

SQSS workshop – October 2010 – Notes

An SQSS review industry workshop was held on 5th October. The aims were to:

- Update the industry on the progress to date
- Identify priorities for the next phase of work, including governance
- Discuss how best to involve the wider industry in the review

The main points arising were:

Progress to date

There is a general feeling that progress has been slow.

Communication with the industry has been insufficient.

The review has not been fundamental.

There was a perception that the lack of progress on the Fundamental issues was due to a lack of commitment by the TOs. This was clarified and placed in the context of the breadth of the review and the impact on a very small pool of resources.

Things have improved over the last few months.

The workshops have been appreciated.

The wind integration proposals are a step in the right direction, but not everyone believes they are the final solution.

Governance

Agreement that formal governance should be introduced.

Views were expressed that a key measure of successful governance is how easy it is for a user to get a proposal to Ofgem – it should be possible to always do this, irrespective of TO support or agreement.

There were no strong views on industry representation on the panel, except if this is needed to facilitate getting user proposals to Ofgem.

There is a need to avoid instability in the standard resulting from lots of changes.

The review group needs to provide better feedback to the industry –

- a governance commitment to regular (every 6 months?) forums would be good
- publication of consultation responses and review group replies, in addition to including them in the report to Ofgem, would be good

Need to be clear on the detail to which proposals should be worked up – try to avoid multiple consultations by Review Group and Ofgem.

Should the governance document state the NETS SQSS objectives?

The Review Group asked for views from the industry, preferably in writing, on important issues to be addressed by governance. It is intended that proposals will be consulted on later this year, followed by their submission to Ofgem at the end of 2010 / early 2011.

Next phase of work

Following discussion on the impact of future industry developments on the SQSS requirements, and their appropriateness, it was concluded that in the next phase of the review, work should be progressed in four areas:

- Transmission Entry
- Interconnectors, covering integration with ENTSSOe

- Offshore transmission and Integrated HVDC
- Fundamental Review

This work will build on that to date, for example the Transmission Entry work will take account of the proposals for default connections put forward in the GSR008 consultation.

Some of the fundamental work will interact with the customer engagement, aimed at understanding what customers want / need from the transmission system, that the TOs will undertake as part of TPCR5.

The view of the workshop was that:

- the first three groups will hold first meetings this year, and aim to submit proposals to Ofgem within one year.
- the Fundamental Review Group should have its first meeting early in the New Year. Its initial aims will be to identify the need for and extent/aims of any review; what will be needed to support a review (eg. new tools), and make proposals on whether progression should be made incrementally or as a step change.

These conclusions will be fed back to the SQSS Review Group, who will then set out the future work programme.

Industry Involvement

For progress to be made, positive contributions from the wider industry are needed on all the issues

Nominations for representatives on each group were requested by the end of October.

It was agreed that the invitation would be posted on the NGET website, and sent out to the industry codes circulation lists and trade associations.