

Public

# Meeting summary

## Strategic Energy Planning Industry Working Group

**Date:** 23/01/2025      **Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Start:** 10:30      **End:** 12:00

## Participants

<b>NESO</b>	<b>Presenters:</b> Graham Stein (Chair), Isla Martin-Abel, Eavan Dowse, Katharina Meehan, Aradhna Tandon, Sam Tickle, Faith Natukunda, Posy MacRae
<b>Organisations in attendance:</b>	
Aecom	Nuclear Industry Association
BEAMA	Renewable UK
Carbon Capture and Storage Association	Scottish Renewables
SP Energy Networks	SGN
Energy UK	Solar Energy UK
Future Energy Networks	Association for Decentralised Energy
Hydrogen Scotland	IGEM
Cadent Gas	British Ports
Northern Gas Networks	SSEN Transmission
National Gas	SSEN Distribution
National Grid Electricity Transmission	Strathclyde University / UK Energy Research Centre
UK Power Networks	REA
British Hydropower Association	Wales and West Utilities
Hydrogen UK	Regen

## Agenda and Discussion

# Topics to be discussed

### 1. Meeting Introduction and Strategic Energy Planning Updates – Graham Stein

Graham introduced the meeting, highlighting the agenda, housekeeping and recording of the session.

## Confidential

Strategic Energy Planning Updates: Graham provided updates on the strategic energy planning within NESO.

- Publication of Strategic Spatial Energy Planning (SSEP) draft methodology, Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP) high-level principles and transitional CSNP2 refresh methodology. He thanked those who provided feedback and encouraged further input.
- Gas Network Capability Needs Report publication, marking a step into gas transmission planning. Graham signposted to the [webinar on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February](#).
- Publication of our Beyond 2030: INTOG report (Offshore wind coordination design recommendations), focusing on decarbonising oil and gas platforms using offshore wind.
- Hosted two working group webinars on:
  - SSEP modelling
  - SSEP scoring of spatial factors and spatial suitability assessment
- Setting up the quarterly Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESP) Forums March/April 2025 to support RESP and transitional RESP (tRESP) methodology.

### 2. **SSEP Expert Advisory Group – Isla Martin-Abel**

Isla discussed the purpose of the SSEP Expert Advisory Group (EAG) and confirmed that there will be two representatives from the Industry Working Group on the EAG. The group will provide insight, advice and challenge to the SSEP.

### 3. **SSEP Spatial Evaluation Recap – Eavan Dowse**

Eavan provided a recap of the spatial evaluation and scoring approach for the SSEP.

Eavan outlined the engagement on the SSEP's spatial evaluation and spatial suitability scoring through the working groups. Members were asked to review the initial scoring information that has been shared and provide their feedback.

### 4. **Spatial Opportunities Scoring – Katharina Meehan**

Katharina provided an overview of the in-scope energy technologies for the SSEP and introduced two additional technologies: Interconnectors and Liquified Air Energy Storage (LAES). Katharina also recapped on the spatial opportunity scoring and provided context on the technical engineering design requirements (TEDR)

Katharina requested feedback from participants on the spatial indicator scores and the data sets used.

## Confidential

It was discussed if tidal generation was in considered in the SSEP. Wave and tidal is not being spatially optimised in the first SSEP, as policy and technology advances, wave and tidal energy could be considered in future iterations of the SSEP.

Consideration of demand as an opportunity for network planning was discussed and it was confirmed that this would be included in the economic modelling and demand data for the SSEP is from DESNZ with a number of iterations of the future demand scenarios.

### 5. **SSEP Recap on Feedback: Scale of Energy Infrastructure & Spatial Exclusions – Aradhna Tandon**

Aradhna outlined the scale of the infrastructure metrics and the changes that have been considered following the group's feedback. The scale and footprint data will be used to exclude areas too small for strategic planning and to build buffers around infrastructure like turbines.

Aradhna gave an overview of the feedback received and key outcomes.

### 6. **RESP Planning updates – Sam Tickle and Faith Natukunda**

Faith gave an update on RESP including progress on establishing the RESP team across the regions with regional manager coverage now in place. Heads of Region have been appointed including. Melanie Taylor covering Scotland, Northwest, North East, Yorkshire and the Midlands and Jenny Pemberton covering the South West, South East, London, East and Wales.

Faith highlighted upcoming activities including development of the RESP enduring methodology with the consultation planned later in the year.

Sam Tickle provided an update on the transitional RESP output to support the upcoming ED3 price control.

### 7. **Next Steps – Posy MacRae**

Posy discussed next steps for the working group including sharing the slides and meeting notes in the coming days.