RETAIL ENERGY CODE

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REC CHANGE ISSUES GROUP
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING	**RECCHIG_24_1107**
DATE	**07 November 2024, 10:00**
LOCATION	**By teleconference**

Presenter	Representing	Initials	Role
Andy Knowles	REC Code Manager	AK	Chair
Lorna Mallon	REC Code Manager	LM	Subject Matter Expert
Lydia Bentley	REC Code Manager	LB	Lead Analyst
Harry Firth	REC Code Manager	HF	Secretariat

Full attendee list available upon request.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed attendees to the REC Change Issues Group (CIG) meeting.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Chair invited any additional items of business for consideration during the meeting, but no items were raised.

3. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Chair invited attendees to provide comments on the draft minutes from the meeting which took place on 03 October 2024. HF advised that a comment had been made prior to the meeting, amending the title for I0172. There were no further comments, and the minutes were approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

4. I0172 – END-TO-END NEW CONNECTIONS PROCESS REVIEW TO ELIMINATE ISSUES RELATED TO NEW BUILDS AND SIMILAR SITUATIONS

LM provided attendees with an overview of the issue and noted that it was agreed at the October CIG meeting that the Code Manager would bring forward sections of the new connections process in order and advised that this section would focus on MPXN creation.

LM presented a map detailing the current process for electricity MPAN creation. Attendees were asked if there are any issues around MPAN registration, suggesting this had not been an area that the Code Manager had focused on as a key issue. Attendees raised issues around developers changing plot numbers, as for Electricity there is no record kept for plot numbers, as opposed to the gas process, and a DNO representative suggested that a change around UPRNs could be explored. LM confirmed that a change affecting UPRNs is on the horizon and asked at which point a UPRN is created. An Xoserve representative advised that Ordnance Survey will begin mapping plots and creating UPRNs as soon as they receive the plot data from the Local Authority.

DNO representatives advised that they had been pushed to remove plot addresses but are still using them in some instances as part of the MPAN creation process. They added that when the information is transferred over to EES the address history is not there and queried whether there is scope to include this. DNO representatives also advised that ideally MPANs would be created with postal addresses, but if this is happening several years before building is finished, the builders are usually reluctant or unable to provide postal addresses.

A Supplier representative advised that if there are redesigns then the Supplier will be informed by the builder and will then have to inform the DNOs and IGTs of these changes and suggested it could be beneficial if the UPRNs can be amended more easily by the builder depending on any redesigns.

LM suggested a centralised portal for both Electricity and Gas where developers can update addresses. A DNO representative responded that it is a good idea in principle but would not be governed so would still be up to the goodwill of the developers to update addresses like it is at the moment. A Utility Consultant representative asked what other utilities do in this situation and queried whether reaching out to establish best practice is an option. LM responded that they would reach out to other utilities.

LM presented maps on the current processes for both Suppliers and Independent Gas Transporters (IGTs) leading on installing meters on new connections and provided an overview of the differences between the two separate processes. A Supplier representative advised that the non-IGT process was similar to the Electricity process from their perspective. Attendees advised that the PSA/PSB process is different to the other process maps. LM responded that they will reach out to Xoserve and IGTs later for any needed discussions or feedback, and will provide an updated process map at a later date.

LM asked attendees if IGTs are still acting as MAMs on a lot of new connections. Supplier representatives confirmed that IGTs are MAMs for the majority of new connections their organisation deals with, but that this number is falling, and this may fall quicker with the

introduction of the Future Homes Standard and potential subsequent rise in electric-only new homes.

LM advised that Metering installation is covered in Schedule 14 of the REC, except for new IGT connections, and asked attendees if this should be included in Schedule 14 for completeness. An Xoserve representative responded that they would have to look into existing Code on Metering installation but added that it would be useful to capture all of the processes within one area.

Next Steps

LM suggested to attendees that the next step would be to finalise the processes of MPXN creation for both fuels and provide an update on any outstanding questions raised at this meeting at the December CIG meeting, with a view to beginning work reviewing the metering installations processes in the New Year. Attendees agreed with these next steps.

5. I0216 – REC CHANGES TO TIE IN WITH DCP419

LM provided Attendees with an overview of the issue, noting that it is a cross-code change with DCP419 from DCUSA. LM advised that DCUSA is looking to place obligations to update the DNO before any planned de-energisation or comms interruption on sites with a smart meter. LM added that a new Data Integration Platform (DIP) flow has been drawn up in a DCUSA Working group.

LM asked attendees if the Data Retriever needs to be included in the list of parties who would be required to send this flow, as the Code Manager is aware of plans for meter readers to disconnect/reconnect Comms hubs. A Supplier representative suggested setting a time limit for how long the meter is de-energised for, and the flow would only need to be set after this time limit is exceeded. LM responded that they believed the regulations that the DNOs are working against are above industry code and there are no time limits, and there is not an option to change this currently.

LM advised that whatever the solution, there will be changes to Schedule 14 to ensure these changes are signposted appropriately. They added that DNOs are keen for advanced notifications and the flow is the currently preferred option for DCP419, so this is what the REC Code Manager is taking forward at the moment.

LM added that Revenue Protection visits had been considered as part of a solution, but there are potential issues over security and level of involvement and it will not considered going forwards.

Next Steps

LM advised that there is a DCP419 Working Group taking place in December, and the Code Manager will provide further details on that meeting for any attendees interested in taking part. LM also added that the Data Retriever will be kept in as part of a potential solution for now.

6. I0200 ADDRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Chair advised attendees that the first meeting of the I0200 Address Management Workshop would be taking place after the conclusion of this meeting. The Chair advised attendees that they will need to email enquiries@recmanager.co.uk to attend future Workshop meetings.

7. I0189 EXTRAORDINARY CHANGE ISSUES GROUP

The Chair advised attendees that an extraordinary Change Issues Group meeting will be taking place on 20 November to discuss I0189 – Voice of the Consumer. The Chair advised attendees to email enquiries@recmanager.co.uk if they wished to attend.

8. IO197 RFI

The Chair advised attendees that the Request for Information for I0197 - Introducing a process to provide updates during fault resolutions is open for responses and that the deadline for responding has been extended to 22nd November. A MEM representative asked why the deadline had been extended. LM responded that the timescales for this issue had changed and the responses are not required so quickly by the Code Manager as originally thought.

9. AOB

The Chair invited attendees to provide AOB.

AK informed attendees that Paul Witton-Dauris would be taking over as Chair of the CIG from the December meeting onwards. Attendees thanked AK for their efforts and contributions as Chair since the CIG was formed.