

Meeting summary

Strategic Energy Planning Industry Working Group

Date: 23/07/2025	Location: Microsoft Teams
Start: 14:00	End: 16:00

Participants

NESO	Angus Paxton, Isla Martin-Abel, Posy MacRae, Rajdeep Bains, Eavan Dowse, Tomas Poffley, Luke Jenkinson, Tom Worthington, Laura Bingham, Clare Matthews, Aradhna Tandon, Christian Parsons
Organisations in attendance:	
Nuclear Industry Association	Energy UK
National Grid Electricity Transmission	SSEN
Strathclyde University	Wales and West Utilities
SGN	Carbon Capture and Storage Association
Future Energy Networks	Cadent Gas
Association for Decentralised Energy	Solar Energy UK
Hydrogen UK	Scottish Renewables
AECOM	REA
British Hydro	National Gas
Renewable UK	Royal Academy of Engineering
BEAMA	
Regen	
British Ports Association	

Agenda and discussion

Topics to be discussed

1. Introduction – Angus Paxton

Angus Paxton introduced himself as the head of gas and energy network development, stepping in for Graham Stein as chair.

Angus outlined the agenda for the meeting and provided updates on recent activities, including the recent SSEP 1:1 sessions with developers. He also noted that the Gas Options Advice (GOA) document and its methodology were released for consultation and the feedback period has now closed. The team is currently reviewing the methodology based on the feedback received. The Offshore Coordination team has been working with electricity transmission owners and other stakeholders to refine the draft electricity transmission design principles (EDTP), with a public consultation planned later in the year.

2. Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP) Draft Methodology – Angus Paxton

Angus Paxton discussed the CSNP draft methodology, which is designed for long-term energy network planning based on a whole system concept. This methodology aims to support the development of a safe, secure, resilient, and clean energy system. The consultation period for the CSNP draft methodology closed on the 1st August at 5pm, giving stakeholders a five-week window to provide feedback. The CSNP focuses on planning both onshore and offshore electricity transmission networks, including interconnectors and hybrid assets, as well as the onshore gas transmission system and hydrogen transportation and storage systems. For hydrogen, the CSNP will consider planning pipeline networks and storage systems. The goal of the CSNP includes planning for an efficient future energy network, allowing for strategic growth, accelerating network delivery, and ensuring transparency and resilience in the planning process. Angus Paxton also announced a series of webinars to provide detailed insights into the CSNP draft methodology.

Angus acknowledged the timeline and the challenge of conducting the consultation during the Scottish holidays. The team has worked to make the consultation period as long as possible ahead of the final methodology being submitted to Ofgem in September.

Discussion took place on the role of the SSEP and CSNP. Angus explained that the SSEP provides a general understanding of electricity network requirements in GW, while the CSNP team is responsible for translating this into specific infrastructure needs. The SSEP spatial evaluation framework focuses on generation and storage infrastructure, and they have developed detailed data that can be shared with NESO network colleagues for more intricate network planning.

3. Regional Energy System Plans (RESP) Strategic Investment Need – Tom Worthington

Tom Worthington presented the transitional RESP (tRESP) and the request for information on strategic investment need, inviting stakeholders to engage and

provide input. The tRESP supports the upcoming ED3 price control for distribution networks from 2028 to 2033. Tom explained the request for information (RFI) process, which aims to identify and assess energy needs across regions and nations. The RFI seeks input on projects, programmes, and initiatives on both the supply and demand sides, with a focus on connection dates prior to 2040. Tom invited participants to provide input and share information about relevant energy needs.

4. SSEP Spatial Evaluation Framework – Eavan Dowse and Aradhna Tandon

Eavan Dowse provided a recap on SSEP progress and engagement to date including for the spatial evaluation framework, which feeds into the geospatial modelling.

5. SSEP Economic Modelling Initial Themes – Tomas Poffley

Tomas Poffley shared initial themes from the SSEP economic modelling, including highlighting the economic preference for solar and onshore wind, the role of batteries and electrolyzers, and the sensitivity of flexible technologies to cost variations. Tomas Poffley discussed the development of electricity and hydrogen networks, the role of interconnectors, and the cost considerations for network upgrades.

Tomas highlighted the role of geospatial modelling looking at exclusions and scoring of spatial constraints and opportunities. Exclusions rule out areas where it is impossible to build certain technologies, setting maximum limits for each type. The scoring layer, not included in the current economic modelling, further limits land use based on various constraints.

6. SSEP Appraise Process – Luke Jenkinson

Luke Jenkinson provided a recap of the appraise process for the SSEP including the different phases of appraise. He outlined the draft appraise criteria for evaluating pathways and provided a forward look at phase 2 of appraise.

Luke asked for any feedback on the draft appraise criteria and opinions on what matters most to the group when considering pathway deliverability.

7. SSEP Modelling and Appraise timeline – Eavan Dowse

Eavan discussed the SSEP engagement plan for modelling and appraise phases over the coming months, including the possibility of a dedicated developers session in the summer and the next industry working group meeting in September.

Confidential

8. **Next Steps and Close – Angus Paxton**

Angus Paxton wrapped up the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and reminding them to submit comments on the SSEP modelling slides by Monday, 14th of July.
