

Minutes of the 71st NERSAP Meeting

Meetpoint Midlands, Kegworth on 30th July 2024

Attendees:

Karl Miller (KM)	LRQA	karl.miller@lrqa.com
Paul Costelloe (PC)	LRQA	paul.costelloe@lrqa.com
Nigel Evans (NE)	LRQA	nigel.evans@lrqa.com
Colin Jamieson	IDCSL	colin.jamieson@idcsl.co.uk
Jevan Laxen (JL)	SSEN	jevan.laxen@sse.com
Bob Fearnley (BF)	Leep	bfearnley@leeputilities.co.uk
Keith Montague (KMg)	Matrix/UKPD	keithmontague@matrixgroup.co.uk
Symon Gray (SG)	EAN	symongray@energyassets.co.uk
Kelly McLaughlin (KMcl)	NGED	kmclaughlin@nationalgrid.co.uk
Chris Roe (CR)	Eon	chris.roe@eonenergy.com
Charles Qian (CQ)	ESP	charles.qian@espug.com

Apologies:

Apologies had been received from:

Paul Wragg	PowerOn	paul.wragg@poweron-uk.co.uk
Clare Roberts	NPg	clare.roberts@northernppowergrid.com
Mel Swift	GTC	mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk
Gareth Pritchard	HEA	gareth.pritchard@thehea.org.uk
Andy Green	Eclipse	andy.green@eclipsepower.co.uk
Mick Beeby	Last Mile	mick.beeby@last-mile.co.uk
Matthew Crittenden	UKPN	matthew.crittenden@ukpowernetworks.co.uk
Simon Watton	Fulcrum	simon.watton@fulcrum.co.uk
Maryline Guinard	SSEN	maryline.guinard@sse.com
Tom Farmery	ESP	tom.farmery@espug.com
Tracey Taylor	ENWL	tracey.taylor@enwl.co.uk
Simon Burnett	MES	simon.burnett2@morrison.es.com

1. Introductions

Introductions were made and new attendees welcomed. Some attendees who had accepted an invitation to this meeting did not attend.

CR advised that this would be the last NERSAP meeting he would attend as he would be retiring before the next meeting. All members thanked him for his attendance and contribution to NERSAP and the industry as a whole.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from those identified above.

3. Confirmation of Election of Chairperson & Deputy Chairperson

PW had been previously installed as Chairperson since the departure of Martyn Crocker.

Clare Roberts was installed as Deputy Chairperson with effect from the date of this NERSAP meeting July 26th 2024.

4. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous NERSAP meeting held on 26th March 2024 were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

5. Review of Minutes & Actions from NERS Forum of 16th July 2024

PC stated that there had been 77 attendees. Matters arising and discussion points are detailed below:

5.1. Presentation by HSE Re. Live Working

PC went through the presentation given by HSE at the NERS ICP Forum meeting on 16th July 2024 for the benefit of NERSAP members who did not attend the Forum meeting. PC agreed to forward the Forum slides which contain the HSE presentation with the minutes of this meeting.

5.2. V10 of NERS Requirements Document

PC advised that some comments on the previously circulated 'draft' of v10 had been received from ENWL and these were due to be discussed at an LRQA NERS team meeting on 30th August 2024.

5.3. Meter Positions in Scotland

There had been some discussion about meter positions being on internal walls on new-builds in Scotland and the meeting concluded that this practice would continue until there was a change to the Building Regulations in Scotland.

5.4. Timely and Accurate Completion of 'As-Laid's'

JL advised that he would be producing a list of ICPs who were not completing 'as-laid's' in a timely and/or accurate fashion. PC advised that once this was received, he would devise some standard wording for the offending ICP's assessor to write to their respective ICP reminding them of their responsibilities with regards to the NERS Requirements.

5.5. Memorandum of Understanding

PC advised that he would be sending an amended copy to ENWL for signature and an 'Addendum' with the changed words surrounding 'unanimity' to those who had already signed. PC further advised that as regular participants in NERSAP he would also be sending a copy for signature to IDC SL, Energy Assets, Leep, Matrix and ESP.

6. Review of Minutes & Actions from NERSAP Meeting of 26th March 2024

The minutes of the NERSAP meeting of 26th March 2024 had been issued prior to this meeting. Matters arising are detailed below:

6.1. NERSAP Attendance by Network Operators

PC advised that since contact had been made with the IDNOs via the INA, attendance had increased, and therefore thought might need to be given to increasing the ICP members in order to keep the ratio of ICP/Network Operators the same. The requirements will be reviewed by PC who will report at the next NERSAP meeting in November 2024.

6.2. Access to Infrastructure Scheme

PC advised that there had been no movement on this from the DNO requesting it. MG had previously agreed to check and report back. PC will request feedback.

6.3. ICP Code of Conduct

The subject of a 'rating' system was discussed and SG commented that such a system might be over-reaching the NERS Requirements.

Comment was made about a potential 'Code of Conduct' for ICPs encroaching upon some ICPs ISO9001 management system.

7. Network Operators positions on HSE/ENA discussion re. live working

The meeting was asked if any Network Operators had made or planned any changes as a result of the HSE's focus on the issue of live working.

Energy Assets complete a 'Live Operations Request'.

UKPN's SORN process is currently unchanged.

IDCSL and ESP use the 'Live Operations Request'

NGED have not yet made any changes to current procedures.

Leep advised that their Code of Practice may be reviewed.

SSE advised that whilst policies and procedures have changed but not necessarily with a view to reducing live working. However, this is under constant review.

8. Update on NERS Strategy Working Group

The most recent meeting of the Working Group was held on 20th June 2024 and PC agreed to append the minutes of that meeting with the minutes of this meeting for reference.

SG asked if he could be invited to the next Working Group meeting. Agreed.

CR stated that more robustness was needed with those ICPs not complying with the NERS Requirements. NE stated that more information would be needed from the network Operators in order to justify sanctions against ICPs.

9. Memorandum of Understanding

PC advised that the MoU would be sent to some of the regularly attending IDNOs for signature. These are Matrix, IDC SL, ESP, Energy Assets and Leep. ENWL are yet to sign.

10. Energy & Utility Skills Power Skills Scheme

PC advised that he had received a communication from Energy & Utility Skills advising that the Power Skills Scheme was being discontinued.

KM described the Energy & Utility Skills 'Right Card' scheme where LRQA are currently providing input.

11. Governance of Design Competency Review

It was agreed to transfer this agenda item to a future meeting.

12. NERS Report

PC presented the LRQA data for the last reporting period. PC agreed to look at adding the upstream network operator as well as the adopting network to the surveillance visit report template. It was requested that ALL network operators (or at least the ones who are NERSAP members) are advised of Major Deficiencies identified during surveillance visits.

PC agreed to send the NERS Requirements document to BF.

13. Any Other Business

Discussion took place on the format for future meetings (face-to-face or remote). There were pros and cons for both formats, but the meeting agreed to leave it to LRQA and PC agreed to discuss with KM.

CR announced that this would be his last NERSAP meeting as he would be retired by the time of the next meeting. The meeting was unanimous in expressing the group's thanks for his work with this, and other NERS groups and wished him all the best for the future.

PC advised the dates for future 2024 meetings as:

NERS Provider Forum 12th November

NERSAP 26th November