



GAS FORUM
Draft Minutes from the NRPS Workgroup 11/01
24th January 2011
Gemserv, 10 Fenchurch Street London EC3M 3BE

Attendees:

Colette Baldwin – E.ON (Chair)
Neil McKeown – Electralink
Andrew Wallace – Ofgem
Cesar Coelho - Ofgem
David Watson – British Gas
Anne Jackson – SSE
Brett Robinson – Tibco
Miquel Mendes – We Do Technologies
Fiona Burgess – Teccura
Dan Simmons – EDF
Mary Byrne – Sopra
Will Siddall – IBM
Andy Tanner – Revenue Assurance
Dan McMillan – Detica
Malcolm Wright – G4S
Sasha Pearce – npower
Michael Spencer – Experian
Mike Gibson – Sohn Associates
Steve Mulinganie - Gazprom

1. Introduction

David Watson (Centrica) asked that given the audience present no cost or commercial issues should be discussed in this meeting, which all members present agreed to.

Colette Baldwin (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief overview of the progress to date of the Workgroup.

CB considered that the work of the Group was going to plan and also confirmed that the discussions to date with the Information Commissioner had been very high level and that she would be updating the ICO on a regular basis once more detail regarding the type/nature of the data involved was agreed.

2. Data Latency/Frequency (main agenda item)

CB asked that the Group walked through a list of the data items that had been compiled to date (lifted from the RFI) and requested that members identify any additional data items that they believed should be added to the main data catalogue.

A number of data items were suggested as potentially beneficial to the NRPS service going forward and CB added them to the main spreadsheet along with the data sources that these items would be drawn from.

One member considered a comparison to that experienced by cable/satellite companies when attempting to identify 'theft' cases and conveyed that the issue became onerous once the customer in question moved address, and therefore tracking the owner became problematic.

Members responded by stating that as all Suppliers would be signatories to the service this issue should be mitigated given that all data would therefore be 'pooled'.

Data clustering was cited by one member as a way of identifying individuals, and it was further commented that data in Utilities has been historically of a poor quality, and this in itself is seen as critical for the delivery of the service.

Data agility was cited as being extremely important however it was commented that distinct systems across different suppliers may cause issues as all data items may not be provided in a uniform manner, members responded by stating that third parties should be able to receive multiple file formats to mitigate this issue.

It was also commented that a robust governance/change control process should be put in place that would allow for timely changes to be made to the service. Members also considered that compliance data would have to come into play and to a large extent this would be mandated by the ICO.

A number of the service providers present commented that they would wish to gather both Supplier and xoserve data to determine mismatches and suggested that Land Registry data and Street Works data would also be beneficial when identifying specific data sets.

It was agreed by the Group that in terms of frequency the more regular updates the better to ensure a more up to date view of the data, this would also mitigate the issue of changes in tenancy, however it was also commented that certain data items i.e. cyclic meter reading info could still be provided at current levels.

It was generally agreed that service providers should accept all data at any time, and would then be able to choose at what point they utilise the data, and may therefore store some data items for future use/profiling.

3. Questions regarding provision of services

CB went on to ask the service providers present if they had any questions relating to the provision of the NRPS service.

- What was the update on the electricity crossover?

CB stated that gas was currently more developed however confirmed that the aspiration still remained for electricity to be aligned. CB went on to say that the discussions within the DCUSA Group had centred around ironing out the responsibilities between DNO's and also the determination of obligations and incentives. CB also confirmed that because of the potential crossover with electricity it had been decided that the tender would need to be progressed through the OJEC process.

- Did the RFI process deliver what is set out to do?

CB considered that overall the RFI process had delivered. It was also generally felt that the overall costs cited by respondees were at the level anticipated by the Group. It was also confirmed that some service providers had not responded with models that aligned with the initial thoughts of the group.

- How is the funding/financing going to work in practice for the service?

CB confirmed that this question would not be considered in this forum.

- What is the revised timeline following receipt of the RFI responses?

CB responded by saying that a revised RFI will have to be issued, which will become a precursor to the tendering exercise.

- Would the NRPS Group consider a phased approach to implementation (given that some providers would be in a better position to go live earlier)?

CB stated that the intention was to have a single cutover, however a 'drip feed' approach may work depending on volumes that would make the service viable.

- What is the opt out model for Suppliers?

CB considered that Suppliers would be able to nominate to take the NRPS service or alternatively nominate to take their own revenue protection service but they would still be expected to report back (using a common set of data) their findings/output to the NRPS service as this would benefit the whole industry.

- What is the current view of the size of the issue of theft within the industry?

CB responded by saying that there are varying views among the industry as to the actual size of the issue, and therefore this cannot be answered easily. It was also commented that smart metering may drive out instances of theft that may previously have been 'hidden'.

- Who is going to procure the NRPS service?

CB responded by saying that there maybe a number of options, and these could include the use of existing Code/Governance arrangements. Another option could be to create an off the shelf company to procure the service.

Ofgem's view

Andrew Wallace (Ofgem) stated that the Impact Assessment would consider all models including the SETS scheme put forward by British Gas, and that the IA would be published in early April. AW also pointed out that a licence condition may have to be enacted for the creation of an NRPS service.

Close

CB closed the meeting and thanked all the attendees, CB confirmed that the draft spreadsheet would be circulated to the Group for review, and asked that for any additional items to be sent to the

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