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Meeting Summary

Strategic Energy Planning Industry Working Group

Date:	06/11/2025	Location:	Microsoft Teams
Start:	14:00	End:	15:00

Participants

NESO	Isla Martin-Abel, Rajdeep Bains, Posy MacRae, Eavan Dowse, Alice Etheridge, Vicky Chiles, David Willmot, Aradhna Tandon, Clare Matthews, Paul Haynes, Jennifer Pemberton
Organisations in attendance:	
Nuclear Industry Association	Energy UK
National Grid Electricity Transmission	SSEN Transmission
Strathclyde University	Wales and West Utilities
SGN	Carbon Capture and Storage Association
Hydrogen UK	Cadent Gas
British Hydro	Solar Energy UK
Renewable UK	Scottish Renewables
Regen	REA
British Ports Association	Northern Gas
Independent Networks Association	Royal Academy of Engineering
Offshore Energy UK	Association for Decentralised Energy
National Gas	

Agenda, discussion and details

#	Topics to be discussed
1.	Welcome & Wider SEP Updates – David Willmot
	David Willmot started with an update on strategic energy planning. Since the last meeting, the transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP) consultation which was running from the 23 rd September has now closed. There have also been several RESP forums through October, which were well attended.

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David noted that updates for network planning and offshore coordination are now being combined, reflecting how the new Centralised Strategic Network Plan will cover both onshore and offshore work. They are in talks with Ofgem about the methodology and are working through feedback from a summer consultation, with more updates expected soon.

Work has continued with the Gas Options Advice methodology, which was published at the end of September. There was also a recent hydrogen stakeholder workshop in mid-October with more engagement planned. In addition, there's been a consultation launched on the strategic environmental assessment for the Holistic Network Design Implementation Plan, which brings together all the offshore design work from recent years, covering leasing rounds in England, Wales, and Scotland.

Looking ahead, a new consultation on the RESP methodology is about to begin, running from 17th November to 16th January 2026. This will focus on long term national and regional planning to support a safer, cleaner, and more resilient energy system.

Recently, they closed a consultation on the design principles for electricity transmission. These principles will make the design process for electricity transmission assets clearer, especially for local communities. The team is now reviewing feedback and aims to publish the finalised principles early next year.

2. **Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) Data Transparency Update – Alice Etheridge**

Alice Etheridge provided an overview of NESO's recent Data Transparency Update, noting that NESO has added more detail to their assurance processes in response to previous group feedback.

Alice confirmed this is the first release of the transparency update and they're working through what data can be published and are aiming to release more as soon as they're able. DESNZ cost data for renewables, including hurdle rates and costs for solar and onshore wind, has been published on the gov.uk website, and further details for other technologies should be available by the end of the year.

A response to the joint trade association letter on transparency in the SSEP should be sent out later today, and NESO will keep engaging with developers and membership organisations. Alice noted that, in line with the SSEP's commission, NESO cannot share the shortlisted draft pathways before submitting them to the Secretary of State. The team will engage with

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stakeholders ahead of this and input from industry will be important to inform deliverability of pathways.

Alice said they're still aiming to submit the pathway options report by the New Year, but they're reviewing newly published data to see if it affects the SSEP timeline.

3. SSEP Pathway Options Report – Eavan Dowse

Eavan Dowse provided an overview of the pathway options report being produced for the Secretary of State. She explained how they will create four to six preferred pathways, weighing up the pros and cons along the way. Within the report, each pathway will be explored in detail, with technical info, a glossary, and annexes. It will then break down what goes into each pathway, with the aim to show the Secretary of State a well-rounded view.

Eavan explained that every pathway includes opportunities and trade-offs, making sure the context is clear. The analysis draws on feedback from stakeholders and details the impact on the energy system. The pathways are shown as ranges to reflect uncertainty in costs and other variables, but there's a planning line in the middle to guide modelling for the CSNP.

The report will also look at how each pathway stacks up in terms of affordability, investment needs, and market implications. Spatial impacts are considered across the four main pillars, alongside technical factors like network, supply chain, and security of supply.

The report will include results from initial environmental assessments and feedback from stakeholders, capturing risks and opportunities. The document goes to the Secretary of State and is intended to give a clear structure and direction for next steps.

4. Next steps and Close – David Willmot

David reminded everyone to share any further thoughts or ideas that might help shape the development of the SSEP pathways.