

Energy Security Emergency Group (ESEG) 17th Meeting Minutes
14:00 7 December 2022

Attendees

- Mark Griffin (Secretary General – DECC – Chair), Barry Quinlan (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Paul Bolger (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Sheena Denny (PO – DECC), Evin McMahon (Senior Economist – DECC), John Harnett (AP – DECC), Kevin Brady (PO – DECC), Niall Power (AP – DECC), Rachel Kelly (AO- DECC- Secretariat).
- Aoife MacEvilly (Chair – CRU)
- Denis O’Sullivan (COO – GNI), Tom Hegarty (GNI)
- Dermot Coates (PO-DETE), Joseph Cummins (PO – DETE)
- Rodney Doyle (COO – EirGrid)
- Frank Bergin (CEO – NORA)

Apologies: Ronnie Downes (Assistant Secretary – D/ETE), William Walsh (CEO-SEAI), Alan Barrett (Director – ESRI)

1. Minutes of ESEG meeting of 7 December & actions arising

Meeting minutes were agreed by the Group. Actions were dealt with as part of the agenda, although actions 1, 3 and 4 will be carried over to the next meeting.

2. Update on Emergency Planning and Winter Preparedness

a) Electricity

Rodney Doyle presented on winter preparedness. Supply is said to be in a good place at present though poor weather, low wind and generator outages are ongoing risks. EirGrid have a suite of actions to take in the event of amber alerts. In light of the recent cold snap, imports from the UK were secured and they have worked with ESB Networks in terms of activating their ‘Beat the Peak’ communications to the scheme’s participants.

Sheena Denny added that the Comms Subgroup are actively preparing messaging around potential amber alerts given the cold snap and are in close contact with ESB. The Reduce Your Use messaging has been ramped up and the campaign is working with MABs on outreach to vulnerable customers. Communications plans – with the participation of key agencies - are ready to respond in the event of a variety of amber and red alert scenarios.

EirGrid were requested to consider a more proactive approach to communications in the event of likely amber alerts.

b) Gas

Denis O’Sullivan presented on gas supply and noted that the position is strong in relation to supplies. There is regular engagement with the UK’s National Grid and even with a potential increase in demand, there is no difficulty envisaged in meeting that demand.

c) Oil

Frank Bergin provided an update on oil supply. [REDACTED]



3. Presentations on Energy demand

John Harnett gave a presentation (circulated in advance to the Group) on oil, electricity, and gas demand. A monthly update on energy demand is to be circulated henceforth and the Group is invited to suggest metrics for inclusion.



5. Communications update

Sheena Denny provided an update on the Reduce Your Use campaign (presentation was circulated in advance to the Group), noting that it is on track to reach 99% of the population with messaging by the end of the year. Efforts are being made to reach vulnerable households i.e. lone parents, renters.

A debrief on the tracker by Amárach will be held on 8 December which should provide insight on the effect of the recent cold snap. The Comms Subgroup will consider for the next ESEG if it will propose to publish tracker results online. Sheena Denny noted that testing, particularly from recent cold days, will inform how the RYU campaign progresses.

6. NESF Implementation report

Rachel Kelly provided an update on the Q4 NESF report. 


7. AOB and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for the week beginning 9th January. The Secretariat will contact Group with suggested dates.

Actions

Details	Timeline	Owner
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
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