

Minutes

Meeting name	Electricity Balancing System (EBS) IT Subgroup
Meeting number	4
Date of meeting	26 th September 2012
Time	10:00 - 15:00
Location	National Grid Wokingham

Attendees

Name	Initials	Company
Robert Paterson	RP	Chair, National Grid
Sally Cox	SC	Technical Secretary, National Grid
Pete Smith	PS	National Grid
Steve Roberts	SR	National Grid
Afe Ogun	AO	National Grid
Rob Apperley	RA	National Grid
Jane Oates	JO	National Grid
James Mitchell	JM	Centrica
Stuart Green	SG	International Power (Teleconference)
Allan Viney	AV	Scottish Power
Mike McDermott	MMcD	Siemens
Simon Piercy	SP	Contigo
Simon Cooper	SC	E.ON (Teleconference)
Paul Coates	PC	RWE (Teleconference)
Erik Cummins	EC	EDF Energy
Chris Magowan	CM	Logica (Teleconference)
Mark Houston	MH	Logica (Teleconference)
Nick Martin	NM	Dunstan Thomas
Michael Packman	MP	EDF Energy
Mike Uppal	MU	EDF Energy
Michael Webster	MW	RWE
Alan Souch	AS	RWE
Paul Hardy	PH	Siemens
John Collins	JC	EirGrid
Michael Carrington	MC	EirGrid

1 Safety

RP opened the meeting by thanking everybody for attending both in the room and by teleconference. He advised participants of the arrangements should there be a fire alarm.

2 Introductions

Introductions were made from all participants.

3 Minutes of Last Meeting

No comments were received regarding the minutes from the last meeting. These were, therefore, agreed.

4 Review of Actions

The actions were reviewed - see the separate action list.

5 Testing

SR talked through the External EDT & EDL Test Proposal document that was sent out at the end of August. He discussed the proposals for testing for both EDL & EDT. It was proposed that these would comprise a number of stages:

- Type testing with EDL and EDT client-system-suppliers of all the versions of their software that are expected to be in service at the time of EBS go-live.
- Circuit connectivity testing to determine whether there is a viable route between National Grid's EBS network and market participants' production networks (pre-requisite for this is National Grid informing market participants of the new IP addresses and market participants having used this information to configure their firewalls and access control lists as applicable).
- Optional EDT testing with market participants, for those who have EDT test systems and wish to participate in this testing.
- Market Participant Access Validation to check that the EBS production-capable environments and market participants' production systems can connect to each other. No market data will be allowed to be exchanged, to avoid any confusion between the existing production systems and EBS. These checks will be undertaken within a few months of EBS go-live, such that this validation should be representative of both parties' networks at go-live.

Action – SR

To revise the EBS EDT & EDL Test Approach document and to circulate the new draft by the end of October.

Action – SR

Add specifics relating to pumped storage units into the BPITS test scripts (added to action 002).

There was some discussion around whether there should be a separate forum for testing. However, it was felt that a separate meeting was not necessary and that any issues were best dealt with at this meeting. However, it was agreed that it may be appropriate to have teleconferences more frequently at various stages during testing and transition.

6 Update on Timescales

RP reported that at the present time the interim release of EBS is being tested by National Grid with some success, including the first release of EDT & EDL. The plan is that type testing with Suppliers would commence in December.

National Grid will provide a plan for the testing down to monthly resolution by the end of October.

7 VMS/Security/DNS Questionnaire Responses

AO thanked the external participants for the response to the questionnaire and said that the response rate was over 50%. He went on to summarize key points from the responses:

No EDT clients rely upon the use of VMS commands but some used the VMS folder structure and anticipated having to make configuration changes to work with EBS – National Grid does not think this will be the case but will confirm. Some rely on the VMS file version number being present in the names of response files, whereas another has been modified to strip out the VMS file version number from the file extension.

Action – AO

Respond to the software suppliers in question to confirm that:

1. EBS EDT will continue to use the existing VMS file structure, even though the servers will not be running VMS.
2. EBS will not populate the VMS file version number in the response files.

In terms of the timescales for market participants to programme their firewalls and access control lists with the IP addresses associated with EBS, there was a range of responses from different-sized organisations. The longest lead time was three months, so National Grid will work to that.

Finally, the responses that National Grid received indicated that most market participants use DNS – those who didn't, did so because of IP address overlaps with their own systems.

8 Structure of Documentation

PS advised that as a result of Action 022, there was a need to discuss and agree some structure for documentation relating to EBS testing and transition and for the enduring document set. To address this, he ran through a number of slides.

He requested feedback relating to what is already provided and what needs to be provided.

For transition, it was agreed that a high-level summary document was required. Views were expressed that check-lists were useful. If the transition summary documents were going to exclude the new interfaces EDL* and EDT*, then it should say so.

Action – PS

Produce a draft transition summary document and circulate it for comment prior to next meeting.

Regarding what documentation is required on an enduring basis, attendees commented that the existing National Grid documentation was not very well structured and it was difficult to be sure you had all the required information. It was agreed that a high-level summary document was required for the enduring situation as well as for transition.

In response to a question about what information should be published on the National Grid website, attendees suggested client tool kits, user guide for the EDT* web-pages, how to get support and FAQs. There was also a question regarding whether any training should be provided for market participants on the EDT* web-pages.

Action AO

To consider whether it would be appropriate to provide market participants with training on the EDT* web-pages

10 Telecommunications Roadmap

The Roadmap for EDL comms was an action which arose from the main Working Group meeting as it was thought this was an area worthy of review. National Grid has subsequently had an initial internal meeting on this subject and brought a few slides along to this meeting to encourage debate.

At present EDT communications are provided by the Market Participant from the Trading Point as it is the participants' responsibility to get PNs and Prices to National Grid. EDL communications are provided by National Grid to and from the Control Point – traditionally the Power Station – which leads to questions like: is the split of responsibility this simple in practice and are communications interchangeable for EDT*/EDL*?

Action RP

At the next EBS Working Group meeting, RP will talk through them through the telecommunications roadmap.

11 AOB

PS asked the market participants for a view as to maximum duration of the staged migration of EDT connections from the existing BM Systems to EBS. No view was forthcoming and National Grid agreed to take the issue away to give it further consideration.

12 Date of Next Meetings

Dates for next meetings are:-
5th December 2012
21st March 2013