

Minutes of the 72nd NERSAP Meeting
Microsoft Teams 10am 26th November 2024

Attendees:

Paul Wragg (PW)	PowerOn	paul.wragg@poweron-uk.co.uk
Paul Costelloe (PC)	LRQA	paul.costelloe@lrqa.com
Dave Ellis (DE)	LRQA	dave.ellis@lrqa.com
Mick Beeby (MB)	Last Mile	mick.beeby@lastmile-uk.com
Matthew Crittenden (MC)	UKPN	matthew.crittenden@ukpowernetworks.co.uk
Ephie Chalakateva (EC)	NGED	ephie.chalakateva@nationalgrid.com
Bob Fearnley (BF)	Leep	bfearnley@leeputilities.co.uk
Tracey Taylor (TT)	ENWL	tracey.taylor@enwl.co.uk
Symon Gray (SG)	EAN	symongray@energyassets.co.uk
Keith Montague (KM)	UKPD	keithmontague@matrixgroup.co.uk
James Barker (JB)	UCCG	jbarker@etl.ltd
Clare Roberts (CR)	NPg	clare.roberts@northernpowergrid.com
David Jones (DJ)	HEA	david@joneslighting.co.uk
Jevan Laxen (JL)	SSEN	jevan.laxen@sse.com
Charles Qian (CQ)	ESP	charles.qian@espug.com
Simon Watton (SW)	Fulcrum	simon.watton@fulcrum.co.uk

Apologies:

Apologies had been received from:

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
Karl Miller	LRQA	karl.miller@lrqa.com

1. Introductions

Introductions were made and new attendees welcomed. These were Ephie Chalakateva of NGED and David Jones of HEA.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from those identified above.

3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous NERSAP meeting held on 30th July 2024 were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

4. Review of Minutes & Actions from NERSAP Meeting of 30th July 2024

PC confirmed that v10 of the NERS Requirements would be issued 1st December 2024. ***Post meeting note – this will now be 1st March 2025**

The meeting was asked if any objections could be foreseen in adding a paragraph to the NERS Requirements specifically disallowing a Technical Advisor for one company also holding a scheme-specific role such as Assessing Officer for an ICP sub-contracted to the same Project Management company. None were raised.

CR had already sent a list of ICPs who were late in supplying as-laid in a timely manner. JL and MC agreed to do the same. TT commented that she thought a list on behalf of ENWL had already been submitted to LRQA but would check.

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:

PW confirmed that a presentation had been given at a previous meeting by the HSE concerning live working and that a copy of the presentation could be obtained by contacting PC direct if they had not yet seen it.

TT asked if there was any update on the work that ENA and HSE were carrying out regarding SHE01. PC advised that this was still being worked on and MB thought it would be in 2025 before anything was published.

PC advised that there had been no progress on the Access to Infrastructure scheme as LRQA were awaiting a meeting with the Standards Dept at SSE who had asked for us to think about a scheme. JL agreed to follow this up with Maryline Guinard.

6. Update on NERSAP Strategy Working Group

PC advised that a meeting had taken place on 3rd October 2024 and minutes will be circulated with the minutes of this meeting. PC asked for suggested topics for the next WG meeting.

Items discussed were:

- Level 2 Apprenticeship Scheme
- Memorandum of Understanding
- HSE stance on live working
- Governance of Design Competence
- Proposed format of future meetings

7. Memorandum of Understanding

PC advised that ENWL were yet to sign this, and he and TT had discussed this, and in particular the subject of unanimity. PC advised that it had been agreed that a two-thirds majority decision had been decided at a previous meeting at which ENWL were not represented. TT also advised that 12.1 and 12.2 centered around members not present was being questioned, and in particular the schedule at the end of the MoU document which was not complete.

PW asked if prior to each NERSAP meeting, Schedule 1 could be updated with current voting members. Non-voting members would still be asked to sign the MoU, but Network Operators would be the only members with voting rights. MB agreed that Schedule 1 should be a live document independent of the MoU.

It was agreed that an 'extra-ordinary' meeting of the Strategy Working Group would be convened to discuss this single issue.

8. Governance of Design Competency Review

PW advised that whilst EUSR would be willing to continue hosting this, it was to be decided who would carry out the due review of this. This would need to take into consideration of new guidance by the ENA on LV Design v4. The Strategy Working Group would need to discuss first.

9. NERS Report

PC explained that the current reporting period was for 5 months because, due to holidays the previous reporting period was for only 3 months. The report presented will be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

MB commented that most SVs were identified as being on DNO networks whereas most connections are currently being made on IDNO networks. PC agreed to look into this.

Discussion on the identified Major Deficiencies took place and BF asked whether the persons without NERS passports were contractors and DE responded that they were employed on a 'labour-only' basis.

JB commented that it would be useful to know what the audit arrangements were in the organisations where fatalities have occurred.

PW asked if LRQA had sufficient staff to cover all of the ICPs and PC confirmed that LRQA had just recruited a new assessor who is presently undergoing training.

10. Any Other Business

BF asked about the difference between 'full' and 'partial' assessment. PC advised that the NERS Requirements document appears on the LRQA website but that we would be happy to share the report templates which LRQA use.

TT mentioned that CR had left a comment that the scopes on the NERS website were not accurate and that at the back of the NERS Requirements document there were differences in how scopes were displayed between ICPs. PC advised that in some cases 20kV for example had replaced 11kV but for others it showed 11kV and 20kV. PC agreed to look at any inconsistencies. PC further advised that he had already answered CR's questions in an email. TT mentioned that with regard to Design scopes some were referred as for example 'LV Cable Networks' whereas for others it refers to them as 'LV Networks to Industrial/Commercial Properties'. PC explained that when a scope descriptor changes, LRQA do not issue new certificates or update the website until the 3 yearly renewal. It is incumbent on the respective NERSAP member who is advised of such changes, to advise interested parties in their own organisations of the change. TT also asked about ICPs who go into administration and whether it affected anyone else in the meeting in terms of contract variations.

MB asked if in v11 of the NERS Requirements document an explanation of 'partial' and 'full' scopes are described. Also, that the minutes of the NERS meetings on the website are not up to date. PC agreed to address this.

CQ asked if from an IDNO point of view it would be useful to see which ICPs were suspended and PC advised that these were shown on the website in red.

EC asked if the list of ICPs which were presenting problems in terms of quality and timeliness of 'as-laid's'. PC agreed to circulate received information and agreed to send a list from NGED.

The question of who should pick up the Chairperson position now that CR had moved on within NPg. EC volunteered and MB seconded. EC is therefore elected as Deputy Chairperson.

PC advised the dates for 2025 meetings as:

NERS Provider Forum 11th March, 15th July, 11th November

NERSAP 25th March, 29th July, 25th November