

Future of Gas

Minutes from Steering Group meeting on 3rd November 2020

Location

Virtual Event

Attendees

Helen Campbell (Chair) – National Grid
Chris Logue – National Grid
Ray Arrell – REGEN
Alexandra Howe – BEIS
Julie Cox – Energy UK
Lisa Fischer – E3G
Professor Joe Howe – Thornton Energy Institute
Kirsty Ingham – ESB
Richard Fairholme – Uniper
Lorna Millington – Cadent
Angus Paxton – AFRY
Will Webster – OGUK
Steven De Ranter – Interconnector UK
Emma Buckton - NGN
Lauren Snoxell – Citizens Advice
Robin Cannings – Storengy
David Mitchell – Chemical Industries Association
Bogdan Kowalewicz – Ofgem
Marcus Newborough – ITM Power
Robert Hewitt - BEIS

Apologies

Sam French – Johnson Matthey
Hywel Lloyd – UK100 Local Government Leaders
David O’Neill – Ofgem
Corrin Taylor – DNV GL

Welcome and Introductions

The chair welcomed attendees and provided apologies for those that could not make today's session which upon the chair confirmed the agenda for the day.

FOG Steering Group Feedback

National Grid presented to the group the results of recent interviews conducted with Steering Group members around the GMaP's first year of activities and thoughts of how they would like to see the programme develop in 2021. Feedback was grouped in to 8 categories (programme scope, leading, meeting frequency, future framing, chair, wider membership, delivery and communication) and measures to improve these topics were presented. The group were broadly supportive of the proposed changes to the programme for 2021 noting that the approach can continue to evolve based on how the group wants to work and drive value. There was immediate endorsement from the group to move to regular 2-monthly meetings throughout 2021.

Framing the Future

Following the feedback received from some of the members about the value of framing the future, and how this can help the group have a greater shared view; National Grid presented the starting approach for how the group can frame issues for debate and prioritisation moving forwards within the programme. Scenarios, such as those provided by the FES publications can provide context, highlighting where futures can differentiate from each other. This helps to illuminate when and where the big decisions impacting the Future of Gas could be made. Further to scenarios, it is also useful to consider how we can categorise and align the big uncertainties, for example, looking at issues through category lenses such as the "Role of Gas" or "Technology Development" and whether issues sit in Short, Medium or Long timeframes.

The approach outlined is to be built on and is for the purpose of developing the 2021 work plan.

Developing 2021

National Grid confirmed to the group that further consultations will take place as to refine the approach of the programme for 2021 over the course of next two months (November & December 2020) with results presented at the January 2021 group meeting for endorsement. In developing the 2021 priorities, the ambition of the engagement process is to define distinct Future of Gas topics and Gas Market Plan projects.

Topic Debate

Professor Joe Howe gave a presentation to the group around the development of Hydrogen Supply & Demands.

This section acted as a preview for group members on how the programme intends to take forward topics for the group to explore in detail; challenging views, understanding where there are shared or different views and importantly, where there could be further work, be it for this group or other groups to take forwards.

The presentation was well received sparking a high level of discussion and generating many questions from the group. This effectively showcased how future debates and discussions could lead towards discrete, targeted project activity with a clearly defined problem statement for the programme leads to address on behalf of the group.

GMaP Project Updates

National Grid provided updates on all current GMaP project activities and asked the group for feedback or to raise any concerns. No feedback or concerns were raised.

Actions/Next Steps

- **2021 meetings.** Appointments for the year to be circulated by the **end of November**
- **Meeting minutes & slides.** Preparation and distribution to the group by **10th November**
- **Website.** Meeting minutes uploaded to the website by **12th November**
- **Engagement for apologies.** Sessions with those that missed the meeting to be organised by **20th November**
- **GMaP Webinar.** High-level webinar on the GMaP process and projects on the **16th November**
- **2021 work plan.** Group consultation on 2021 approach and activities to be launched in November
- **GMaP projects**
 - Gas Quality and Hydrogen project completion by **end of December**
 - Balancing and Capacity projects continue to plan
- **H2 debate.** To be reviewed, documented, assessed against H2 project recommendations for any gaps in possible actions, by the **end of November**.

Meeting Ended.