

## TAMEG Workshop

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**Date of Meeting** 14 July 2010  
**Time** 10:00- 14:00  
**Venue** ELEXON, 350 Euston Road, NW1 3AW

<b>Attending</b>	Colin Gentleman	SSE MOA
	Pete Butcher	SSE Supply
	Matt Day	npower MOA
	Tony Savka	ENWL Networks
	Alastair Barnsley	E.On MOA
	Sharon Head	SSE Supply
	Tony Rabone	EdF Energy MOA
	Simon Voyse	Energy Networks Association
	Tom Chevalier	Association of Meter Operators
	Jane Buxton	WPD Networks
	Dean Riddle	ELEXON
	Keith Campion	ELEXON Chairman
	Mike Smith	ELEXON
	Lisa Alford	ELEXON
Paul Gregory	Technical Assurance Agent	

### **Apologies Received**

Jade Thomas  
Aaron Seamer  
Bob Dryden  
Ron Cook  
Tim Parrock

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### **1. Workshop**

KC opened the meeting and noted the huge support for this workshop meant that, due to limited space, the meeting was over-subscribed and that a number of requests to attend had to be refused. KC also noted that the out comes of the workshop will be circulated for comment to all TAMEG members.

A paper **entitled 'Background paper.doc' was** circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman noted that its purpose was to stimulate debate and provide high level summaries of the issues to be discussed.

## 2. Metering Equipment Responsibilities

The first issue on the agenda was Metering Equipment Responsibilities. KC pointed out that the TAMEG believes that a BSC Modification is necessary to achieve a change of responsibility under the BSC for current transformers (CTs) and voltage transformers (VTs) from Registrants to Equipment Owners. The goal of the workshop is to identify the principles for such a change that will enable ELEXON to draft a BSC Modification. The draft modification would be circulated to TAMEG members for final comment and would be made available for a BSC Party to formally raise if they so wish.

The group discussed potential reasons for some of the existing commissioning problems and it was suggested that:

There is a lack of skills in MOA;

Timing of the MOA appointment and the connection of HV switch gear; and

There are commercial pressures (i.e. regulated income) driving cost reductions.

The group agreed that when commissioning has not been carried out on CTs and VTs it is very difficult to resolve and it was considered that it is important to get this right not only for Settlements but also for the benefit of customers.

TC noted recent changes to the Meter Operator Code of Practice Agreement where the Licensed Distribution System Operator (LDSO), from 1 Jan 2012, will be required to affix a label adjacent to the Meter identifying CT and VT ratios and serial numbers, etc. He felt that this forms a natural split in responsibilities between the Registrant/MOA and the LDSO as Equipment Owners. The proposed split will be all equipment up to the outgoing terminals of the test terminal block will be the responsibility of the LDSO and the rest will be the responsibility of the Registrant and Meter Operator Agent (MOA). It follows, therefore, that those responsible for the equipment should also be responsible for commissioning that equipment.

TC questioned the need for a BSC Modification based on his assessment of Section L 3.1.2 (b). He considers that this clause is a sufficient obligation on LDSOs as Equipment Owners to be required to perform commissioning tests on CTs and VTs.

Members pointed out that some owners of CTs and VTs are not BSC Parties and this would cause some special difficulties as the BSC can only place obligations on those who are party to it. ELEXON also noted that the requirement is for the Equipment Owner, where they are a BSC Party, to provide reasonable assistance to Registrants which may or may not include testing by the LDSO.



The group discussed and it was confirmed by SV that all High Voltage (HV) switchgear is subject to testing of some description for network purposes but that testing of metering CTs and VTs for accuracy is unlikely to be a requirement. It was noted that LDSO are becoming more sensitive to the implications of inaccurate metering and some are primary injection testing HV equipment for their own assurances. The group discussed whether these test results could be made available to the MOA for commissioning purposes and it was concluded that if consistent with CoP4 then it could be possible, however in most cases there would not be a MOA in place at the time.

The group discussed the options open to the MOA and the Registrant when it is unable to fully commission all of the Metering Equipment at a site. ELEXON noted that there are no options but its advice to MOAs has been to record the reasons why commissioning cannot be completed and inform the Registrant.

It was discussed whether a change should be made so that Registrants would be able to consider the risks of un-commissioned Metering Equipment and determine the best way forward for themselves. In the case of CTs and/or VTs this could include the Registrant seeking agreement with the LDSO.

For example, if HV switchgear is installed and cabled by the time the MOA is appointed it is highly unlikely that any in-situ testing of the CTs and VTs will be conducted by the MOA. If testing is done by the LDSO or its sub contractor then the information may not be communicated to the MOA or Supplier. In this case the MOA will **document what hasn't been achievable and their reasons and immediately notify** the Supplier. The Supplier will be required to consult with the LDSO and together assess the risks (also taking into account risks to other Suppliers in the GSP Group). The Supplier will be required to notify the MOA of the next steps which could potentially be to organise a shut down for the MOA or LDSO to primary inject or that the LDSO has sufficient evidenced through its own testing to remove any risk.

The group briefly discussed operational boundaries and Data Transfer Catalogue flows in support of the above principles. ELEXON will feed these into any analysis for a Modification Proposal.

## **Next steps**

Once TAMEG has had opportunity to consider these principles ELEXON will begin to formulate a BSC Modification for TAMEG's consultation.

### 3. Pre- Audit Inspections

#### Background

The TAA, through its annual report to the BSC Panel this year, noted again that some MOAs are visiting sites before a TAA audit takes place. The PAB noted that this practice is distorting the view of the health of Half Hourly metering and is concerned with the continued practice despite having requested Parties to stop previously. The TAMEG agrees with the PAB and believes that it is best placed to drive out a solution for PAB's consideration.

KC asked the group whether it felt there are any particular issues for certain MOAs undertaking pre audit visits that could be discussed with ELEXON with a view to resolving the MOA's issues without disrupting the TAA process. It was felt that the major driver for some MOAs is the negative impact of TAA non-compliances on their businesses.

The group unanimously agreed that the practice should be stopped as its impacts on the industry are wider than individual concerns for non-compliances. The group discussed the options for preventing pre audit visits and concluded that it would not be reasonable or practical to implement an outright ban as Metering Systems will require attention during the notification period. The group also discussed shortening the notification period from its current 20 working days but agreed that this is likely to increase no access rates. The group concluded that where there is a need to visit a site by the MOA when it has been selected for a TAA audit then the MOA must inform the TAA and that ELEXON should draft a Change Proposal for **BSCP27 'Technical Assurance of Half Hourly Metering Systems for Settlement Purposes'**.

#### Next steps

ELEXON will circulate the views expressed in the TAMEG workshop, as above, to all TAMEG members for additional **comment and input. Once the details are agreed then ELEXON will present the TAMEG's views to PAB and seek approval for ELEXON to draft these changes into BSCP27 via a Change Proposal.**

KC thanked members for a productive meeting.