

Minutes of the 68th NERSAP Meeting

Microsoft Teams on 18th July 2023

Attendees:

Mel Swift (MS)	GTC	mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk (Chairperson)
Paul Costelloe (PC)	LRQA	paul.costelloe@lrqa.com (Secretary)
Nigel Evans (NE)	LRQA	nigel.evans@lrqa.com
Martyn Crocker (MC)	UKPN	martyn.crocker@ukpowernetworks.co.uk
Clare Roberts (CRo)	NPG	clare.roberts@northernpowergrid.com
Paul Wragg (PW)	PowerOn	paul.wragg@poweron-uk.co.uk
Simon Burnett (SB)	MES	simon.burnett2@morrisones.com
Symon Gray (SG)	EAN	symongray@energyassets.co.uk
Andy Thomas (AT)	SSE	andy.thomas@sse.com
Tracey Taylor (TT)	ENWL	tracey.taylor@enwl.co.uk
Chris Roe (CR)	UCCG-EoN	chris.roe@eonenergy.com

Apologies:

Apologies had been received from:

Karl Miller	LRQA	karl.miller@lrqa.com
Gareth Pritchard	HEA	gareth.pritchard@thehea.org.uk
Dave Ellis	LRQA	dave.ellis@lrqa.com
Paul Thomas	SPEN	paul.thomas@spenergynetworks.co.uk
Kelly McLaughlin	NGED	kmclaughlin@nationalgrid.co.uk
John McLuskey	Last Mile	john.mcluskey@lastmile-uk.com

1. Introductions

Introductions were made since some participants had not met each other on a 'face to face' basis before.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from those identified above.

3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th feb 2023 were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

4. Review of Minutes & Actions from NERSAP Meeting of 28th Feb. 2023

Matters arising and discussion points are detailed below:

4.1. Update on Competency Working Group

Action: PC & MS to discuss date for next WG meeting.	Closed: It was agreed that this WG would be combined with the NERS Strategy Working Group (see below)
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4.2. Update on NERS Strategy Working Group

Action: Program of meetings to be developed to ensure scheme remains fit for purpose to respond to the requirements of external impacts in the industry. MC/MS/PC/KM to meet via Teams in order to set direction.	Closed – MS/MC/KM/PC met 6th Feb 2023. Strategy Working Group Meeting took place 20th March 2023.
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4.3. Communications (Access to Infrastructure) Regulations 2016

Action: MS agreed to take this up with the originating DNO so that LRQA can progress if still required.	Open: MS took this up with the originating Network Operator and we await proposals.
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4.4. Proposed amendments to the NERS Requirements document

PC advised that v9 of the NERS Requirements document now appears on the website, and came into use on 1st March 2023.

5. Review of Minutes & Actions from NERS Providers Forum of 4th Jul. 2023

The minutes of the NERS Providers Forum meeting dated 4th July 2023 had been issued prior to this meeting. Matters arising are detailed below:

Energy Networks Association (ENA) Competency Group

MS advised that there is an ongoing conversation with ENA and HSE about refresher training for individuals working in the electricity industry and it was agreed that there was potential for NERS to join this discussion in light of ongoing work to introduce the Energy & Utility Skills Competency Accord. The initial meeting had focused on the subject of refresher training (operational and craft) and what 'good looks like'. Academic qualifications seemed to focus more on electrical/electronic engineering than power engineering.

Action: MS agreed to keep NERSAP briefed on ENA/INA developments.	Open:
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Action: PT to forward basic details to LRQA of project management apprenticeship for circulation	Closed: (Circulated with these minutes)
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MS gave an update and SG stated that Manchester and London Boroughs were also presenting challenges.

6. NERSAP Working Groups

It was agreed that the existing Strategy and Competency Working Groups would be combined into one group called the NERS Strategy Working Group.

A Working Group Meeting took place on 20th March 2023 and the minutes of this meeting will be circulated with the minutes of this meeting.

Existing membership now includes:

Martyn Crocker – UKPN
Paul Wragg – PowerOn
Gareth Pritchard – HEA
Simon Burnett – Morrisons
Graham Commons – Balfour Beatty
Mel Swift – GTC
Karl Miller – LRQA
Dave Ellis – LRQA
Clare Roberts – NPG
Paul Costelloe – LRQA

The next meeting of the NERS Strategy Working Group is to be arranged.

Action: PC to arrange next WG Meeting	Open: PMN – Next meeting is arranged for 13 th December 2023
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7. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

This has been circulated on 10th June 2022, 5th July 2022, 16th November 2022 and 6th Feb 2023 with only five signed responses. TT stated that she did not have authority to sign but would seek advice. AT stated that he would sign on behalf of SSE.

Action: All to sign MoU or pass onto someone in their organisation with authority to sign it by 31st July 2023	Open:
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8. LRQA Report

PC presented the data showing the activity on the NERS scheme noting that the highest number of visits by LRQA took place in the UKPN, WPD, NPG areas.

The dashboard from which the presented slides were derived will be circulated with these minutes to NERSAP members. This now shows detail of deficiencies noted.

The meeting requested that on the slide showing the Frequent Deficiency Area, the Major Deficiencies were identified in the appropriate Deficiency Item.

9. AOB

9.1 The question was asked about how LRQA inform network operators when an ICP ceases trading.

Action: PC agreed to investigate how Network Operators are advised when ICPs cease trading.	Open:
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9.2 PC raised the issue of some ICPs having Certificates of Competency showing authorisation/competence for activities which were not necessarily in the NERS accredited scopes of the employing organisation. Consensus initially was that there should be separate CoCs for NERS activities and other activities (e.g. work on framework agreements/ private networks).

Action: Working Group to give further consideration at meeting planned for 13 th December 2023	Open:
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9.3 MC raised the issue of an analysis of UKPN's audit performance data relating to handover of constructed assets, showing that 30-40% of ICPs failing due to poor project management performance and that they appeared to be relying too much on UKPN to identify snagging items.

9.4 TT raised the issue about design requirements for Highway Electrical Equipment connections and specifically whether a note was required in the NERS Requirements document stating that design requirements may vary regionally and that a specific agreement between ICP and NO may be required. The meeting advised that this had been concluded.

Action: PC to check why the proposed wording had not been included in v9 when issued	Open:
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9.5 Cro advised that 'as-laid' etc. were not being returned in a timely manner.

Action: PC agreed to raise this with ICP's on an ongoing basis and at the next NERS ICP Forum.	Open:
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Dates of Next Meetings

NERS Forum 7th Nov 2023

NERSAP: 21st Nov 2023.

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