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# Meeting summary

## Strategic Energy Planning Industry Working Group

**Date:** 21/05/2025      **Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Start:** 13:30      **End:** 15:30

### Participants

<b>NESO</b>	David Willmot, Posy MacRae, Isla Martin-Abel, Clare Matthews, Luke Cutler, Rob O'Brien, Aradhna Tandon, Katharina Meehan, Cynthia Adi, Gavin Roe-Pearce, Luke Jenkinson, Conor McClarin, Laura Grigg
<b>Organisations in attendance:</b>	
AECOM Association for Decentralised Energy Carbon Capture and Storage Association Cadent Gas European Subsea Cables Association Energy UK Future Energy Networks Hydrogen UK National Grid Electricity Distribution National Grid Electricity Transmission Nuclear Industry Association Northern Powergrid	REA Royal Academy of Engineering SSEN Distribution SSEN Transmission Solar Energy UK SP Energy Networks Scottish Renewables Tech UK Strathclyde University SGN Wales and West Utilities

### Agenda and discussion

#	Topics to be discussed
1.	<b>Introduction – David Willmot</b> David welcomed the group and provided an update on what has happened since the last meeting, including the approval and publication of the <a href="#">SSEP methodology</a> . David noted Ofgem's policy framework decision on the Regional

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Energy Strategic Plans (RESP) and highlighted the ongoing Gas Options Advice (GOA) consultation.

David shared an update on the upcoming events and milestones across SEP, including the second round of RESP regional forums in late June and early July and the consultation of the Electricity Transmission Design Principles (ETDP) in the summer which will be followed with a webinar.

### 2. **Gas Options Advice – Luke Cutler**

Luke Cutler provided an overview of the GOA consultation, explaining the gas network planning process within NESO and the deliverables involved. Luke discussed the strategic planning options proposal and the assessment of investment options.

Luke outlined the key deliverables, including the gas network capability needs report, the strategic planning options proposal, and the gas options advice publication. The gas options advice consultation is currently open and will run until the 3 June, with the aim of publishing the methodology during the summer.

### 3. **Centralised Strategic Network Plan – Clare Matthews**

Clare Matthews provided an update on the centralised strategic network plan. Clare outlined the key milestones for the year, and the progress made since the publication of the high-level principles in December 2024. Clare discussed the stakeholder engagement process and how the feedback is helping to evolve the methodology approach.

### 4. **SSEP Recap and Methodology – Katharina Meehan**

Katharina Meehan highlighted the changes that were made to the methodology based on stakeholder feedback on areas including data centres, engagement, environment and modelling. Katharina explained the scope of the SSEP and emphasised that it is a strategic plan; therefore, local policies are not in the scope.

### 5. **SSEP Spatial suitability scoring – Katharina Meehan**

Katharina updated the group on the spatial suitability scoring exercise as part of the development of the SSEP's spatial evaluation framework for the geospatial modelling. Katharina noted that the engagement exercise is complete, with a few outstanding clarifications being worked through. and thanked the group for their contribution Katharina emphasised the importance of stakeholder feedback in shaping the spatial suitability scores and indicators as a key input to the spatial evaluation framework used in the geospatial modelling.

### 6. **SSEP Spatial Evaluation Co-location – Aradhna Tandon**

## Public

Aradhna discussed the concept of spatial colocation within the SSEP, explaining the definition and the feedback received from stakeholders. Aradhna noted that the SSEP is a strategic plan and is looking at co-location as a spatial consideration rather than co-location of grid connection, and as a strategic plan it will not look at things that are project level.

Aradhna discussed updates made to the co-location matrix, which will be used to inform spatial co-location in the geospatial modelling, based on stakeholder input on successful colocation examples.

### 7. **SSEP Geospatial modelling – Rob O’Brien**

Rob O'Brien provided a high-level overview of initial geospatial modelling constraints and the technical engineering design requirements (TEDR) heat maps. Rob highlighted that the demonstration is from the initial spatial suitability scores and the maps will change and evolve as the team works through the inputs. He explained that it is an iterative process between geospatial and economic modelling to refine the process and that the outputs will form part of the final SSEP.

### 8. **SSEP Appraise Approach – Luke Jenkins**

Luke Jenkinson outlined the appraise process for the SSEP and explained the stages involved in developing, optimising, and critically assessing pathways. Luke also discussed the importance of stakeholder engagement and the criteria for evaluating pathways.

### 9. **SSEP Deliverability Assessment – Laura Grigg**

Laura provided an overview of the deliverability assessment and explained the different ways the SSEP tests for deliverability, including supply chain, societal opinions, and technical limits. Laura also emphasised the importance of considering practical aspects and potential barriers in the assessment.

### 10. **SSEP Next steps and Engagement – Posy MacRae**

Posy outlined the next steps for the SSEP, including the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure how the SSEP is meeting the objectives set out in the commission, upcoming consultations, one-to-one surgeries, and technical webinars.

Posy mentioned the next industry working group will take place in early July and the team is looking into the development of material and packs that can be used for wider dissemination.

### 11. **Expert Advisory Group (EAG) – Isla Martin-Abel**

Isla provided an outline of the SSEP governance structure and the establishment of the SSEP EAG in February 2025. Isla mentioned that they have been asking members to discuss and provide feedback on engagement and

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areas of improvement. Isla welcomed Morag Watson to provide an update on her experience so far as a representative of the EAG group.

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**12. Meeting Close – David Willmott**

David thanked the group for their input and feedback which will be taken away for further consideration.

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