

Minutes and actions of the National Grid Electricity Transmission Independent Stakeholder Group (ISG) Meeting 13

ISG	NGET-ISG13
Meeting Date:	8 th May 2025
Location:	NG office, The Strand, London
Start Time:	9:30 – 16:20
Attendees:	<p>Chair: Trisha McAuley (TM)</p> <p>Technical Secretary:</p> <p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoe McLeod (ZM), Independent Consumer Advocate • Jane Cooper (JCo), Renewable UK – Afternoon attendance • Alex Schoch (AS), Octopus Energy • Roz Bulleid (RBd), Green Alliance • Paul Wakeley (PW), NESO • Cheryl Hiles (CH), West Midlands Combined Authority • Eddie Proffitt (EP), Major Energy Users Council • Karl Drage (KD), Noventa Energy • Denise Massey (DM), Energy Innovation Centre <p>National Grid Representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alice Delahunty (AD), National Grid Electricity Transmission, President (online) • Rob Salter-Church (RSC), National Grid Electricity Transmission, Regulation Director • Tom Spencer (TS) National Grid Electricity Transmission, Corporate Affairs Senior Business Partner (online) • Martin Winter (MW) National Grid Electricity Transmission, Regulatory Policy Senior Manager • Lydia Ogilvie (LO) National Grid Electricity Transmission, Head of ET Corporate Affairs. <p>For agenda item ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P12 Scorecard • T3 Update • Strategic Demand Connections • Forward calendar, ToR and ISG ways of working
Apologies:	<p>ISG Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stew Horne (SH), Energy Savings Trust

Minutes

Agenda Reference	Minutes
1.	<p>Welcome from the Chair</p> <p>The ISG Meeting 13 focused on reviewing National Grid Electricity Transmission's (NGET) performance, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and regulatory developments.</p> <p>Performance Review (FY25) NGET presented the FY25 scorecard, noting strong performance in several areas despite challenges. The following performance highlights were discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong delivery in safety, cyber targets, and inclusion metrics. • Underperformance in asset interventions and profit due to North Hyde incident. • Connections delivery exceeded targets; customer satisfaction high. • Staff morale improved due to leadership and strategic clarity <p>RIO-T3 Update NGET provided an update on Ofgem's RIO-T3 Draft Determinations, expected in June. NGET shared how engagement with Ofgem had improved compared to T2. There was a discussion about how a new NDA with other Transmission Operators (TOs) will allow data sharing to support benchmarking and cost assessments. ISG members raised concerns about optioneering, asset investment clarity, and the need for robust consumer insight to justify funding.</p> <p>Strategic Demand Connections TS led a session on strategic demand connections, highlighting increased demand driven by AI Growth Zones, economic development, and foundational industries. NGET is seeing unprecedented requests for capacity, including temporary substations. Members discussed reputational risks, the need for clearer communication with stakeholders unfamiliar with the energy sector, and the importance of aligning with DNOs. There was consensus on the need for anticipatory investment and reform of planning and re-opener mechanisms to respond to fast-changing demand. Six key challenges were raised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leadership in Strategic Demand: NGET should use its convening power to lead on strategic demand, offering clarity and solutions. 2. Reputational Risk Management: A communication strategy is needed to explain demand growth and deliverability challenges, including the customer journey. 3. Political Risk Awareness: NGET must proactively manage risks tied to political cycles and infrastructure planning. 4. Place-Based Investment: Consideration of location-driven investment strategies to support regional growth. 5. Broader Stakeholder Engagement: Expand engagement beyond trade associations to capture diverse insights. 6. Regulatory Experimentation: Explore the use of Ofgem's regulatory sandbox to test innovative approaches. <p>Governance and Forward Planning The ISG discussed its ways of working, including membership expansion to include DNO representation and independent experts. Ofgem expressed interest</p>

	<p>in engaging with the ISG before the Draft Determination. Actions were agreed to support ISG’s response to the DD, review stakeholder and innovation charters, and improve challenge tracking via dashboards.</p> <p>The group emphasized the need for forward-looking performance metrics and deeper understanding of stakeholder engagement outcomes. A proposal for deep dives into engagement practices was requested, and a high-level summary of the North Hyde report was scheduled for the next meeting.</p>
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