

Energy Security Emergency Group - 18th Meeting Minutes
10:30 17 January 2023

Attendees

- Mark Griffin (Secretary General – DECC – Chair), Matt Collins (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Paul Bolger (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Sheena Denny (PO – DECC), Kevin Brady (PO – DECC), John Burke (PO- DECC), Niall Power (AP – DECC), Rachel Kelly (AO-DECC- Secretariat).
- Aoife MacEvilly (Chair – CRU)
- Tom Hegarty (Networks Operation Manager - GNI)
- Joseph Cummins (PO – DETE)
- Rodney Doyle (COO – EirGrid)
- William Walsh (CEO – SEAI)

Apologies: Barry Quinlan (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Ronnie Downes (Assistant Secretary – D/ETE), Alan Barrett (Director – ESRI), Frank Bergin (CEO – NORA), Denis O’Sullivan (COO – GNI).

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

Meeting minutes were agreed by the Group. Actions are to be dealt with as part of the agenda or are in progress, with actions 2 and 7 carried over.

2. Electricity update

Rodney Doyle presented on energy demand over recent weeks. He noted high plant availability and generally good performance by wind also. EirGrid have called on demand side units over this same period but did not implement Mandatory Demand Curtailment (MDC). Additionally, trades have been sourced from the UK via the interconnector due to the most recent cold snap.

In terms of the outlook for January and February, EirGrid will continue to monitor temperature, wind, and generator availability. There are currently no issues identified within the generation fleet, but this is being monitored closely.

Demand during the December cold snap was notably high, with two peak evening records and one lunchtime record being set during this period. EirGrid will arrange for a report on demand for the winter period to date to be circulated to the group, including detail on peak events and how they were handled. Details on the cost of trading via the interconnector are also to be provided.

3. Gas update

Tom Hegarty provided an update on gas, noting that EU storage is currently 83% full which is significantly higher than expected. UK storage is currently at 80%, and while withdrawals were made during the December cold snap, these supplies are currently being replenished. Prices

have decreased somewhat (to circa 150-134 p/therm), and overall, the supply situation in Ireland currently is positive.

Aoife MacEvilly noted that the drop in wholesale prices may provide relief to certain business consumers who are on pass-through contracts. However, the majority of domestic customer contracts are based on hedged prices and thus the impact of decreasing wholesale prices won't be felt for several months.

The Chair noted that while the electricity credits and TBESS have had a positive impact, the situation must be monitored closely.

4. Oil supply update

[REDACTED]

DECC officials are meeting with the IEA later in the week to discuss oil. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. EU update including outcome of EU Council on 19.12

Matt Collins and Kevin Brady provided an update on EU developments, noting that the gas price cap was agreed on 19 December which will come into operation in February. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6. Communications update

Sheena Denny presented an update on the Reduce Your Use campaign (circulated in advance to the group). It is reported that 85% of adults are aware of the campaign, and the tracker indicates the majority of people see the measures implemented as fair and helpful. While campaign 'wear-out' is a risk, it does not appear to be an issue with RYU to date. Insights from the tracker are to be published on gov.ie. The group noted the impact of spokespeople for the campaign and were encouraged to reach out to networks to engage additional spokespeople.

DECC's Comms team are working closely with DETE and Revenue on TBESS messaging. Uptake to date appears to be lower than expected, and work is underway to determine why this may be the case.

The Group discussed the long-term outlook for the campaign, and the need to build upon established momentum and promote winter-readiness for the 2023-2024 season. There has been a shift in context from a crisis to a long-term challenge, and future messaging and policy will need to reflect this.

DECC Comms team are to prepare an update on the campaign for the Minister.

7. AOB and date for Next Meeting

The group agreed that meetings are to take place every three weeks going forward, with the proposed date for the next meeting being 8th February.



Actions

Details	Timeline	Owner
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Paper to be prepared for the Minister reporting on the RYU campaign and its impact and consideration of presenting at Senior Officials Group.	08.02	Sheena Denny

