

Sustainability Working Group meeting with UK Power Networks



UK Power Networks
**Customer
Engagement
Group**

Date: Thursday 23 July 2020

Time: 12.00am to 2.00pm

Time and date

12.00am to 2.00pm, Thursday 23 July 2020

Attendees

CEG

Dan Byles
Nigel Cornwall
Jeff Hardy
Ralitsa Hiteva
Phil Lawton
John Hargreaves
Nick Pollard

UK Power Networks

James Hope
Max Taylor
Ross Thompson
Sotiris Georgiopoulos
Sam Bould (KPMG)

Agenda

12.00am	Introductions and overview of session
12.20pm	Overview of UKPNs approach to DSO
1:30pm	Question and answer
1.50pm	AOB

Meeting summary

UKPN and the SWG met to discuss:

- (i) An introduction to the concept of the Distribution System Operator (DSO), including developing an understanding of the strategic direction of the DSO, its key aims, themes, drivers and challenges/risks stemming from the transition;
- (ii) An overview of the key DSO stakeholder engagements, including those feeding into development of consumer priorities and business plan development;
- (iii) An overview of the interaction of the DSO transition with other key developments such as the deployment of Net Zero technologies; and
- (iv) An overview of the key upcoming business plan timing & development points around the DSO plan development.

Discussion

Key discussion and steer focused on:

- (i) The group discussed the impact the length of DSO transition process might have on development of delivery on areas such as demand side response;

- (ii) The initial drivers and concepts which lead to the DSO idea in practice, and how UKPN had played a key role spearheading DSO transition through smart network initiatives;
- (iii) Assumptions around the potential future DSO separation timelines;
- (iv) An overview / discussion on key areas of expenditures forming around the DSO and the potential transition to an independent system operator; and
- (v) Implications around vulnerability and equity, driven by the DSO transition and the concept of not leaving any consumers behind within the transition.

Actions and next steps

Action – UKPN to share internal thinking on the implications of the Draft Determinations (DD) from an environmental perspective.

Action – UKPN to develop heat map analysis for DSO spend.

Action – UKPN to share materials which outline how a DSO might work in practice at its “end state” including its interactions with and benefits for customers.

Action – UKPN to share materials which outline considerations and mitigations for potentially hard to reach and “left behind” groups within DSO transition.

Action – UKPN to circulate any internal papers considering the risks of DSO transition.