

Report on Northern Powergrid's (NPg) Independent Stakeholder Group (ISG) meeting

#1 February 2025

Summary

Discussed in this meeting were the standing items of; the delivery of NPg's business plan, updates from the Business Plan Engagement Group (BPEG) leads and an update on NPg's DSO Review Panel¹.

The meeting also included updates on Clean Power 2030 and the transitional Regional Energy Strategy Plans (tRESP), as well as some broader updates on the recent Storm Eowyn, and progress with the connections queue.

The Director of Data and Innovation joined this meeting to provide insights into Digital for 2025 and beyond, as well as to share what has been happening in Innovation.

NPg Broader Business Updates

NPg believes its response to Storm Eowyn went well, and it was much quicker with its welfare support to customers and generally felt that its' customers felt pretty supported. 'Preparedness' emails were issued to everyone NPg hold an email address for.

It is yet to be determined but NPg hope to hold Connections webinars every 6-8 weeks for its customers, to cover the details as they change, and to take the customers along the journey with them. Drop-in sessions are being explored on specific topics.

DSO Review Panel

It was confirmed the first draft of the annual report has been prepared and will be discussed with NPg colleagues at the next Quarterly DSO meeting (26-Feb). The report is scheduled to be published at the end of March.

The DRP has its outlook of agendas drafted and coming up it will look at DSO / DNO interface, demand turnup and the interaction between flex and ANM, energy efficiency and further work with vulnerable customers is also scheduled.

Business Plan Updates

The ISG were joined by a member of the Performance and Planning team who had been helping NPg produce a report to help the ISG better monitor NPg's performance against its business plan commitments, and to help identify any areas which might need to be looked at in greater detail.

¹ Find out more about Northern Powergrid's Distribution System Operation Review Panel here: [DSO Review Panel | Northern Powergrid](#)

The ISG felt the new report was a step in the right direction and offered additional suggestions to strengthen it further.

Digital and Innovation (formerly Information Systems) update

The Director of Digital and Innovation joined the meeting. Innovation has recently just come under his directorate and he sees this an opportunity, acknowledging it will bring some challenges too. His ambition is that Innovation would become a culture, and not just a series of projects.

Business Plan Engagement Group (BPEG) update

NPg are working on an AI Triangulation tool to help improve the quality of its stakeholder engagement and how it responds to what it hears. It will shortly be ready to test.

NPg is also building an Online Community. It aims to recruit its members in March, and it is hoped this will be a fundamental part of NPg's BPEG process.

Clean Power 2030 Update

NPg commented that this is a very fast moving and complex space and Ofgem has now issued a consultation with a great amount of detail which is now under review.

transitional Regional Energy Strategy Plans (tRESP)

It was noted there are lots of parallels with CP2030 and the tRESP - particularly that they are both fast moving. The tRESP is a transitional RESP product made necessary due to the ED3 timeline overlapping with NESO's development of their RESP team and capabilities. NPg has responded to Ofgem's RIIO-ED3 Framework Consultation on this.

Timelines have been established for the regional NESO Boards, however they won't be established until next year, so there is no Board currently overseeing the tRESP. Ofgem will sign off the methodology and will instruct DNOs to follow NESO guidance.

¹ Find out more about Northern Powergrid's Distribution System Operation Review Panel here: [DSO Review Panel | Northern Powergrid](#)