

# Transmission Access Standing Group (TASG)

## Minutes and Actions Arising from Meeting No.1 Held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2002 Nailcote Hall, Coventry

### Present:

#### Standing Group Members

Phil Russell	PR	Chairman
Barbara Vest	BV	RWE Trading Direct Ltd
Charles Davies	CD	National Grid
David Lane	DL	Clear Energy
Dick Cecil	DC	London Electricity Group
Malcolm Taylor	MT	AEP
Nigel Cornwall	NC	Cornwall Consulting
Richard Court	RC	National Grid
David Friend	DF	Technical Secretary

### In Attendance:

Anthony Doherty	AD	Ofgem
Brian Sequeira	BS	British Gas
Chris Pooley	CP	Campbell Carr
David Tolley	DT	Innogy
Duncan Jack	DJ	St Clements
John Capener	JC	British Energy
Kristian Myhre	KM	Ofgem
Mike Harrison	MH	Scottish Power
Min Zhu	MZ	National Grid
Nick Frydas	NF	EDF Trading
Patrick Hynes	PH	National Grid
Paul Jones	PJ	PowerGen
Peter Clubb	PC	GDF
Phil Lawton	PL	National Grid
Simon Lord	SL	First Hydro
Simon Matthews	SM	
Steve Drummond	SD	EDF Trading
Tim Russell	TR	

### Introductions & Background

1. PR introduced himself to the Group and confirmed that as Chairman of the Transmission Access Standing Group (TASG), he was to act impartially and as an Independent chairman. All other Standing Group members and meeting attendees introduced themselves. Apologies were received from Keith Miller (Teesside Power Limited).

### Review of Terms of Reference

#### Standing Group Membership

2. PR explained that the establishment of the TASG and its associated membership

had been agreed at the March Amendments Panel meeting. PR explained that initially, it was agreed that the membership of TASG would be limited to Panel Members only, however, PR noted that in view of the subject matter, there was probably a need to extend the membership to wider industry members.

3. There was some debate over what had actually been agreed at the March CUSC Amendments Panel meeting regarding the formal membership of TASG, however, it was widely agreed due to the magnitude and potential wide ranging implications of the subject matter, formal membership of the TASG should be open to all industry members. It was also widely agreed that formal members of the group should make best endeavours to attend all TASG meetings and contribute as necessary. Those who wished to attend TASG meetings on an ad-hoc basis could do so without the need of becoming a formal member. DF accepted an action to list all those attendees who wished to be nominated onto TASG as formal members. PR agreed to raise the issue at the April CUSC Amendments Panel Meeting (26 April 2002) and propose the nomination of the new members onto the group.

**Action: DF and PR**

*[post meeting note – the above action was completed and the new members have been formally added to the membership of TASG]*

### **Specific Issues for Consideration**

4. NC noted that the draft terms of reference did not consider the pricing element of any new transmission access arrangements and asked whether it would be appropriate to do so. RC explained that the CUSC sets out the contractual rights and obligations for Connection to and Use of the System and did not cover the detail of the charging methodologies. RC suggested that the detailed pricing issues should be a matter for the Transmission Charging Methodologies Forum (TCMF). There was much discussion regarding this matter and it was widely agreed that it would be difficult to consider the contractual arrangements in complete isolation from the pricing issues.
5. TR noted that 'governance' issues were outside the remit of the TASG and as such the Group had to work within the framework provided. TR suggested the TASG could make its recommendations 'conditional' (i.e. the TASG could suggest that CUSC Objectives were only better achieved if the CUSC changes were co-ordinated with changes to other industry documentation under different governance arrangements). CD agreed and suggested that the group should concentrate on those things in the Revised Proposals document relating to the contractual framework, however, the Group should consider the interrelationships, interactions or linkages between contractual rights and other industry arrangements. The group agreed this was a sensible way forward.

### **Reporting Time-scales for TASG/timetable**

6. BS asked AD if Ofgem could provide any further guidance on proposed implementation dates for the new transmission access arrangements suggesting the Revised Proposals document did not include detailed discussion on this matter. AD indicated it was possible to 'work-back' from an assumed implementation date of 1 April 2003, to get a rough idea of the time when detailed Amendment Proposals needed to be submitted. The Group noted these comments but decided that until further work was completed it would not be sensible to agree a timetable for Reporting to the Panel.
7. NC added that any timetable needed to be realistic particularly in view of the TASG starting point. NC added that the complexity of the task in hand was similar to that of

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introducing NETA and to work up detailed Amendment Proposals to implement a complete package of new Transmission Access arrangements by April 2003 was unrealistic. NC noted that the Revised Proposals document flagged a number of choices and was not prescriptive and that it was inappropriate for the TASG to be output driven. NC suggested there was a need for the TASG to set themselves realistic objectives and to define a clear process for moving towards its goal.

8. CD added that until we had clear goals and objectives it was very difficult to add any prescribed time-scales. PR suggested the group consider the matter of time-scales at a later date adding that it was clearly important for the group not to turn into a 'talking shop'
9. The Group discussed the remaining Terms of Reference in some detail. PR noted he would seek endorsement of the revised Terms of Reference at the April CUSC Amendments Panel Meeting (26 April 2002).

**Action: PR**

*[post meeting note – the above action was completed]*

10. The Group also discussed the way forward. RC suggested it could be worthwhile reviewing the extant position (i.e. what access rights currently exist etc) against the criteria in Bullet 8 of the TASG Terms of Reference. The group agreed, thinking it would be useful as a starting point to highlight where areas of contention exist under the current rules. In view of this, RC accepted an action to prepare a factual presentation for the next meeting to outline, amongst other things, how access is defined and provided, the firmness of any rights and how National Grid buys back such rights (constraints etc).

**Action: RC**

11. The Group also believed it was necessary to understand where Ofgem wanted to go under the proposed Transmission Access Arrangements. In view of this JC volunteered to prepare a factual presentation for the next meeting to outline, amongst other things, what the industry at large believed were the attributes of Ofgem's recommendations in the final proposals document.

**Action: JC**

12. NF also offered to prepare a factual paper/presentation for the 22 May meeting on what is/has happened in Europe regarding Transmission Access.

**Action: NF**

### **Date of Next Meeting/AOB**

13. DF agreed to arrange meetings for 9 May 2002 (in London) and 22 May 2002 (in the Coventry area)

**Action: DF**