

Meeting Minutes – 14th Energy Security Emergency Group
14:00 5 October 2022

Attendees:

- Mark Griffin (Secretary General – DECC – Chair)
- Barry Quinlan (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Matt Collins (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Paul Bolger (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Richard Browne (Director of Cyber Security - DECC), Sheena Denny (PO – DECC), Kevin Brady (PO – DECC), Mags O’Reilly (HEO - DECC).
- Ann Marie Colbert (AP – DECC) and Niall Power (AP – DECC)
- Ronnie Downes (Assistant Secretary – D/ETE)
- William Walsh (CEO – SEAI)
- Alan Barrett (Director – ESRI)
- Aoife MacEvilly (Chair – CRU) and Loretta Lambkin (Operations and Organisational Development - CRU)
- Rodney Doyle (COO – EIRGRID) and Diarmaid Gillespie (Director of System Operations - EirGrid)
- Ellen Diskin (ESBN)
- Denis O’Sullivan (COO – Gas Networks Ireland), Paul Lennon (Head of Asset Management - Gas Networks Ireland) and Sean O’Sullivan (Cyber Security Manager - Gas Networks Ireland).

1. Minutes of ESEG meeting of 21 September & actions arising

Meeting minutes were agreed by the Group. Updates on outstanding actions were given. The first, second and fifth item of the actions will be carried over to the next meeting. The third will be covered during the course of the meeting by Ann Marie Colbert and the fourth is confirmed to have been completed by Barry Quinlan.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. Presentation on Winter Outlook

Rodney Doyle and Diarmaid Gillespie presented (circulated in advance) on EirGrid’s Winter Outlook. It was noted that data used for the report was based on information available on 3 September.

The key message is that there is a 'loss of load expectation' of 51 hours (three times the level last year). This is above the target level set by CRU of 8 hours. There is therefore a high probability the system will enter alert stage over the Winter period.

EirGrid's report assumes imports from GB to be within a standard range although assuming UK gas supplies are stable.

[REDACTED]

The Chair noted the publications are being issued the following day.

4. Update on outcome of Council of Energy Ministers Meeting

Matt Collins updated on decisions taken during the meeting of the EU council on 30 September.

The main focus of the Council was approval of a Regulation which includes a requirement to reduce electricity demand over the winter, introduction of a revenue cap set at €180/MWh on generation used by inframarginal technologies, and a temporary solidarity contribution on profits from oil and gas production and refining. All of these are to be implemented during this year. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6. Presentation on Communications

Sheena Denny gave a presentation (circulated in advance) on the next stage of the Reduce Your Use campaign which is expected to launch on 17 October. Messaging will focus on a variety of stakeholders (i.e. including vulnerable customers via Alone's network) and will also feature a national door drop. Amarach will be assisting in testing messaging. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ellen Diskin presented on ESBN's beat the peak campaign which aims to deliver energy savings over the coming winters. A cohort of 'pilot' consumers will be invited to participate and to comply with peak-demand measures. The effects of their behaviour will be tested via statisticians with SEAI

behavioural unit so to inform future phases and extend the program. ESBN will also pilot a Conservation Voltage Reduction scheme which could have a significant impact. ESBN will also be communicating via offline channels (e.g.. via primary schools). Aoife MacEivilly added that CRU will work with ESBN to help increase the measures in scope and scale.

Loretta Lambkin outlined CRU's Consumer Protection Campaign which will commence within the next few weeks and will target messages towards vulnerable customers and for those with difficulty paying bills. It will encourage meter readings so customers don't face 'catch-up' bills. There also be smart meter messaging and information provided on 'energy rights'. The campaign will run over print, radio and online.

The Chair emphasised the importance of coherence of messaging between DECC, ESB and CRU and that Communications should feature in the next ESEG as the RYU re-launches.

7. AOB and next meeting

The paper on Bulk Fuel Distribution Scheme Workshop is taken as read.
The group will meet again on 19 October.

Actions

Details	Timeline	Owner
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Memorandum to Government updating on gas and electricity emergency planning (carried over)	19.10	Matt Collins
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
DECC to send a letter on CRU, EirGrid and ESBN and EirGrid on the European Council's Regulation	19.10	Matt Collins
EirGrid to monitor and report data on apparent electricity demand reduction	ongoing	Rodney Doyle
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

