

Energy Security Emergency Group (ESEG) 19th Meeting Minutes
10:30 10 February 2023

Attendees

- Mark Griffin (Secretary General – DECC – Chair), Paul Bolger (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Sheena Denny (PO – DECC), Noel Regan (PO – DECC), John Burke (PO- DECC), Kevin Brady (PO – DECC), John Twamley (AP- DECC), Keith Flanagan (AP- DECC), Roisin O’Hara (AP – DECC) Niall Power (AP – DECC), Rachel Kelly (AO- DECC- Secretariat).
- Joseph Cummins (PO – DETE)
- Rodney Doyle (COO – EirGrid), Robert Koch (EirGrid)
- Denis O’Sullivan (COO – GNI), Tom Hegarty (Networks Operation Manager - GNI)
- Alan Barrett (Director – ESRI)
- Frank Bergin (CEO – NORA)
- Robert O’Rourke (CRU), Kevin Hagan (CRU)

Apologies: Matt Collins (Assistant Secretary – DECC), Aoife MacEvilly (Chair – CRU) and William Walsh (CEO – SEAI)

1. Minutes of ESEG meeting of 11 January & actions arising

Meeting minutes were agreed by the Group. Action 2 will be carried over to the next meeting with the rest to be dealt with as part of the agenda.

2. Sectoral Updates

a) Gas update

Tom Hegarty provided an update on gas (presentation circulated in advance to the group). Supply is strong, although the Corrib entry point did trip on the 23rd January and has been followed by reduced export capacity due to compressor maintenance. This has now returned to normal levels. EU storage is at 70% which is higher than previous years, although UK storage has dropped to 60%. No supply issues are currently foreseen.



b) Oil update

Frank Bergin provided a verbal update on oil whereby it was noted that prices have decreased in recent days and that the overall outlook for supply was deemed to be stable.

c) Electricity update – including report on Demand

Rodney Doyle provided an update on electricity generation, noting that plant availability and wind performance have been good. During the cold snap in recent weeks EirGrid were able to secure trades from the UK. The temporary generation projects were noted to be progressing; North Wall is expected to be available by year-end with Huntstown to follow afterwards. Solar generation was noted to be increasing.

EirGrid notes that they have supplied data on demand to DECC's Economic Unit and will present on this at the next ESEG, in addition to providing an update on planned conventional and renewable connections in 2023 and 2024. Alan Barrett noted that colleagues in the ESRI have been sourcing data with CRU to inform analysis on demand and prices and will revert to ESEG on this.

[REDACTED]

Sheena Denny noted that it would be useful to arrange a technical media briefing on the relationship between fluctuations in wholesale prices and retail prices to inform public discussion.

3. Report on oil as a secondary fuel

John Burke and Robert Koch presented on the role of oil as a secondary fuel (presentation circulated to the group in advance). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4. Proposed approach to European electricity market reform

Keith Flanagan spoke on DECC's work to date on a consultation regarding European Commission's (EC) proposals on European electricity market reform (paper circulated to the group in advance). DECC's initial view is broadly supportive of the EC proposal for reform, and engagement is underway with CRU/EirGrid and other stakeholders. DECC will return to the EC on their response to the consultation on 13 February however there will be further opportunities for engagement later in the year.

Kevin O'Hagan noted that CRU submitted comments via ACER. However, these do not appear to have been fully incorporated so CRU will contribute comments to DECC's return.

The Chair noted the importance of Ireland contributing a comprehensive and representative proposal to input into the consultation process.

5. NESF Update

Rachel Kelly provided an update on outstanding NESF actions. [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

6. Communications update

Sheena Denny provided an update on the Reduce Your Use (RYU) Campaign (presentation to be circulated to the group). Outreach and messaging will continue to financially vulnerable cohorts via MABS (Money Advice and Budgeting Service) and gov.ie as cold weather eases, but energy costs remain higher. Work is underway with the DECC Energy Poverty steering group on how to best reach vulnerable consumers, particularly lone parents. Additionally, the RYU tracker is to be published on the department’s website for ease of reference by stakeholders.

Joseph Cummins noted that DETE are engaging with Finance regarding the degree of take-up of TBESS. The Comms subgroup are conducting research on engagement with TBESS with the results expected in the coming weeks.

7. AOB and date for Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 1st March.

Actions

Details	Timeline	Owner
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
EirGrid to present on demand and expected connections to the system over the remainder of the year (including solar).	01.03	Rodney Doyle
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
ESRI to report on analysis done on demand and prices.	01.03	Alan Barrett

