



## Minutes of the NERS Provider Forum

### Microsoft Teams Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 10:00am

#### Attendees:

Nigel Evans	Joe Hermann	Kai Smith
Dave Ellis	Gavin Mckechnie	Kevin Wilkinson
Ian Burley	Steve Owen	Zach Bullock
Philip Henderson	Rob Peters	Tracey Taylor
Alex Searle	Matt Loft	Abs Manneh
Michael Waller	Iain McNeil	Sarah Cannon
Mike Webb	Daniel Miller	Paul Ingram
Paul Phelps	Martyn Edwards	Michael Sanderson
Frank Williamson	Richard Yates	Kyle Morgan
Paul Wragg	Julia Cotogno	Brian Cutler
Robert Vernon	Gary Madgwick	Simon Burnett
Steve Mander	Robert Leitch	Andy Barnes
Paul Swift	Gary Hopkins	Mark Elliott
Adrian Foster	Chay Rees	Andy Billings
Divyesh Jansari	Lee Hewett	Mike Gambe
Graham Commons	Dave Morgan	Andrew McAllister-Brown
Mel Swift	Bill Jones	Matthew Davies
Paul Thomas	PSR Lighting	Harry Towers
Richard Connaughton	Hayden Lowen	Paul Banyard
Alison Silva	John Smith	Martin Burns
Bill Robertson	Douglas Sibbald	Rohan Dingle
Steve Harvey	Mark Elliott	Caius Fernandes
Kevin Bergin	Julie Tyrrell	
Mark Bryant	Willie Bryce	
Ben Webb	Clare Roberts	
Cherelle Armstrong	Jason Johnson	
Gareth Pritchard	James Barker	
Huw Crocombe	Rupinder Sandhu	
Jason Everall	David Tong	
Martin Corby	Gary Keith	
Luke Caruana	Mark McGovern	
Garry Turner	Ian Stoneham	

## 1. Introductions

Nigel Evans (NE) of LRQA introduced himself and Dave Ellis (DE) and thanked everyone for their attendance and reiterated that due to the number of attendees, formal introductions were foregone. The agenda was reviewed and the arrangements for this Teams Meeting were described. NE advised that the meeting was being recorded on Microsoft Teams for the purposes of accurately capturing discussions for the meeting minutes.

NE also introduced Ian Burley HM Principal Inspector (Electrical Engineering).

## 2. Apologies

As this was a Teams meeting and there were no restrictions to numbers, over 400 invitations had been sent and there had been 86 acceptances and 24 declined. With 86 attending on the day, due to the nature of the open invitation, only attendees are identified in the minutes.

## 3. Presentation by Ian Burley (IB) HM Principal Inspector (Electrical Engineering) Health & Safety Executive

IB gave an overview of 4 fatal incidents caused by electric shock which had occurred since 2021 and confirmed that the primary control measure for the risk of electric shock was to ISOLATE. IB further stated:

HSE had been in discussion with ENA but little had changed since 2021 and HSE believe that the ENA document SHE 01 which covers live working does not satisfy Reg 14 of the Electricity at Work Regulations. HSE are working with ENA on a new version of SHE 01 and NE asked if there was a timescale on issue of this. IB responded that presently a proposed issue date was uncertain. Mel Swift commented that there was a meeting at ENA later today to progress this.

It has been a requirement since 1<sup>st</sup> April 1990 that where live working is being proposed, an **individual risk assessment** is required. That is, on **each occasion** and be **specific** to the proposed work.

Reg 14 is the law and is **absolute**, and the 'reasonably practicable' principle does not apply since a higher level of justification is required. Guidance is available in HSR25 and HS(G)85.

Graham Commons asked if the presented slides could be made available to the wider community and IB confirmed that he was happy for this but that more detail is available in HSR 25.

## 4. Review of Minutes & Actions from NERS Providers Forum Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The minutes were accepted as a true record of that meeting and a brief overview of the various topics documented in the minutes was provided and the actions discussed below:

### 4.1 Version 10 of the NERS requirements document.

Dave Ellis advised that v10 was currently being drafted and that an internal LRQA meeting to review the proposed changes had taken place on 14<sup>th</sup> March and the changes would be centred around Project Management. The proposals had be sent to NERSAP for approval.

## **4.2 New Deputy Chairperson of NERSAP**

Paul Wragg confirmed that Clare Roberts of NPg had accepted this role.

## **4.3 Timeliness of Handover of 'As-Laid's'**

Paul Wragg confirmed that this was an issue with a number of ICPs and Nigel Evans further confirmed. Dave Ellis advised that this was reinforced in v10 of the NERS Requirements.

## **4.4 Pre-Inspection Prior to Handover of Assets to Network Operators**

Nigel Evans advised that there was a common theme with Network operators being concerned with the timeliness and quality of documents relating to handover, and that one IDNO had commented that, in the case of some ICPs, the IDNO would stop working with them if improvements were not made.

# **5. Review of Minutes & Actions from NERSAP Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

A brief overview of the various topics documented in the minutes was provided and the actions discussed below.

## **5.1 Certificates of Competency**

Dave Ellis advised that LRQA are putting together a sample Certificate of Competency which identifies contestable and non-contestable works separately.

Graham Commons asked that he be sent a sample of this before it is officially launched. Richard Yates asked to also be involved.

## **5.2 Increased Number of Remote SVs**

Nigel Evans confirmed that remote surveillance visits were being carried out in only a small number of cases where work was of a simple, routine nature and would not be for all visits in an ICPs surveillance visit programme.

## **5.3 'In-person' ICP Forums**

Paul Wragg confirmed that the next NERSAP would be an 'in-person' meeting and Nigel Evans stated that with 400+ ICPs 'in-person meetings would be impractical.

## **5.4 Refresher Training & Power Skills Scheme**

Mel Swift advised that there is ongoing work with the ENA to finalise the standard for operational and craft-related refresher training. There will be an increased requirement to ensure continuing competence which includes refreshing of that training. Richard Yates advised that live jointing should be subject to refresher training. Graham Commons expressed concern that a scheme such as the Power Skills Scheme was not yet in place. James Barker advised that his company use the Power Skills Scheme but he is keen to re-invigorate trade tests with the DNOs. Also some local knowledge of particular network operator's networks would be advisable.

## **5.5 Notification of Major Deficiencies**

Nigel Evans confirmed that any major deficiencies identified on site with the ICPs during LRQA visits would be notified to the host network operator.

## 6. Governance of Network Design Competence

Paul Wragg confirmed that this document is hosted on the EUSR website and whilst it is not a mandatory requirement, it is nonetheless a very good reference document. Mel Swift commented that there continues to be dialogue between ENA and EUSR on who would continue to maintain this. In the meantime the document is available at:

<https://www.eusr.co.uk/schemes-programmes/our-industries/power/>

## 7. Update on NERSAP Strategic Working Group

Paul Wragg gave a brief overview of the topics discussed and Dave Ellis confirmed that LRQA were discussing ways of applying the NERS Requirements document more robustly.

## 8. LRQA Report

Nigel Evans gave an overview of LRQA data concerned with surveillance visits and this data is contained in the slides attached herewith.

## 9. NERS Requirements Document v10

Nigel Evans confirmed that this is due for issue on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

## 10. Any Other Business

**10.1** Paul Wragg mentioned that he and Mel Swift had become aware of the common practice of positioning meters inside properties. Nigel Evans stated that the policy in SPEN was that meters had to be on surface mounting boxes. Mel Swift commented that this has been discussed and that there is no possibility of changing this practice without a change in Building Regulations.

**10.2** Abs Manneh raised the issue of difficulty in specifying equipment built abroad. Mel Swift responded that a better audience to consider this would be the ENA and not something LRQA would be in a position to take forward. Abs Manneh asked for a contact at ENA and Mel Swift responded that he should persist with the DNOs he has raised it with since they are members of the ENA. Failing that, the Competition in Connections Forum should be consulted and a link to this forum is below:

<https://www.connectionscode.org.uk/>

## 11. Dates of Next Meetings

### Dates for 2024 Meetings

- NERS Provider Forum 12<sup>th</sup> November
- NERSAP 30<sup>th</sup> July, 26<sup>th</sup> November

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