

Date:	1.12.09	
Chair:	Michael Atkinson, NIE	
Attendees:	<i>RMDS</i> – Conor Garrigan <i>BG Energy</i> – Mark Speers, Ger Harnett <i>Firmus Energy</i> – Veronika Gallagher, Mary O’Kane <i>Airtricity</i> – Siobhan Leane, Karen Cahill <i>ESB ICT</i> – Joseph Murphy, Colette McEvoy	<i>ESBCS</i> – Gerry McDonald, Bridget Finnegan <i>NIE</i> – Paul Merkens, Ann Ferguson <i>ESB Networks</i> – Walter Keady, Theresa O’Neill <i>NIE Energy</i> – Clifford Morrison <i>Gemserv</i> – Malcolm Rowley
Apologies:	1.0	
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Slides of the meeting are issued separately

Agenda:		
1.	Minutes from HWG 3a – 11/16 November	Paul Merkens, NIE
2.	Matters Arising and Outstanding from Previous HWG Meetings	Paul Merkens, NIE
3.	Presentation of Data Processing, Aggregation and Billing	Paul Merkens, NIE
4.	Proposal Agreements for Customer Data and Meter Point Characteristics	Paul Merkens, NIE
5.	AOB	Paul Merkens, NIE
6.	Next Meeting	Paul Merkens, NIE

1. Minutes from HWG 3a – 11/16 November	
	<p>Slide 1: Agenda</p> <p>Participants to follow up with comments when minutes made available</p>

2. Matters Arising and Outstanding from Previous HWG Meetings	
	<p>Slide 2: Matters Arising from Previous HWG – Proposals</p> <p>EAC Effective Data Available in Aggregation Audit Trail – to 1 December</p> <p>Review of Response Messages when a CoS Estimate is Not Possible</p> <p>S Leane asked whether a specific cancellation code for timed out messages had been discussed, and C McEvoy responded that this would require a change to market procedures. K Cahill added that in NI a timeout could come between the reads, and P Merkens responded that this will not happen in future with a scheduled read. K Cahill indicated that Airtricity wanted to differentiate between natural timeouts within the 60-day period and timeouts where no switch was possible because there was no history of actual reads. P Merkens replied that it will not time out until the next scheduled read is asked for, but it will time out when there is no history of reads.</p> <p>Message 311</p> <p>Slide 3: Matters from Previous HWG – De-energisation in NI</p> <p>Suppliers have requested that domestic de-energisation for non-payment allowed</p> <p>G Harnett asked whether the decision regarding suppliers under the enabling legislation can be made by NIAUR and the Consumer Council. P Merkens replied that the landscape has changed since the legislation was passed, but that probably nothing could happen without a go-ahead from NIAUR and that the Consumer Council would probably be involved. G Harnett added that there does not appear to be anything in the legislation allowing right of access to a second-tier supplier. K Cahill suggested that suppliers ask for an interim solution rather than go through a lengthy process with NIAUR.</p> <p>Action – Suppliers to submit proposals to NIE before 11 December</p> <p>A combined credit premise can be de-energised for non-payment</p>

2. Matters Arising and Outstanding from Previous HWG Meetings

Suppliers would be responsible for any warrants required for de-energisation

Slide 4: Matters from Previous HWG – Carried Forward

NIE MPRN website data publication legal review

CER consultation & CoP on objection and debt

Report back on differences in the check digit algorithm

De-energisation on CoP review – to detailed design

Extension of CoS customer read windows to D-5

Technical options to enable a supplier to send messages on behalf of another supplier

S Leane asked whether multiple suppliers can use the same EMMA in NI. P Merkens replied that this is only possible under the alternative supplier ID, and this would require continuation with the mismatched schema. The alternative ID would be removed under harmonisation, as it would require a lot of work for ESB to add. A Ferguson enquired whether it would not be possible to ask one supplier on behalf of another to accommodate two systems. K Cahill replied that it would be complicated, with multiple MPCCs, and P Merkens added that it would not be sustainable long-term.

3. Presentation of Data Processing, Aggregation and Billing

Slide 5: Presentation of Data Processing, Meter Application and Billing

Slide 6: Data Processing – Messaging

Messages 303R and 305 already introduced by ES

NIE will not introduce 308

S Leane asked whether there was an update on an action from the previous HWG regarding the charge for meter change on customers moving to an independent supplier. P Merkens replied in the negative, and A Ferguson stated that this is part of an ongoing exchange.

Action – this issue to be raised at SIG meeting

3. Presentation of Data Processing, Aggregation and Billing**Slide 7: Data Processing – NHH Estimation Method**

NIE will further refine estimating approach

Provisions continuing to apply

Estimating approach proposed more closely aligns to ESB approach

Slide as presented.

Slide 8: Data Processing – Estimation Application

To align with RoI – NIE will apply method described on previous slide

Note mistake on slide – should read “excluding disputes”

NIE do not currently propose to use this method to estimate readings

Circumstances in which NIE do not estimate

C Morrison asked whether a reading would be rejected if all registers on a meter were bad, but an estimate would be used if one were acceptable, and P Merkens responded in the affirmative, stating that there would be an estimate for DUoS billing if it were a scheduled read, but it would not be a settlement estimate. K Cahill stated that in RoI there would be an initial rejection for all meters if one were actual and another an estimate, and whereas now it will be accepted as long as one reading is actual, a combination cannot be done for one meter. T O'Neill replied that this is an outstanding MCR. P Merkens said that whereas suppliers should still try to obtain a complete set of reads, but where they cannot, the missing reads will be estimated.

Slide 9: Data Processing – Meter Read Validation

NIE propose to modify validation rules routines

C Morrison enquired if it would be considered acceptable if a customer had a lower consumption than expected, and P Merkens answered that there is no lower limit, but a consumption greater than expected would probably be rejected. This measure stops rejects where a customer has low but fluctuating demand.

3. Presentation of Data Processing, Aggregation and Billing

NIE will review high limits above which a meter advance must be manually confirmed

Slide 10: Data Processing – Estimation Application

Settlement relevant estimates

Conditions where estimates are settlement relevant in NI and Rol

Slide as presented.

Slide 11: Data Processing – Usage Factors

Calculation method for AUF (ESB) and AAC (NIE) aligns

Calculation method for EUF (ESB) and EAC (NIE) does not align

C Morrison asked why the AUF and EUF on the same profile were different. P Merkens replied that there might be four different AUFs in a year, so it is a weighted average of the four. K Cahill said that if NIE go back 46 weeks, they are not reflecting any recent change there may have been in customer usage, whereas ESB may have an EUF that is three weeks old. P Merkens replied that it is only weighted, and both methods gradually adjust. C Morrison indicated that weighted AUF is more dependent on the profile, whereas the other method is more accurate. P Merkens replied that the weighted AUF is mathematically accurate over a year, though if the read dates do not align with the year it may be slightly off. K Cahill asked whether the ES can do both, and P Merkens replied that moving to weighted AUF might be justified if NIE thought there was a significant benefit. G Harnett asked whether NIE plans to maintain the existing position, and P Merkens said that suppliers need to consider what they think is the best approach, and that the NIE would have no fundamental objection to moving to weighted AUF. M Rowley stated that even if the algorithm were harmonised, the profiles would still differ, thus affecting the calculations.

NIE will retail proposal to set EAC to zero for long-term vacant sites as described for ES

Slide 12: Data Processing – Usage Factors

NIE proposes removal of usage factors at register level

No suppliers required retention of usage factors at register level

3. Presentation of Data Processing, Aggregation and Billing

However, two issues raised by suppliers – message 320, message 332

K Cahill asked whether the estimated consumption field on 320 is ever populated. C McEvoy replied that it is populated in all cases, and requested examples.

Slide 13: Effective Dates

Slide as presented.

Slide 14: Effective Dates – CoS and CoLE Reads

Change of supplier

Change of legal entity

Slide as presented.

Slide 15: Message 210 Supplier Provided Read Schema

S Leane enquired as to why the meter serial number is mandatory on the 210 and not on the 010, and C McEvoy replied that the reasoning was that any problems on the data would not cause the entire CoS to be rejected.

Slide 16: Message 303R Rejection of Supplier Provided Read

Message 303R used as a rejection of readings submitted using 010, 016, 210

NIE will also issue 303R when meter reads implausible

Available meter segments containing actual metering details provided when 303R issued

S Leane asked whether suppliers will not get a 303R from ESB when a reading is wrong. J Murphy replied that a reading may seem implausible to the system but may be a plausible read, and is forwarded to be looked at for decision. C McEvoy added that a 303R never issues; a 300 issues if the reading is plausible, and a 305 for an estimate.

Slide 17: Message 303R Schema

3. Presentation of Data Processing, Aggregation and Billing

Slide as presented.

Slide 18: 300 Meter Reading Schema (MPRN, Usage Factor and Remarks)

Slide as presented.

Slide 19: Message 300 Meter Reading Schema (Meter and Register)

Slide as presented.

Slide 20: Message 300S Special Read (MPRN, Usage Factor and Remarks)

Slide as presented.

Slide 21: Message 305 Estimate Schema

Slide as presented.

Slide 22: Message 306 De-energisation Schema; Message Schema 307 Re-energisation Schema (MPRN Usage Factors)

Slide as presented.

Action – Slides to be updated in line with spreadsheet

Slide 23: Message 310 CoS Closing Read Schema (MPRN and Usage Factors)

Slide as presented.

Slide 24: Message 320 CoS Opening Read Schema (MPRN and Usage Factors)

Slide as presented.

Slide 25: Message 320 CoS Opening Read Schema (Meter ID and Register Data)

K Cahill enquired whether post- and pre-decimal details only apply to demand meters, and P Merkens responded that it is more the case for demand meters, but it applies to others depending on the number of registers.

3. Presentation of Data Processing, Aggregation and Billing**Slide 26: Message 332 Meter Works Schema (MPRN and Usage Factors)**

Slide as presented.

Slide 27: Message 332 Meter Works Schema (Removed Meters)

Slide as presented.

Slide 28: Message 332 Meter Works (New Meters)

Slide as presented.

Slide 29: Message 332 Meter Works (Retained Meters)

Slide as presented.

Slide 30: Message 300W Withdrawn Reading Schema (MPRN Level)

Slide as presented.

Slide 31: Message 300W Withdrawn Reading Schema (Meter ID and Register Data)

S Leane asked whether, where there are multiple meters and an issue with one reading, a withdrawn message will be sent for one or for all readings. P Merkens commented that it should be for all readings, and that feedback will be sought on why this does not happen in NIE.

Slide 32: Message 306W Withdrawn De-energisation Schema; Message 307W Withdrawn Re-energisation Schema (MPRN Level)

S Leane enquired whether the read date is the same as the effective from date. P Merkens referred the question back to the slide containing the table of effective dates.

Slide 33: Message 310W Withdrawn CoS Schema (MPRN Level)

Slide as presented.

Slide 34: Message 320W Withdrawn CoS Read Schema (Meter and Register Level)

3. Presentation of Data Processing, Aggregation and Billing

Slide as presented.

Slide 35: Message 332W Withdrawn Meter Works Schema (MPRN Level)

Slide as presented.

Slide 36: CoS Reading Dispute

NIE will introduce message 208 to enable supplier to submit replacement reading to settle CoS dispute

NIE will also introduce usage of message 252 to request estimate to resolve CoS reading dispute (read type E, reason 04)

NIE will update AP 102 to accommodate use of these messages

NB – in general, where an actual read is less than an estimated or supplier provided customer read used for a CoS, CoS reading will be reversed and replaced.

M Atkinson asked whether the new messages are in line with RoI, and P Merkens replied in the affirmative.

Slide 37: Message 208 Replacement Reading Schema

Slide as presented.

Slide 38: Message 331 Interval Meter – Ex Meter Works and CoS

Slide as presented.

Slide 39: Message 341 Interval Import Schema

K Cahill enquired whether the different unit systems for current metering will continue, and A Ferguson confirmed this, and added that the QH and HH nomenclature will be removed. K Cahill asked whether NI is moving toward codes 50 and 51, and A Ferguson advised that there is no change. P Merkens added that there probably have not been any proposals to make any change, and that the presumption is that the same codes would be used in NI and RoI.

3. Presentation of Data Processing, Aggregation and Billing

Action – this issue to be looked at in more detail

Slide 40: Message 342 Interval Export Schema

Slide as presented.

Slide 41: Unmetered Supplies

NIE to introduce 701, 700W and 701W

Message 700 was already introduced by the ES

Unmetered processes will remain unchanged in NI for annual confirmation, inventory update, inventory splits, inventory clarifications

Slide as presented.

Slide 42: Unmetered Supplies – Data

Decisions on consumption determination remain open

G Harnett asked how the meter data will be applied to profiles. P Merkens replied that the wattage is used to generate estimated annual usage which is then passed through the profile.

NIE will not populate group MPRN

Slide 43: Use of 700 Series Messages

Message 700

Message 701

Message 700W

Message 701W

C Morrison enquired whether all unmetered will be billed monthly, and P Merkens confirmed this.

3. Presentation of Data Processing, Aggregation and Billing**Slide 44: Message 700 Unmetered Inventory Schema**

Slide as presented.

Slide 45: Message 701 Unmetered Consumption Schema

C Morrison asked whether the top level consumption figure is a sum of the unmetered figures, and J Murphy responded that he would have to confirm this. C Morrison further enquired as to the address in question, and P Merkens replied that it would be the billing address.

Slide 46: Message 700W Withdrawn Inventory Schema

Slide as presented.

Slide 47: Message 701W Withdrawn Consumption Schema

Slide as presented.

Slide 48: Data Aggregation – Messaging

NIE will provide suppliers with the 59x series of aggregation messages

All responding suppliers operating in Rol market required consistency between NI and Rol

At least one supplier preferred retention of NIE secure server files

Potential design solution

Consequently NIE also proposes to retain the secure server files

G Harnett enquired whether the aggregation process aggregates the secure server files or the output of the messages. P Merkens replied that it does neither, but picks up the EACs and AOCs, so that the secure server files are an output from the process.

Slide 49: Message 595 SU HH/QH Aggregation

Slide as presented.

3. Presentation of Data Processing, Aggregation and Billing**Slide 50: Message 598 Non Participant GU Aggregation**

Slide as presented.

Slide 51: Message 596

Slide as presented.

Slide 52: Message 597

Slide as circulated.

Slide 53: Data Aggregation – Other

G Harnett asked whether customer DUoS information does not become available when going through the CoS process, and P Merkens replied that it should be, as it is present on the registration messages. However, the DUoS group is also on the secure server files in NI.

NIE to provide EAC/AAC effective date on aggregation audit trail**Slide 54: DUoS Billing**

Processes remaining unchanged in both jurisdictions

NIE will not be introducing messages 507 or 507C

Slide as presented.

Slide 55: MCR0165

MCR0165 has been approved in Rol to handle adjustments to previous estimates

NIE will align with the general intent of MCR0165

C Morrison stated that 25% of EUF would be expected for a quarterly reading, and a number of sites would have two estimates in a row. K Cahill responded that the price change was the underlying reason. P Merkens agreed that the proportion with two consecutive estimates would be high, and the process would have to be fully automated, but it handles the concern about inappropriate charges in the case of price increases. G McDonald added that the

3. Presentation of Data Processing, Aggregation and Billing

percentage should be higher if the NI process is based on the Rol model. K Cahill pointed out that customers would get cancel and rebilling, and the supplier would be forced to proceed on a case by case basis. P Merkens replied that the threshold may need to be raised if suppliers are concerned about it.

Action – comments from suppliers on threshold, implementation

Slide 56: DUoS Billing – Cancel and Rebill

NIE cancel and rebill scenarios broadly consistent with ESB

Examples of where cancel and rebilling occurs

Slide as presented.

Slide 57: DUoS Billing

Previously communicated changes to be implemented by NIE

No further changes are proposed

Action – comments on proposals to be submitted by Monday

4. Proposal Agreements for Customer Data and Meter Point Characteristics

Slide 58: Proposal Agreement – Customer and MP Data

Slide as presented.

Slide 59: Customer and MP Data Summary

What key items have changed since HWG 4

What remains the same

What remains outstanding and is excluded from agreement

Slide as presented.

4. Proposal Agreements for Customer Data and Meter Point Characteristics

Slide 60: Customer Details and Meter Point Characteristics

NIE proposals

Slide as presented.

Slide 61: Change of Customer Details

Slide as presented.

Slide 62: Change of Customer Details Message 013

Slide as presented.

Slide 63: Change of Customer Details Rejection 014R

Slide as presented.

Slide 64: Change of Tenancy/Legal Entity

Slide as presented.

Slide 65: CoT/LE Required Data and Readings

Slide as presented.

Slide 66: CoT/LE Message 016

Slide as presented.

Slide 67: CoT/LE Rejection Message

Slide as presented.

Slide 68: CoT/LE Notification Message 116N

Slide as presented.

4. Proposal Agreements for Customer Data and Meter Point Characteristics**Slide 69: Previous Tenancy Message 140**

Slide as presented.

Slide 70: Change of Usage

Change of usage may be submitted on messages 013 or 016

NIE also propose to infer a CoU from a requested meter configuration where this can be done uniquely

CoU in NI

In RoI the rules are more complicated and depend on the type of DUoS change implied

The CoU date may therefore vary from the CoT/CoLE date in NI and RoI

Slide as presented.

Slide 71: Message Matrix – Fieldwork and Customer Data

Slide as presented.

Slide 72: Meter Point Characteristics

Slide as presented.

Slide 73: Meter Point Characteristics Change Message 301

MIC start date added to schema – NIE to re-examine issue

A Ferguson indicated that whether or not the five-year period needs to change depends on what assets the customer has paid for. K Cahill asked whether the start date would be changed retrospectively for a higher MIC. A Ferguson replied that a change to the MIC might mean a start date on date of change, but the five-year period may be allowed to finish. K Cahill said that a supplier would look at the effective from date, and P Merkens confirmed this, stating that the effective from date indicates the date from which changes take effect. C Morrison asked whether the 301 includes what has not changed, and P Merkens answered in the

4. Proposal Agreements for Customer Data and Meter Point Characteristics

affirmative.

Slide 74: Message 301N

Message 301N sent when a quote is issued to customers involving a change to meter point characteristics (typically MIC)

In NIE in 12 months to March 2009 – 520 quotations not accepted

In either case message 301 will also be sent to confirm effective date of the changes

S Leane asked whether a 301N would always precede a 301, or whether it was only when a quote was involved, and J Murphy replied that it was the latter, as 301s can issue for other reasons.

Action – suppliers to consider issue of timing for Monday

Slide 75: Read Cycle Change Message 321

Slide as presented.

Slide 76: Agreements and Exceptions

Supplier exceptions to proposals for changes to NI processes

Suppliers agreed to proceed on basis of proposals.

Slide 77: Technical Workgroup

NIE market messaging website will include display of message header transaction reference number

Ongoing discussions

Slide as presented.

5. AOB

5. AOB

Slide 78: Any Other Business

Process for harmonisation of key items referred to HSG

Slide as presented.

Slide 79: Message 131 Design Update

No change to contents, fields renamed, format change

Slide as presented.

Slide 80: Comments on Today's Proposals

By close of Monday 7 December

6. Next Meeting

Slide 81: Next Meetings

Monday 14 December