

Meeting Minutes – 6th Energy Security Emergency Group

14:00 27 April 2022

Attendees

Mark Griffin (Secretary General - DECC – Chair), Matt Collins, Barry Quinlan, Paul Bolger, Grainne Ui Thuama, Aoife MacEvilly (Chairperson - CRU), Frank Bergin (CEO - NORA), Denis O’Sullivan (COO - Gas Networks Ireland), Rodney Doyle (COO - EIRGRID), Ronnie Downes (Assistant Secretary – DETE) and Alan Barrett (Director – ESRI).

Other Attendees: Minister Eamonn Ryan (for the second half of the meeting only), Kevin Brady, Noel Regan, John Burke, Fergal Corcoran, John Twamley, Rob Barnes (Secretariat) and Niall Power (Secretariat).

1. Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes of 5th ESEG meeting were agreed. The outstanding action, to provide an update on coal, was given by Rodney Doyle. It was noted that relevant power plants have sufficient coal for the summer and are currently sourcing non-Russian coal for future use.

2. Oil Emergency Scenarios

Barry Quinlan gave a presentation on the progress of reviewing and testing oil emergency plans and procedures against scenarios of escalating severity. John Twamley set out the six schemes within the Oil Emergency Allocation Scheme (OEAS). See presentation for details.

The update was followed by discussion, during which, the limited levels of storage at Dublin port (which is the supply point for 60% of Ireland’s oil) and the reliance on regular supply by ship (generally from the UK) were identified as key risks. NORA assured the Group that oil stocks can be readily transported for use with limited notice and no additional measures (such as having a ship on standby) are required.

The following actions were identified:

1. Oil emergency exercises to be completed and tested as soon as possible,
2. Examine how to communicate response plans to stakeholders including the Oireachtas,
3. Examine if supply reduction impacts on price can be modelled, and
4. Complete work on the Oil Emergency Allocation Scheme (OEAS)
5. Examine if additional legislation is required to support emergency plans including the OEAS,

3. Sectoral and Subgroup updates

Electricity & Gas Security of Supply: Matt Collins noted recent developments in Eastern Europe *viz* the recent cessation of Russian gas to Bulgaria and Poland and ongoing work between the European Commission and commercial operators. It was noted that gas prices in the UK have not been as affected by the recent cessation of Russian gas to Bulgaria and Poland.

Consumer & Vulnerable Households: William Walsh updated on ongoing work on Solar PV proposals and on vulnerable customers which is being assisted by DSP and MABS.

Business Subgroup: Ronnie Downes noted an upcoming presentation to LEEF.

Data & Modelling: Alan Barrett noted further work to be done with Kevin Brady on refining a list of possible research to be conducted under the Data & Modelling Group.

Communications: Grainne Ui Thuama noted the public information campaign will launch on 28 April with additional messaging forthcoming from SEAI and other Departments. The subgroup is to meet with the oil team to discuss communication plans in the event of a shortage.

4. Letter from Climate Change Advisory Council (CCAC)

The Group noted the CCAC letter and will offer that Departmental officials meet the CCAC and present the NESF.

5. AOB/Next meeting

The next meeting will be on 11 May.

Actions

Details	Timeline	Owner
Next meeting to address implementation requirements related to the NESF Policy Responses	11.05	Paul Bolger/Kevin Brady
Next meeting to examine scenarios considering impacts of gas supply shocks	11.05	Matt Collins
Actions in relation to Oil are set out at 2 across	11.05 (Update)	Barry Quinlan