

## Meeting Minutes – 12<sup>th</sup> Energy Security Emergency Group

14:00 31 August 2022

### Attendees

- Mark Griffin (Secretary General – DECC – Chair)
- Barry Quinlan (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Matt Collins (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Paul Bolger (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Sheena Denny (PO – DECC), Kevin Brady (PO – DECC), Evin McMahon (PO - DECC) and Niall Power (AP – DECC – Secretariat),
- David Hegarty (Assistant Secretary – D/ETE)
- Denis O’Sullivan (COO – Gas Networks Ireland)
- William Walsh (CEO - SEAI)
- Alan Barrett (Director- ESRI)
- Aoife MacEvilly (Chair – CRU),
- Karen Kavanagh (Director- Networks and Economic Regulation, CRU)
- Rodney Doyle (COO - EIRGRID)
- Frank Bergin (CEO - NORA) and
- Edel Hackett (MECC Press Advisor)

**Apologies:** Ronnie Downes (Assistant Secretary – D/ETE)

### 1. Minutes of ESEG meeting on 20 July and actions arising

Meeting minutes were agreed by the Group. DECC have been asked to provide a Memo to Government which is in train. Updates were taken as complete except for those which will be covered in the course of the meeting.

### 2. Overview

The Chair gave an overview of the increasing concern at political level in relation to the impacts (price and security) of the war in Ukraine on the energy system and the need to enhance emergency planning, support measures and communications in advance of the coming winter.

### 3. Winter 2022/23 outlook

**Gas outlook for winter:** Dennis O’Sullivan noted that markets remain volatile due to Nord Stream 1 being shut off. It was noted that storage is approaching 80% full across Europe which reduces the risk for the coming winter but will be challenging to fill for the following winter. While futures prices are very high – the vast majority being traded is spot prices and there’s a reluctance to buy gas for 2024. Forward prices are seen as a worst-case scenario.

**Electricity outlook for winter:** Rodney Doyle noted the winter outlook is as previously set out with generation availability being a key factor. If there are shortages there may be a need to import from the UK however their capacity may be tight this winter and there is a possibility of system alerts. EirGrid’s Winter Outlook is due to be published in the coming weeks.

**Gas and electricity emergency planning:** Matt Collins updated on the forthcoming electricity and gas emergency exercise which will look at the effect of a prolonged gas supply reduction. First day is on the 9 September which will involve preparation and day two (16 September) will be a full exercise.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Retail prices:** Aoife MacEivilly discussed a presentation on retail prices (circulated in advance of the meeting to the group). She noted electricity suppliers are likely to increase prices on 01 October for the rest of the year and average bills will likely be €2,000 to €2,500 per annum. This may rise to €3,000 in Q1 2023.

[REDACTED]

#### 4. Communications Updates

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

#### 5. Energy savings measures

Evin McMahon presented a paper of potential energy savings in the public sector.

William Walsh said he will discuss with OPW regarding implementation of these measures and that SEAI will suggest savings initiatives to DECC that are backed by evidence.

The Chair noted the importance of the public sector showing leadership and that a campaign should be outlined soon. The measures will be included in the memo for Government.

## 6. Oil sector and emergency planning update

[REDACTED]

## 7. Liquidity positions of Energy Companies

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## 8. NESF Implementation Update

Kevin Brady presented an update on the implementation of the NESF. He also provided an update on ongoing DECC work on windfall taxation measures [REDACTED]

### Actions

Details	Timeline	Owner
Submit a Memo to Government on Energy Prices, Energy Security and updates on Communications, public sector savings measures and windfall taxation measures.	06.09	Kevin Brady
GNI and CRU to create a list of options for voluntary reduction of Gas consumption and send to DECC to be presented at ESEG.	14.09	Matt Collins
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Implement public sector energy savings programme	14.09	William Walsh
Presentation on supply expectation on oil, oil products and prices for the winter 22/23 period.	14.09	Barry Quinlan
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
RYU campaign to be refined and finalised	Ongoing through September	Sheena Denny

