

Interventions Working Group - Meeting 78

06 November 2024 at 10:00am

Teleconference

Attendees	Company
Boz Laird-Clowes [BLC]	DESNZ
Chris Varney [CV]	OVO
Danielle Brown [DB]	SPEN
David Brown [DB]	AMO
Jordan Hills [JH]	SSEN
Michael Gorewoda [MG]	EON
Michael Turrington [MT]	EDF
Paul Abreu [PA]	ENA
Paul Morris [PM]	UKPN
Philip Howell [PH]	ENWL
Richard Brady [RB]	National Grid
Richard Hill [RH]	Centrica
Simon Wilson [SW]	EDF Energy
Victoria Burkett [VB]	SSE
Warren Lacey [WL]	NPg
Secretariat	
Hannah Proffitt [HP] (Secretariat)	ElectraLink
Richard Colwill [RC] (Chair)	ElectraLink

1. Administration

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees to the 78th IWG meeting.

- 1.2 The Chair asked members for permission to record the meeting for the purpose of aiding the Technical Secretariat. No members objected.
- 1.3 The Chair reminded members to act in accordance with the terms set out in the DCUSA “Competition Law Guidance” for the duration of the meeting.

2. IWG 77 – Draft Minutes

- 2.1 The group agreed the minutes to be an accurate reflection of the discussions held. These are included as **Attachment 1**.

3. Outstanding Actions

- 3.1 The IWG reviewed the outstanding actions, and an updated version of the actions log can be found in **Attachment 2**.

4. Phenolic Cut-outs

- 4.1 The Chair invited PA to provide an update on discussions held at the STIG meeting in October regarding the phenolic cut out incidents.
- 4.2 PA advised that the Association of Meter Operators (AMO) have indicated they are compiling a report to share with the Energy Networks Association (ENA). PA noted that the matter was raised at the STIG to try to address concerns and agree next steps.
- 4.3 PA advised that several options were discussed at the STIG, including DNOs recovering these cut outs when they encounter them. PA noted that DNOs are requesting Meter Equipment Managers (MEMs) add the 50390 reference number to the free text field when reporting C17s as this will assist DNOs in locating them.
- 4.4 PA highlighted that a project will commence next year to recover some of these cut outs, alongside other types of plastic cut out for testing. PA noted that they are keen to ensure a common process is in place for how equipment is recovered and then sent to a single service provider for forensic analysis.
- 4.5 PA advised that they will be issuing invitations to tender shortly. This service provider will provide a twofold service, to forensically test failed units and to test healthy units under different environmental conditions.
- 4.6 PA noted that throughout 2025, each DNO will have a requirement to collect a certain number of units from their network for testing.
- 4.7 PA noted that the AMO asked whether it would be appropriate to add requirements to the Consolidated Metering Code of Practice (CoMCoP), however STIG members felt that a more appropriate location would be in the next update of the ENA Engineering Recommendations (EREC) G103 ‘Generic industry risk assessment and asset management approach for Low Voltage service termination equipment’.

- 4.8 PA added that the AMO are keen that Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have sight of the concerns raised in their report and that they are currently considering whether this information is best shared by the AMO or ENA. PA noted that this will be decided once they have sight of the report.
- 4.9 RH advised that the AMO report will be sent to PA and BLC for review this week, and then the decision regarding issuing to HSE can be made.
- 4.10 Regarding the request for MEMs to add the 50390 reference number when reporting C17s, RH suggested that a bulletin could be created for the field to advise of this.
- 4.11 BLC noted it was raised previously that DNOs were unable to search by the free text field. PM agreed that it is not currently a reportable field, however that if the detail is in there they will be able to draw it out.
- 4.12 PM suggested that DNO processes regarding PPE and testing for voltage should also be considered as this mitigates risk. PM noted that risk is higher in different environments, in particular areas that are ventilated and not heated.
- 4.13 WL advised that Northern Power Grid monitor A19s through to conclusion and aim to recover the cut out. In 2024 there were approximately 25 A19s and less than half showed a positive result for surface voltage. WL noted that they have asked their asset management team about replacing some of the 50390 cut outs next year to have them tested.
- 4.14 CV noted that they are planning to use a multi meter to test for surface voltage on the 50390 cut outs and asked whether they should report any voltage or whether there is a threshold. The group agreed that any voltage should be reported as long as it has been detected using a two-pronged device.

5. Operational, Safety and Reporting Issues

1971 Meter - Bakerlite Containing Asbestos

- 5.1 PM highlighted that some members may have noticed difficulties disposing of meters through UK Power Networks as the acceptance of meters has currently been suspended.
- 5.2 PM advised that after analysis, a 1971 meter made of bakerlite was found to contain a small percentage of asbestos. PM noted that it is sealed and therefore low risk, however that the concern is surrounding the process for waste disposal. PM noted that bakerlite had a percentage of asbestos in it up until 1974 and suggested that they may segregate meters older than 1974 and deal with these separately.
- 5.3 WL asked how the meter was identified. PM advised that everything being disposed of gets analysed. WL noted that they are interested in the outcome of these discussions as most DNOs will have a number of these legacy meters.
- 5.4 RH asked if they have identified any more of these type of meters to check. PM noted that this is the only one so far but that they will check more meters around this date to try and gain a better understanding of the situation.

- 5.5 DB noted that manufacturers during this time period included Ferranti, English Electric, Sangamo and Chamberlain & Hookham.
- 5.6 PM advised that once they have completed further investigation, they will reinstate the disposal process.

October STIG Discussion – Oversized Cut Out Terminals

- 5.7 PA advised that at their October meeting, STIG members had discussed an issue that had been taken to the Electricity Operational Metering Forum (EOMF) relating to a scenario reported under B07 by a MEM.
- 5.8 The photographs provided by a MEM depicted a scenario where a large cut out had presented a problem as it had large top terminals unable to accommodate standard sized meter tails. To resolve this issue, the DNO had provided single core cables from the top of the cut out to sealable meter blocks.
- 5.9 This was flagged by the MEM as they felt it was an unsuitable arrangement and would increase the risk of illegal abstraction.
- 5.10 STIG members disagreed and noted that they felt the solution was appropriate. STIG members noted that intervention by a DNO will be dependent on the circumstances and that solutions may differ. STIG members concluded that it was up to the DNO to decide on the intervention.
- 5.11 RH asked why 35 millimetre tails were used and noted that meter operators may struggle to get them terminated into the standard 100 amp current meters.
- 5.12 PA noted that one of the things STIG members explored was that some customers want to go on direct current metering due to the tariff, but that there is nothing to stop them a year later going back to CT metering. If the DNOs start replacing cut outs and putting 100 amp cutouts in, that is cost that needs to be covered and customers will not want to pay for it.
- 5.13 WL noted that using 35 millimetre tails should not matter as the metre operator is not connecting directly into the cut out, they can only connect into the blocks. WL added that it was previously discussed that if standard tails cannot be fitted into these cut outs, it should be reported as a B07. WL noted that it is up to the DNO and they may see fit to use a different intervention.

6. 2024 Work Plan

- 6.1 Members took an action to consider what items they would like to be included in the Work Plan for 2025 and to submit these to DCUSA.

Action 78/01 – Members to consider what items they would like to be included in the Work Plan for 2025 and to submit these to DCUSA.

Asbestos

- 6.2 As discussed under the actions (action 74/02), the Chair agreed to send the gallery to DB for it to be added as an appendix to the AMO guidance document. This was sent following the meeting.

Extra validation across DTN

- 6.3 As discussed under the actions (action 74/01), the Chair advised that they have discussed the matter with their DTN colleague and that they will reach out to RH, MG and PM to progress this.

Improving customer journey via URL online forms

- 6.4 As discussed under the actions (action 70/04), PM noted that use of the online form is ongoing and they hope Suppliers are seeing the value. PM thanked Suppliers for sharing with their operatives to encourage use. Updates to the online form will be coming in the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Review of the CoMCoP

- 6.5 The Chair asked if there were any further updates on the review. RH advised that the 08 November was the end date for the review.

Sharing and discussing internal policy changes

- 6.6 The Chair highlighted that at the last meeting members had suggested an IWG yearly review could be beneficial. The Chair agreed to draft a paper to be presented at the January meeting.
- 6.7 WL noted that they had asked for a policy change briefing to be added to the EOMF agenda but had not received a response yet. WL agreed to follow this up.

Cage clamp isolators guidance

- 6.8 As discussed under the actions (action 76/01), the Chair advised that they would provide an update when available.

Radio Teleswitch

- 6.9 Members agreed to add this to the Work Plan for 2025.

7. Opportunity for Updates on Related IWG Activities

- 7.1 The Chair informed the group of the below updates:

DCP 419 - Pre-Notifications of Planned Supply De-Energisations

- 7.2 The Chair advised that Lorna Mallon has raised a change that was needed for DCP 419 to progress as it was identified there was a need to make some amendments to the REC document. This change is in the early stages of the process and is due to be discussed at the REC Change Issues Forum on 07 November.
- 7.3 Following an update from the Change Issues Forum, a poll will be issued to the DCP 419 Working Group to organise the next meeting.

8. Smart Meter Installs

- 8.1 [Smart meter installations for September 2024 can be found at this link.](#)

9. Any Other Business

9.1 The Chair asked whether there was any other business, to which nothing was raised.

Next Meeting

The next IWG meeting is scheduled to be held on 08 January 2025. The meeting will start at 10am.

Attachments

- Attachment 1 - IWG 77 - Final Minutes v1.0
- Attachment 2 - IWG 78 - Actions