

**Minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> NERSAP Meeting**  
**Microsoft Teams 10am 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Attendees:**

Paul Wragg (PW)	PowerOn	<a href="mailto:paul.wragg@poweron-uk.co.uk">paul.wragg@poweron-uk.co.uk</a>
Paul Costelloe (PC)	LRQA	<a href="mailto:paul.costelloe@lrqa.com">paul.costelloe@lrqa.com</a>
Karl Miller (KM)	LRQA	<a href="mailto:karl.miller@lrqa.com">karl.miller@lrqa.com</a>
Mel Swift (MS)	GTC	<a href="mailto:mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk">mel.swift@gtc-uk.co.uk</a>
Mick Beeby (MB)	Last Mile	<a href="mailto:mick.beeby@lastmile-uk.com">mick.beeby@lastmile-uk.com</a>
Matthew Crittenden (MC)	UKPN	<a href="mailto:matthew.crittenden@ukpowernetworks.co.uk">matthew.crittenden@ukpowernetworks.co.uk</a>
Ephie Chalakateva (EC)	NGED	<a href="mailto:ephie.chalakateva@nationalgrid.com">ephie.chalakateva@nationalgrid.com</a>
David Roberts (DR)	SPEN	<a href="mailto:david.roberts@spenergynetworks.co.uk">david.roberts@spenergynetworks.co.uk</a>
Tracey Taylor (TT)	ENWL	<a href="mailto:tracey.taylor@enwl.co.uk">tracey.taylor@enwl.co.uk</a>
Symon Gray (SG)	IDCSL	<a href="mailto:symongray@idcsl.co.uk">symongray@idcsl.co.uk</a>
Keith Montague (KM2)	UKPD	<a href="mailto:keithmontague@matrixgroup.co.uk">keithmontague@matrixgroup.co.uk</a>
James Barker (JB)	UCCG	<a href="mailto:jbarker@etl.ltd">jbarker@etl.ltd</a>
Jeff Graham (JG)	NPg	<a href="mailto:jeff.graham@northernpowergrid.com">jeff.graham@northernpowergrid.com</a>
David Jones (DJ)	HEA	<a href="mailto:david@joneslighting.co.uk">david@joneslighting.co.uk</a>
Jevan Laxen (JL)	SSEN	<a href="mailto:jevan.laxen@sse.com">jevan.laxen@sse.com</a>
Charles Qian (CQ)	ESP	<a href="mailto:charles.qian@espug.com">charles.qian@espug.com</a>
Simon Watton (SW)	Fulcrum	<a href="mailto:simon.watton@fulcrum.co.uk">simon.watton@fulcrum.co.uk</a>

**Apologies:**

Apologies had been received from:

Bob Fearnley (BF)	Leep	<a href="mailto:bfearnley@leeputilities.co.uk">bfearnley@leeputilities.co.uk</a>
Dave Ellis (DE)	LRQA	<a href="mailto:dave.ellis@lrqa.com">dave.ellis@lrqa.com</a>
Paul Thomas (PT)	SPEN	<a href="mailto:paul.thomas@spenergynetworks.co.uk">paul.thomas@spenergynetworks.co.uk</a>

## **1. Introductions**

Introductions were made and new attendees welcomed. SG now represents IDCSL and Will Cass will be invited to the next meeting as a representative of Energy Assets. DR is standing in for PT for this meeting on behalf of SPEN.

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from those identified above.

### **3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous NERSAP meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

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

#### **4.1 ENA Live Working Guidance SHE01**

PC confirmed that this was now with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) for review. MS confirmed that HSE will not signal consent or otherwise and that publication is imminent. MS confirmed that he had received an undertaking that this would be shareable across the industry not just ENA members as it is not a commercially sensitive subject.

#### **4.2 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

PC confirmed that during a Working Group meeting in December 2024 it was agreed that ENWL would amend the draft MoU to a version that they would be prepared to sign and TT has now kindly completed that exercise. PC advised that a 'data capture' template had been sent to NERSAP members in order to populate Schedule 1 of the MoU when it is next sent out for signature. Responses are still awaited from some members.

#### **4.3 Review of Governance of Design Competency Document**

PC confirmed that he had some volunteers who are keen to participate in the review of this document. MS confirmed that he would be willing to attend a kick-off meeting to commence this exercise. TT had also volunteered, and PC agreed to propose a date for the initial meeting.

#### **4.4 EUSR 'Right Card' Scheme**

PC advised that LRQA's understanding is still that the CSCS logo will no longer appear on SHEA cards after 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025. LRQA Have concerns about this proposal and had advised EUSR that a 'checklist' approach to determining an operative's 'fitness' to hold a relevant CSCS card would not be satisfactory due to the many routes to competence and the many anticipated variations to a checklist. MS has also raised this in his own organisation, and it appears that the EUSR proposals would be unsatisfactory. TT asked which ENA group his SHEQ director sits on, and MS replied that it was the ENA SHE Committee and would email TT separately about this.

#### **4.5 NERS Staffing by LRQA**

KM confirmed that LRQA are still looking for a NERS Assessor in Scotland and whilst a suitably qualified candidate had been identified, that person posed unacceptable risks to LRQA and the NERS scheme in terms of conflicts of interest.

### **5. Review of Minutes of NERS ICP Forum 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

PC confirmed that there had been 74 attendees (roughly same as previous). Other topics discussed include:

#### **5.1 Content of v10 NERS Requirements**

PC commented that it had been explained to ICPs that the main focus of the changes detailed in v10 surrounded the need to hold Project Management scopes if work was to be sub-contracted. LRQA had requested ICPs to raise any issues they would like to see changed/amended in the NERS Requirements. EC asked for clarification on whether ICPs could sub-contract design activity without holding PM scopes for this and PC confirmed that since there were no PM of design scopes, then this is acceptable.

#### **5.2 Combined CoC/NERS Passports**

Clarification was given that the example CoC/Passport produced by LRQA was not a mandatory requirement if identification of NERs and non-NERS competencies were identified using other means.

#### **5.3 Level 2 Apprenticeships**

MS advised that the Industry for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) had pushed back a decision on the possibility of Level 2 qualifications being encouraged by IfATE in preference, as far as government funding, to Level 7 managerial qualifications. This is so that for example a cable jointing course on plastic cable only could be encouraged as this type of cable is predominantly used for new network construction.

#### **5.4 Fire Suppression in Cupboards**

This was discussed further but previously it had been decided that there was a conflict between British Standards (and also within HSE), and that there was no timescale for resolution. MS advised that GTC are currently rejecting water-based fire suppression systems because there are more suitable (albeit more expensive) alternatives.

#### **5.5 Format of Future Meetings**

This had been discussed, and the consensus had been that there was a preference for Microsoft Teams as opposed to 'face-to-face' meetings because people's time is valuable. LRQA are concerned that a lot of effort could be put into arranging 'physical' forums but

experience of the last such NERSAP (and also GIRSAP) meeting showed that there was no appetite for it.

## **6. Update on NERSAP Strategic Working Group**

PC advised that the last meeting took place on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025. KM agreed that the view of different stake holders might be different for each meeting, so it was still worth discussing similar subjects at different meetings, and it was important to capture everyone's viewpoint. MS agreed with KM's comments and added that it affects the ongoing development of the NERS Requirements document.

## **7. Memorandum of Understanding**

PC advised that this was due to be re-signed in June 2025. A 'data capture' form had been sent out. JG advised that he had escalated this within NPg with a view to agreeing who the NPg representative would be.

## **8. Governance of Design Competency**

Discussed in an agenda item above. PC asked if there were any further volunteers to please let him know.

## **9. LRQA NERS Report**

PC presented data representing Nov 24, Dec 24, Jan 25 and Feb 25. 4 Major Deficiencies were identified and these were discussed. MB asked if jobs are stopped when Major Deficiencies are identified. PC confirmed that jobs were stopped if they couldn't be immediately resolved. MB asked if any bulletins were issued to ICPs by LRQA and PC confirmed that the ICP Forum is the only vehicle for this presently. JB agreed with MB that bulletins issued by LRQA would be better than waiting for the next NERS Forum which is not attended by all ICPs anyway. SG raised the point of the prevalence of visits taking place in DNO areas when most new connections are on IDNO assets.

## **10. Any Other Business**

PC raised the issue that Bill Robertson had asked him about the practice of meters on internal walls particularly in Scotland where it had previously been advised that a change in the Building Regulations would be required. Bill's point was that it would be against

DNO/IDNO G81 requirements even if Building Regulations allowed it. JL agreed to look into this in the case of SSEN.

EC advised that while ICPs sometimes commence construction at their own risk pending design approval or without a design at all, it would help if the NERS Requirements made it clear that work cannot commence without design approval or at least a design submitted. PC agreed to look at this for v11 of the NERS Requirements document.

MC advised that UKPN have very high failure rate on asset inspections and EC agreed that NGED also have the same high rates. NGED are currently assembling data in this respect. CQ advised that ESP are having similar difficulties in getting ICPs back to carry out remedial work. MB advised that deficiency reports from Network Operators to LRQA might assist with focussing LRQA surveillance visit activity.

TT advised that ENWL are not always being advised through the design approval process that generation is installed such as PV etc.

MB asked about an additional scope for substation earthing since it was clear to Last Mile that installation of earthing was sub-standard. There was doubt about whether the LRQA Assessor was looking at adequate testing of the earthing system. MC supported this viewpoint. TT advised that ENWL would expect the earthing design to be submitted for approval. MB advised that in the case given as an example the design was good but the implementation of it and the resting regime was found to be deficient.

CQ asked if reports were shared with network operators or just deficiencies. KM responded that he didn't think there would be any confidentiality issues over sharing SV reports with network operators.

PC thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

PC advised the dates for 2025 meetings as:

NERS Provider Forum 15<sup>th</sup> July, 11<sup>th</sup> November

NERSAP 29<sup>th</sup> July, 25<sup>th</sup> November