Q3 ICE Newsletter- December 2019

Welcome

Welcome to the third Incentive on Connections Engagement (ICE) Quarterly Newsletter for 2019-20.

In November, we hosted our first ever ICE event in London for our higher voltage Generation stakeholders. We were pleased to be able to reach out to stakeholders in the south of England, providing opportunity to engage with us in a more convenient location. We plan to continue this event in future years and would be happy to take comments on how we can make this event even more valuable for our stakeholders.

We regularly provide opportunities for customers to discuss project specific queries with our engineers and are pleased to have added a new method for customers to request an appointment with our engineers. See below for more detail on our Connections surgery appointments.

As we enter the final quarter for this year, we will be developing our work plans for next year, taking on board feedback received throughout this year. We invite all our stakeholders to get involved in this process and look forward to hearing your comments.

Finally, I hope you all have a very happy Christmas and wish you all the best in the New Year.

Mark Williamson
Energy Solutions Director

ICE quarterly update

As part of our annual commitment, we have promised to share with you updates on our progress every quarter.

Click here to view our **Quarter 3 ICE updates** for ICP/ IDNOs, Distributed Generation EHV/ HV and LV, and Unmetered Other.

Upcoming workshops and surgery appointments

We recently updated the Events page on our website with quarter four workshops and surgery sessions. Below you will find a selection of scheduled events from January - March 2020, but keep an eye out on our **events page** for some more webinars popping up over the next few months.

HV EHV Generation Surgery Appointments
Tuesday 15 January
Salford offices
Register now

LV Generation workshop & surgery appointments
Wednesday 22 January
Preston offices
Register now

ICP IDNO Workshop
Wednesday 5 February
TBC
Register now

HV EHV Generation workshop
Wednesday 4 March
Preston offices
Register now

London event recap

HV EHV Generation workshop, 21 November 2019

We had a fantastic turnout for our HV EHV Generation workshop in London last month. The workshop focused on the customer journey, from initial application through to completion, for connecting High or Extra High Voltage Distributed Generation to our network. We received lots of valuable feedback and were very pleased that 100% rated the event as useful or very useful.

We would like to thank everyone who attended. We really valued the opportunity to engage with our stakeholders based in the south of England. Based on the success of our first out of area event, we plan on hosting more in future so keep an eye out next year on our **events**

page and event invites.

You can view the slides and feedback from this event **here.**

Webinar recordings

We hosted several webinars in Q3, including a summary of two key Ofgem reviews that will impact our connection stakeholders, and an overview of our policy when connecting Electric Vehicle chargers and Heat pumps to our network. We also hosted our Owner / Operator Forum for large generators connected to our network, where we described how we are implementing Best Practice in communicating outages to connected customers, in line with the Solar Trade Association (STA) Best Practice Guidance document, as well as providing an overview of our transition to becoming a Distribution System Operator (DSO). We hosted this forum as a webinar for the first time to enable more of our customers to join us which was well received.

You can view the recordings of the EV and Heat pump policy webinar and Ofgem's charging significant code review webinar here.

Flexible services update

We have recently issued a tender for Flexible Services in three locations across our region: Bolton by Bowland; Easton and Coniston. The deadline for submitting proposals for this tender was 13th December, and we will be publishing the results of this in the new year.

Flexible services are the provision of a change in consumption and or generation when instructed. This may be achieved by demand, generation or storage, turn up, turn down or turn off and is utilised to help us manage

constraints on our network an avoid costly reinforcement.

On 6th November we held a flexibility workshop at our Hartington Rd depot in Preston, which was intended to provide stakeholders with additional information regarding our latest tender and provided an overview of our current processes and how they have evolved over the last 18 months in response to stakeholder feedback. This was an opportunity for stakeholders to provide some additional input on these amendments to help us shape our approach to flexibility.

This was our first of this type of workshop and following some very positive feedback we will be holding these events bi-annually going forward in line with publication of our requirements. A full report will be published after Christmas detailing the valuable feedback that we have received, and how we intend to respond and implement it.

The slides from the event are saved on our **additional information page**, where you can also find our terms and conditions, decision making criteria and an industry agreed glossary, or you can visit our **FAQ's** page.

Details of our Spring 2020 tender will be issued in February, so make sure you sign up to our **distribution list** so you don't miss out on any future opportunities and to stay up to date with all things flexible!
If you have any queries or would like any additional information, please contact us directly at the **flexible contracts** mailbox.

Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme update

Loss of mains protection is used to prevent damage when there are problems on the electricity distribution network, however the techniques which have been used historically can disconnect generation when it is not necessary to do so. This unnecessary disconnection is more likely to happen when more renewable generation is running and the costs of preventing any consequent disruption are paid for by the electricity industry and consumer. Changing loss of mains protection will therefore deliver a step change in how the electricity system can be operated and will allow more low carbon power to flow at lower cost.

Owners of generators fitted with older forms of loss of mains protection will need to make changes to their protection by September 2022. Generator owners will be offered support to help them to make the change. As part of the Accelerated loss of mains (LoM) change programme, generator owners are eligible to apply for a financial contribution to help them get the necessary work done.

Distribution Network Owners and National Grid ESO have teamed up through the Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme (ALoMCP) to accelerate compliance with new requirements in the Distribution Code. Since the programme officially launched on the 2nd October, Electricity North West have received over 120 applications totalling more than 186MW.

The first window has now closed, and applications have been evaluated by National Grid ESO and were assessed on a set of criteria specified by the ENA. Those generators who have been successful have now been

notified and are into the next stage of the process.

We are now well into the second application window and we would encourage any generator owners who wish to take advantage of the assistance programme, to submit an early application as funding is limited and one of the assessment criteria relates to how soon a generator can make the necessary changes.

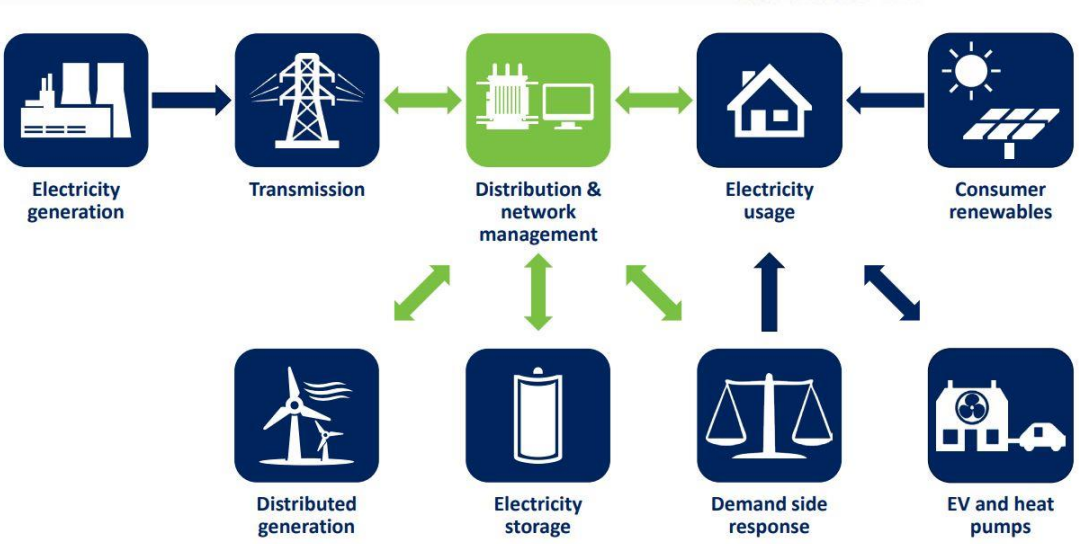
Window	Opening day	Closing day	Duration
Window 1	02/10/2019	12/11/2019	CLOSED
Window 2	13/11/2019	11/02/2020	3 calendar months
Window 3	12/02/2020	12/05/2020	3 calendar months
Window 4	13/05/2020	11/08/2020	3 calendar months

Access to the portal in order to submit an application can be gained via either our website or through the ENA. For any additional information, please visit our **website** or contact us directly at **ALoMCP@enwl.co.uk**.

Transition to DSO

As the year comes to an end we can reflect on the successes of the Distribution System Operation (DSO) transition to date. Electricity North West has worked throughout the last few years with our stakeholders and other industry participants to develop capabilities required to develop DSO. Much of the work in the 2019 ICE plan has a direct link to the DSO transition and forms a key enabler for Electricity North West to deliver on its **Leading the North West to Zero Carbon** goals.

This month will see the second publication of our **Distribution future electricity scenarios (DFES)** document. It contains a range of possible views of the future, which indicate how different influences can change electrical demand and generation on our network. This document is developed in conjunction with our **Long Term Development Statement (LTDS)** which was updated in November. The forecasts used to develop these documents are also used to inform our investment decisions and determine in turn where potential future flexible service may be required. These documents give stakeholders insight into where potential future capacity availability of may located within the network, this information is available in our Heatmap tool, as well as potential constraints, and this information is available on the flexibility map.



This year has seen Electricity North West formally begin the procurement and production of an Active Network Management System. The system will be used to manage network power flows in real time by actively managing network assets and Distributed Energy Resources. By using an ANM system we will be able to operate the network maintaining network efficiency and system stability, whilst also allowing increased uptake of Low carbon technologies and flexible services contracts within the distribution network.

The DSO transition team has been working closely with other industry participants and our stakeholders through the Open Networks Project to deliver consistency on approaches relating to Flexible Services contracts, Flexible Connections, connections processes, forecasting, whole system investment decision making, and data exchange processes. The team are also providing input into a range of other national working groups aimed to develop Distribution System Operation functionality and help guide the UK through the transition to a net zero greenhouse gas emissions economy.

Network Information update

Distribution Future Electricity Scenarios 2019

In December 2019 we issued our second annual publication of our Distribution Future Electricity Scenarios report. The report provides an updated view on our five Distribution Future Electricity Scenarios which we developed as part of our NIA funded **ATLAS** project. Within the report we explain what influences have changed recently, how they have impacted the scenarios and subsequently changed our views of the future of Electricity here in the North West.

2019 saw an increase in ambitious decarbonisation plans made by the government, and therefore this year we've considered a carbon compliant scenario to help our customers understand the steps required to support the UK's transition to a low carbon future. The carbon compliant scenario is not a prediction but an example of one way in which the UK could transition to a low carbon future. We've used the scenario as a comparison against our own 'Green Ambition' scenario, to demonstrate the difference between what we're currently expecting to happen on the distribution network and what needs to happen if the UK is to successfully work together to fight climate change.

In addition to the evaluation of a carbon compliant scenario, this year we've also introduced our DFES workbook. Our DFES workbook is just one of the steps we've made to increase the visibility, transparency and accessibility of our network information, and allows our customers to view the raw data associated with our Distribution Future Electricity Scenarios. The interactive workbook allows customers to understand what our scenarios mean to them on a local level, allowing them to make better informed decisions and identify future opportunities.

The 2019 DFES report and associated workbook are available todownload now on our **website**.

Long Term Development Statement (LTDS) 2019

The latest update of the Long Term Development Statement (LTDS) was published at the end of November 2019. The publication of an LTDS is a requirement by all DNOS, and it contains a summary of our policies, design standards and network development proposals as well as a full set of schematic diagrams and data tables. The tables contain data relating to loading, circuits, fault levels, accepted and connected generation, transformer data and interest in a connection. We also provide distribution substation data and DINIS network modelling data in a downloadable format. If you would like access to the LTDS then please register **here**.

Useful links

We publish **Safety Bulletins** on our website to actively support and promote safe working for everyone, and to share our experience and learning.

Competition in Connections Code of Practice 25 October 2019

Statement of Methodology and Connection Charges 31 October 2019

ENA Information on Connections options

Get in touch / sign up

For all stakeholder enquiries please get in touch with our Incentive on Connections Engagement team at **ICE@enwl.co.uk**.

If you would like to sign up to receive our e- newsletters and event invites please **register your details here**.