

# Minutes of the 61<sup>st</sup> NERSAP Meeting

## Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Attendees:

Mel Swift (Chair) (MS)	GTC	<a href="mailto:mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk">mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk</a>
Les Thomas (Secretary)	Lloyds Register	<a href="mailto:les.thomas@lr.org">les.thomas@lr.org</a>
Andy Thomas (AT)	SSE	<a href="mailto:andy.thomas@sse.com">andy.thomas@sse.com</a>
Steve Rogers (SR)	UKPN	<a href="mailto:steve.rogers@ukpowernetnetworks.co.uk">steve.rogers@ukpowernetnetworks.co.uk</a>
Grant Rogers (GR)	WPD	<a href="mailto:groggers@westernpower.co.uk">groggers@westernpower.co.uk</a>
Mike Doward (MD)	ENWL	<a href="mailto:michael.doward@enwl.co.uk">michael.doward@enwl.co.uk</a>
Simon Burnett (SB)	Morrison's	<a href="mailto:simon.burnett2@morrisonus.com">simon.burnett2@morrisonus.com</a>
Colin Jamieson (CJ)	ESP	<a href="mailto:colin.jamieson@espug.com">colin.jamieson@espug.com</a>
Jayson Whitaker (JW)	Energy Assets	<a href="mailto:jaysonwhitaker@energyassets.co.uk">jaysonwhitaker@energyassets.co.uk</a>
Graham Cotton (GC)	ESP	<a href="mailto:graham.cotton@espug.com">graham.cotton@espug.com</a>
Graham Smith (GS)	UCCG - HEA	<a href="mailto:graham@thehea.org.uk">graham@thehea.org.uk</a>
Ian Cairns (IC)	NPG	<a href="mailto:ian.cairns@northernpowergrid.com">ian.cairns@northernpowergrid.com</a>
Eirwyn Thomas (ET)	Power Systems UK	<a href="mailto:et@powersystemsuk.co.uk">et@powersystemsuk.co.uk</a>
Paul Wragg (PW)	Power On Connections	<a href="mailto:paulwragg@poweronconnections.co.uk">paulwragg@poweronconnections.co.uk</a>
Karl Miller (KM)	Lloyd's Register	<a href="mailto:karl.miller@lr.org">karl.miller@lr.org</a>
Nigel Evans (NE)	SPEN	<a href="mailto:nigel.evans@spenenergynetworks.com">nigel.evans@spenenergynetworks.com</a>
William Cass (WC)	Last Mile	<a href="mailto:William.Cass@lastmile-uk.com">William.Cass@lastmile-uk.com</a>
Yohan De Silva (YDS)	Lloyd's Register	<a href="mailto:Yohan.desilva@lr.org">Yohan.desilva@lr.org</a>
Chris Wonfer	UKPN	<a href="mailto:chris.wonfer@ukpowernetnetworks.co.uk">chris.wonfer@ukpowernetnetworks.co.uk</a>

### Apologies :

Paul Costelloe (PC)	Lloyd's Register	<a href="mailto:paul.costelloe@lr.org">paul.costelloe@lr.org</a>
Chris Roe (CR)	UCCG - Eon	<a href="mailto:chris.roe@eonenergy.com">chris.roe@eonenergy.com</a>
Dave Ellis (DE)	Lloyd's Register	<a href="mailto:dave.ellis@lr.org">dave.ellis@lr.org</a>

## 1. Introductions

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted. Following brief introductions **KM** explained the new structure at Lloyds and Les Thomas introduced himself as being recently been appointed as Utilities Team Lead. **SR** also introduced Chris Wonfer as his future replacement. **MS** welcomed **CW** and **LT** to the panel.

## 2. Review of Minutes & Actions of NERSAP Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Following a review, the minutes of the July meeting were agreed to be a true reflection of events with the exception of an update to the email address for Nigel Evans which was found to be incorrect and was corrected.

Due to difficulties in obtaining a contact at OFGEM, no further attempt is to be made to involve OFGEM at this time. Action closed.

Meetings were now being convened via teams. Action closed

Action: Closed	<b>PC</b> to contact OFGEM
Action: Closed	<b>PC</b> to convene 'Teams' meeting

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

There has not been a forum meeting since 4<sup>th</sup> of March and the minutes were agreed and discussed in the NERSAP Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

**MS** reiterated although the colour-blindness tests topic was closed, it was likely that this will arise again in future.

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

Draft Version 8 to be circulated with the minutes for this meeting for review. Comments are required before Christmas. **MS** requested that a consensus be agreed by email before the next meeting. **Note** Draft version 8, text highlighted in yellow was as discussed in the July NERSAP. Text highlighted in blue are additional suggestions from Dave Ellis and Paul Costelloe.

Action: <b>Closed</b> The latest Document is embedded below	<b>LT</b> to issue a Draft version of V8 of the requirements document with the minutes.
Action: Open	<b>All</b> Review the proposed changes in V8 and respond to LR with comments & amendments by Christmas



NERS\_Requirements\_Document\_V8 DRAFT |

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

Nothing to Report. Working group to be reconvened

Action: Open	<b>LT</b> discuss the makeup of the working group with <b>MS</b> and <b>PC</b> and arrange a meeting.
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### 6. Update on NERS Strategy Working Group

Nothing to report Working group to be reconvened.

Action: Open	LT discuss the makeup of the working group with MS and PC and arrange a meeting.
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## 7. Update on NERS Passports Working Group

Nothing to report. Working Group to be reconvened

Action: Open	LT discuss the makeup of the working group with MS and MB and arrange a meeting.
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## 8. Update on Competency Working Group

Nothing to report. Working Group to be reconvened

Action: Open	LT discuss the makeup of the working group with MS PC and MB and arrange a meeting.
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## 9. Raising Standards with ICPs

Due to the need to meet the challenges with the industry, 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.

Overview provided of the craft registration schemes, the EUSR and NSAP involvement and the need for a training scheme. Despite the efforts of the NERSAP governance group some of the DNOs have withdrawn as there was no consensus on the future registration scheme. The current position is that UKPN are still on board, and as yet SP have not withdrawn. There is still uncertainty on the future direction of the PSS scheme.

During discussion LT gave some information on the future competency requirements in Multi Occupancy Buildings that had been presented at IGEM.

The Competence Steering Group was described which is an industry-led group established to develop proposals for oversight of competence and increased competence in key disciplines across design, construction, inspection, maintenance and management of buildings.

BSi (currently in draft) have produced a set of competencies for everyone who works in/on a HRRB, e.g. Receptionist to Engineer and include both Technical and Behavioural competencies

The current belief is there is a need to develop and finalise a Contextualised Safety Engineering Competence Framework for persons working in high risk residential buildings with a clearly defined mechanism for maintenance and periodic review of the framework.

For Further information see

Engineering Council

– <https://www.engc.org.uk/standardsguidance/guidance/building-safety/>

Building Safety Bill (draft)

– <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-building-safety-bill>

Steering Group on Competence for Building a Safer Future. Raising The Bar Interim Report. Improving Competence Building a Safer Future

<http://cic.org.uk/admin/resources/raising-the-barinterimfinal-1.pdf>

During discussion, it was stated that IGEM are seeking to develop a workable system in conjunction with the various working groups rather than have framework imposed.

This raises the question as to which body should be representing the NERS community. This is going to develop over the next few years and could impact on NERSAP. It is something we need to be aware of as we need to future proof industry competency. **MS** agreed to raise the action at the ENA and **WC** (Agreed in a later session) agreed to raise at the INA.

## 10. BEIS Draft Smart Metering Guidance in New Builds

**MS** gave a background to the Draft Smart Metering Guidance document for domestic new builds. It is a guidance document for Developers and Architects to be implemented before the end of 2020. Currently It is Non- Binding Guidance to ensure communication issues for smart metering are resolved. Numerous requirements are listed, and several issues have been identified and responded as part of the brief consultation.

**MS** reminded the panel that once published, in whatever form, we will have a duty to inform developers and architects as part of our planning discussions.

## 11. NERS Data July - October 2020

The latest statistics are embedded below.



NERS STATS 17th  
November 2020 v1.pc

## 12. AOB

**SR** raised concerns about the need to assess the commercial competence of ICPs and to review the information and guidance issued to developers. Examples of issues with CIC requests experienced by the DNO were discussed. There was a general consensus regarding the need for clearer understanding for developers of the customer journey and what is being delivered, when, how and by whom. During discussion **MD** also raised the issue of a recent dual quote where a design house appears to be leading the POC request.

**LT** was asked to explain how this is dealt with under GIRS and it was stated that the network owners only communicate with a design house that is either acting as an agent on behalf of a provider or one that holds Project Management and has signed the adoption agreement. **MD** confirmed that in this case they had stated the same.

Examples of a business models of developers which drive the choice of ICPs, and various interface arrangements were discussed.

No actions were identified.

**SR** informed the meeting that he was retiring at the end of January and that **CW** was to be his replacement on the panel. He also stated that as he was current vice chair, it would be unfair to ask **CW** to take up the role, being a new panel member. **MS** Thanked **SR** for his input, consistency and guidance over his tenure, and wished him luck on behalf of the Panel. He also asked if the other 5 DNO members would contact him regarding their willingness to take up the role or nominate a successor.

**WC** asked about the possibility of LR completing unannounced site visits. It was explained that historically this has been considered but due to site changes, unannounced visits result in numerous occasions where LR turn up and the teams have either not started or the work is complete. LT reminded the panel that under NERS it is the ICP that pays for the visit.

**LT** also stated that the GIRS team do carry out unannounced site visits on behalf of some network owners that confirms the above, however, it was also stated that the level of findings identified in the announced visits are very similar to those found on unannounced visits and the evidence suggests most providers use LR as part of their audit process rather than roll out a red carpet.

**WC** asked that as two new GIRS Scopes for the design and construction of supplies to multi occupancy buildings was being implemented in January for full implementation by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, is there a need for additional scopes in NERS. It was explained that the construction of steel riser and lateral system and manifolds, and the understanding of associated ventilation and fire protection requirements warrants the additional scopes but under GIRS there are far fewer scopes in place.

There was little or no consensus for additional scopes at present, however, it was agreed that the proposals being developed by the Steering Group on Competence for Building a Safer Future may change this position.

**LT** provided a response to **PW**'s request under AOB in the last meeting regarding LR catching up with assessments which had been delayed due to the first COVID-19 lockdown. **LT** confirmed that the majority of the visits postponed had been caught up and currently only 4 of the 41 visits cancelled or postponed are outstanding. These are in hand and will be resolved shortly.

### **13. Dates of Next Meetings**

Dates for the meetings of the NERS Provider Forum and NERSAP in 2021 are:

NERS Provider Forum	2 <sup>nd</sup> March, 29 <sup>th</sup> June & 2 <sup>nd</sup> November
NERSAP	16 <sup>th</sup> March, 20 <sup>th</sup> July & 23 <sup>rd</sup> November

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