

SVG213/02 – NEW BACK-UP WEATHER STATION FOR THE SOUTH WALES GSP GROUP

MEETING NAME SVG213

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Purpose of paper Decision

Classification Public

Summary On 30 September 2018, Filton weather station closed. This was previously used in Settlement as the back-up weather station for the South Wales Grid Supply Point (GSP) Group (_K). This paper invites the Supplier Volume Allocation Group (SVG) to approve Yeovilton as the new back-up weather station for GSP Group _K.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Supplier Volume Allocation Agent (SVAA) uses weather station data in the preparation as part of the Daily Profile Production Run.
- 1.2 The main weather station for the South Wales GSP Group (_K) is St Athan, 49m above sea level. Until recently, Filton was the back-up weather station to be used in Settlement if the main station failed. Filton is located north of Bristol, across the Bristol Channel from St Athan and 59m above sea level.
- 1.3 ELEXON has been notified that Filton weather station closed on 30 September 2018 because the lease expired.

2. Proposed options

- 2.1 ELEXON has considered three options for replacing Filton as outlined below:
 - Use Almondsbury as the new back-up weather station for GSP Group _K;
 - Use Yeovilton as the new back-up weather station for GSP Group _K; or
 - Use Yeovilton initially, and then switch to Almondsbury once it becomes fully operational.
- 2.2 The Almondsbury site (75m above sea level) opened on 27 March 2018 and is aiming to be operational by the end of 2018. It is located approximately 60km east of the St Athan site across the Bristol Channel and 4km north of Filton. The Met Office has suggested Almondsbury as the back-up weather station, and has had a temporary tripod in place since April 2018, which has measured temperature and relative humidity. It has calculated a Pearson correlation coefficient of 92.2% on the temperatures between Filton and Almondsbury.
- 2.3 The Yeovilton site (20m above sea level) is located south of Bristol and is currently the main weather station for the South Western GSP Group (_L). The Profiling Expert Group (PEG¹) has recommended Yeovilton as the back-up weather station for _K because of its longer period of operation and greater availability of time-series data for forecasters. A PEG member has advised that the Demand Estimation Sub Committee (DESC) identified, over the time period 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2017, Pearson correlation coefficients of 96.8% between Filton and Yeovilton and 97.5% between Filton and St Athan.

¹ The Profiling Expert Group (PEG) is an impartial expert advisory group to the SVG on matters relating to the BSC's profiling arrangements.

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2.4 Given the higher correlation coefficient between Filton and Yeovilton, and the lack of time-series data from Almondsbury, we recommend using Yeovilton as the replacement back-up station for _K on an enduring basis.

3. Recommendations

3.1 We invite you to:

- a) **APPROVE** Yeovilton as the back-up weather station for GSP Group _K.

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