

Meeting Minutes – 7th Energy Security Emergency Group

14:00 11 May 2022

Attendees

Mark Griffin (Secretary General - DECC – Chair), Matt Collins, Barry Quinlan, Paul Bolger, Grainne Ui Thuama, Jim Gannon (CRU), William Walsh (CEO - SEAI), Frank Bergin (CEO - NORA), Denis O’Sullivan (COO - Gas Networks Ireland), Rodney Doyle (COO - EIRGRID), Dermot Coates (D/ETE), Joseph Cummins (D/ETE) and Alan Barrett (Director – ESRI).

Other Attendees: Kevin Brady, John Burke, John Twamley, Niall Power (Secretariat).

1. Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes of 6th ESEG meeting were agreed.

2. Oil Update (in context of proposed sanctions package)

Barry Quinlan and Frank Bergin gave an update on oil supply (see paper circulated in advance of the meeting). The update noted that commercial stock levels were high, there remains some tightness on diesel supply and an emergency exercise is planned for 26 May. The potential sanctions on oil were discussed but it is not yet clear what form and when the sanctions will take effect.

3. Gas & Electricity Emergency Scenarios

Matt Collins gave a presentation on the progress of reviewing and testing gas and electricity emergency plans and procedures against scenarios of escalating severity. This included factors in response management such as load shedding, role of secondary fuel. See presentation for details.

The update was followed by discussion whereby it was noted that certain scenarios would lead to pressure on secondary fuel supplies. It was noted by Frank Bergin that all oil terminals are large gas users and that any gas rationing policy possibly shouldn't apply to them to avoid impact on fuel supply.

The following actions were identified for the gas and electricity subgroup:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 2. Investigate, in collaboration with the oil subgroup, the role of secondary fuels in electricity generation including the logistical challenge of getting secondary fuel to power stations and the ability of power stations to take delivery of the level of fuel supplies that might be required.
- 3. Detailed discussion at subgroup level and consideration of what happens in a gas and/or electricity shortage including detailed examination of what, how, in what order and over what timeframe disconnections would take place and the hierarchy of sectors in such a

scenario noting that households are considered a protected sector under EU legislation (DETE to be involved in these discussions).

4. Consideration of CEPA analysis and GNI options in relation to the security of supply review

4. NESF Policy Responses Implementation Update

Paul Bolger updated the Group on the initial updates received on the implementation of 31 Policy Responses of the NESF. The calendar of reporting and publication of Quarterly reports was also shared. See accompanying note for details.

5. Other Sectoral/Subgroup updates

Communications: Grainne Ui Thuama noted work underway looking at behavioural response to the current campaign and of engagement with SEAI and Oil teams. Communications plans around shortages are being discussed. Subgroup will meet once a month going forward.

Consumer & Vulnerable Households: William Walsh noted work with ESNB on vulnerable customers and that Solar PV scheme will be reviewed against the Public Spending Code. Subgroup will meet on a fortnightly basis.

Data & Modelling: Alan Barrett noted ESRI will be working on household and business levels impacts. The wider group are building a comprehensive data set. The subgroup's structure and direction is emerging. Jim Gannon noted that he would revert to Secretariat on estimated winter retail prices.

6. AOB/Next meeting

It was agreed that future meetings will be on a fortnightly basis unless otherwise required to meet due to specific issues arising. The next meeting will be on 25 May. The Chair asked for attendance in person at future meetings.

Actions

Details	Timeline	Owner
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Investigate, in collaboration with the oil subgroup, the role of secondary fuels in electricity generation including the logistical challenge of getting secondary fuel to power stations	Update to ESEG 25-May	Matt Collins

Details	Timeline	Owner
and the ability of power stations to take delivery of the level of fuel supplies that might be required.		
Detailed discussion at subgroup level and consideration of what happens in a gas and/or electricity shortage including detailed examination of what, how, in what order and over what timeframe disconnections would take place and the hierarchy of sectors in such a scenario noting that households are considered a protected sector under EU legislation (DETE to be involved in these discussions).	Update to ESEG 25-May	Matt Collins
Consideration of CEPA analysis and GNI options in relation to the security of supply review	Update to ESEG 25-May	Matt Collins
CRU to revert to Secretariat on estimated winter retail prices	By 25-May	Aoife MacEvilly/Jim Gannon
Examine how to communicate oil response plans to stakeholders including the Oireachtas (carry over from 6 th meeting)	Update to ESEG 25-May	Barry Quinlan
Examine if oil supply reduction impacts on price can be modelled (carry over from 6 th meeting)	Update to ESEG 25-May	Barry Quinlan
Complete work on the Oil Emergency Allocation Scheme (carry over from 6 th meeting)	Update to ESEG 25-May	Barry Quinlan
Examine if additional legislation is required to support oil emergency plans including the Oil Emergency Allocation Scheme (carry over from 6 th meeting)	Update to ESEG 25-May	Barry Quinlan
Oil emergency exercises to be completed and tested as soon as possible (carry over from 6 th meeting)	26-May	Barry Quinlan
Policy response implementation update	Update to ESEG 8-Jun	Paul Bolger