open:</b> Outstanding from previous meeting

## 5. UKPN Incident

Martyn Crocker (MC) updated the meeting with further knowledge of a safety incident that happened in the UKPN area and the related Safety Alert A109 (already circulated to invitees) was reviewed.

## 6. GTC Incident

MS updated the meeting, and the related H&St (already circulated to invitees) was reviewed.

## 7. NERSAP Working Groups

It was agreed that the existing Strategy and Competency Working Groups would be combined into one group called the NERS Strategy Working Group.

MC commented that the more diverse the membership of these groups, the better and it was agreed to circulate the list of existing members with an invitation for anyone else who would like to be involved to contact Paul Costelloe. CRo asked to be invited. **\*PMN – CRo has been invited.**

Existing membership now includes:

Martyn Crocker – UKPN

Paul Wragg – PowerOn

Gareth Pritchard – HEA

Simon Burnett – Morrisons

Graham Commons – Balfour Beatty

Mel Swift – GTC

Karl Miller – LRQA

Dave Ellis – LRQA

Clare Roberts – NPG

Paul Costelloe – LRQA

The next meeting of the NERS Strategy Working Group will be 20<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30 via Microsoft Teams.

<b>Action: MC/PC/MS/KM</b> to convene in order to agree future direction of these Working Groups	<b>Closed: Meeting took place on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023</b>
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## 8. LRQA NERS 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, NPG 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 including the possibility of granting access to the NERSAP Chairman/Deputy Chairman.

The dashboard from which the presented slides were derived will be circulated with these minutes to NERSAP members. This now shows detail of deficiencies noted.

## 9. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

This has been circulated on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 with only five signed responses and this is circulated again 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 by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

<b>Action:</b> All to sign MoU or pass onto someone in their organisation with authority to sign it by <b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>	<b>Open:</b>
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## 10. AOB

10.1 NE raised the issue of when an ICP states on site that they are working under their own safety rules, how can the NERS assessor be assured that the Network Operator is happy for them to be working under their own safety rules on their network. MC stated that dictating how ICPs operate is not within the spirit of the CiC Code and said that he could supply a list of ICPs who have entered into a network access agreement with UKPN. It was agreed that further discussion might be needed at the Strategy WG.

10.2 PC advised that whilst much thought had been given to the previously discussed subject of a 'rating' system on the LRQA website for ICPs, it was thought to be too onerous to maintain in a fair and consistent way as LRQA would, in effect be rating it's clients which could be seen to be unfair. MC advised that there needed to be a way for the ICPs potential clients to make an informed decision and that LRQA should provide this facility. Consideration to a link to the ICPs website or to a TrustPilot type website so that a third party would be doing the rating could be given.

<b>Action:</b> Working Group to give further consideration.	<b>Open:</b>
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10.3 PC raised the issue of some ICPs having Certificates of Competency showing authorisation/competence for activities which were not necessarily in the NERS accredited scopes of the employing organisation. Consensus that there should be separate CoCs for NERS activities and other activities (e.g. work on framework agreements/ private networks).

<b>Action:</b> Working Group to give further consideration.	<b>Open:</b>
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### 10.4 Confirmed Dates of 2023 meetings

NERS Provider's Forum: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023

NERSAP: 18<sup>th</sup> Jul 2023\*, 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2023

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

<b>Action: PC</b> to issue invites for NERSAP Meetings for 2023	<b>Closed: Invites sent. Venue for July meeting TBA</b>
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