

Public

Meeting summary

Strategic Energy Planning Industry Working Group

Date: 12/11/2024 **Location:** Microsoft Teams
Start: 10:00 **End:** 11:30

Participants

NESO	Presenters: Graham Stein (Chair), Isla Martin-Abel, Andrew Potter, Jonny Sadler, Katharina Meehan, Posy MacRae
Organisations in attendance:	
Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE) BEAMA British Hydropower Associate (BHA) British Ports Association Cadent Carbon Capture and Storage Association Energy Networks Association Energy UK Future Energy Networks Hydrogen Scotland Hydrogen UK Institute for Gas Engineers & Managers National Gas National Grid Electricity Distribution National Grid Electricity Transmission Northern Gas Networks	Northern Powergrid Nuclear Industry Association Regen Renewable Energy Association (REA) Renewable UK Royal Academy of Engineering Scottish Renewables SGN Solar Energy UK SP Energy Networks SP Energy Networks SSEN Distribution SSEN Transmission Strathclyde University UK Power Networks Wales and West Utilities

Agenda and Discussion

Topics to be discussed

1. **Welcome / Meeting Purpose and Agenda – Graham Stein**

Public

Graham outlined the purpose of the meeting, which was to bring the group together for the first time, provide visibility on upcoming activities, and explain how participants can engage.

2. **Terms of Reference – Isla Martin-Abel**

Isla introduced herself as the technical secretary for the group, working within the SSEP team, and highlighted her role in supporting the SEP Industry Working Group and wider engagement..

3. **Strategic Energy Planning Overview – Graham Stein**

Graham provided an overview of NESO and our strategic energy planning activities, including the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP), Regional Energy Strategic Planning (RESP), and Strategic Spatial Energy Planning (SSEP). He emphasised the importance of transparency and stakeholder engagement. Graham mentioned that future sessions would focus on more interactive discussions, allowing for real-time questions and feedback to ensure comprehensive stakeholder involvement.

4. **Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP) – Andrew Potter**

Andrew introduced the CSNP, which provides a network blueprint for the country, mapping demand and optimal locations for transmission infrastructure. He highlighted the importance of planning strategically ahead of need and considering environmental and community impacts.

- **25-Year Horizon:** Andrew highlighted the shift to a 25-year planning horizon, with updates on a three-year cycle, to provide more certainty in the planning process and support timely investments in transmission infrastructure.
- **Environmental and Community Impacts:** Andrew emphasised the importance of considering environmental and community impacts in the planning process, ensuring that network development is sustainable and provides maximum benefit to all customers.
- **Strategic Planning Principles:** Andrew outlined the four overarching principles of the CSNP: planning strategically ahead of need, ensuring efficiency, conducting robust and transparent assessments, and accelerating delivery by providing certainty of options.

5. **Regional Energy Strategic Planning (RESP) – Jonny Sadler**

Public

Jonny explained the RESP initiative, which aims to accelerate investment in electricity distribution networks, bring consistency to business planning, and adopt a whole system approach. He outlined the proposed regions and the key outputs of the RESP.

- **Proposed Regions:** Jonny outlined the proposed regions for the RESP, including Scotland, Wales, and nine regions in England, emphasising the importance of workable boundaries and local stakeholder involvement.
- **Key Outputs:** Jonny described the five key outputs of the RESP: regional energy ambitions, regional pathways, common planning assumptions, geospatial regional plans, and societal impact assessments, all aimed at supporting local and national energy goals.
- **Stakeholder Involvement:** Jonny highlighted the proposed involvement of local authorities, distribution network operators (DNOs), gas distribution networks (GDNs), and other relevant local actors in the strategic boards and working groups for each region.

6. Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) – Katharina Meehan

Katharina discussed the SSEP, which aims to create a zonal map for GB land and sea, showing the optimal technology mix and strategic locations for energy generation and storage. She emphasised the importance of stakeholder engagement, environmental considerations, and robust assurance processes.

- **SSEP Commissioning:** Katharina announced that the SSEP had been commissioned by the UK, Scottish, and Welsh governments, marking a significant milestone for the project.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Katharina emphasised the importance of stakeholder engagement in the SSEP process, including public consultations and the involvement of various stakeholders to ensure broad input and support.
- **Environmental Considerations:** Katharina highlighted the need to consider environmental impacts in the SSEP, including conducting a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to ensure sustainable development.

7. Engagement and Next Steps – Posy MacRae

Posy provided an overview of the engagement structure for the SSEP, including the formation of expert advisory groups, working groups, and societal forums. She also outlined the key milestones and upcoming consultations for strategic energy planning.
