

Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF) Advisory Council Meeting 02 Minutes

Date: Thursday 15 September 2022
Time: 09:30 – 16:00
Venue: Herbert Park Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.
Chair: Liam Ryan

Council Member Attendees:	Representing
Alan McHugh	Consultancy
Brian Diskin	Government
Carsten Junge	Manufacturer
David Hill	DSO
Donal Smith	Developers
Ellen Diskin	DSO
Frank Burke	Storage
Jag Basi (online)	Conventional Production
Joe Duddy	New Technology
John Fitzgerald	New Technology
Kate Garth	Renewables
Mark Alexander	TSO
Neil Morris	Large Energy Users
Noel Cunniffe	Renewables
Paddy Finn	Demand Response
Patrick Mohr	Consultancy
Paul Bell (online)	Regulators
Paul Blount	Renewables
Peter Harte	New Technology
Dylan Ashe (part. online)	Regulators
Robin McCormick	Consultancy
Rory Mullan	Renewables
Seamus Howard	Manufacturer
Thomas O'Sullivan	Large Energy Users
Tony Hearne	DSO

Apologies:

Brian Mongan, Federico Rueda Londono, Fred Mitchell, Jane McArdle, Margaret Nee, Michael Conlon, Trevor Harron, Robert O'Rourke.

Welcome & Intro – Liam Ryan, EirGrid

- Liam Ryan gave an overview of the [Terms of Reference](#) for the Advisory Council.
- Welcome to all new members.

System Summary Data – Liam Ryan, EirGrid

- All island summary shown.

DSO TSO Joint Programme of Work – Ellen Diskin, ESBN / Eoin Kennedy, EirGrid

- Eoin Kennedy and Ellen Diskin provided a high-level overview of the joint TSO-DSO programme of work and the associated draft 2023-2027 Multi-Year Plan.
- Four workstreams (Secure Future Power System, Facilitating New Technologies, Reducing Dispatch Down of Renewables, Whole of System Approach) were presented and discussed.
- Feedback, input and engagement from Advisory Council requested.
- Consideration of hydrogen discussed.
- Potential role of storage discussed.
- Maximising utilisation of the existing grid discussed.
- Optimisation of outage planning discussed.
- Revenue streams and the potential for revenue stacking across system services and DSO flexibility services discussed.
- Ellen/Eoin requested formal stakeholder feedback to the consultation on the 2023-2027 Multi Year Plan when it launches shortly.
- Broader TSO-DSO engagement with stakeholders on the Multi Year Plan via a roundtable / webinar event planned for 19 September.

Member Presentation 1 – Noel Cunniffe, WEI

- Noel Cunniffe gave high-level overview of the WEI [Bridging the Gap](#) report, explaining the need to reduce carbon. A faster deployment of enabling solutions offers further opportunity to reduce the CO2 emitted from the Irish power sector.
- Carbon budgets discussed.
- 2030 targets discussed in relation to government and EU guidelines.
- Reduction of carbon and curtailment required.
- Key findings shown in slide deck.
- Engagement within the renewable sector discussed and key messages for V1.1.
- Suggested areas for consideration in relation to delivery of SOEF.
- Grid code and market opportunities discussed.
- Council members noted the requirement to establish a problem statement outlining key success factors.
- The problem statement should include 80% RES-E by 2030, reliable and secure, allowing economy to grow, emissions ceilings to remain below (legally) and value to the customer.
- Heat and transport relationship with the electricity sector discussed. Reduction of emissions requires cross sector engagement.
- Technology neutral approach discussed.

ACTION: To consider the expansion of the SOEF Advisory Council Membership to allow representation from the heat and transport sector.

ACTION: Establish problem statement for SOEF and share with council members in advance of the next meeting.

Member Presentation 2 – Paul Blount, Future Energy Ireland

- Paul Blount presented a high-level proposal for a Storage Services Procurement Framework for Ireland as a solution to network constraints, renewables oversupply and clean peaking capacity provision.
- Ability to shift energy volumes discussed.
- Schedule and Dispatch – charging in a merit order discussed.
- Storage of the future will not solely be related to curtailment of wind but also be a function of the electrification of heat.

Markets Discussion – Brendan O’ Sullivan, EirGrid / Niamh Delaney, EirGrid

Scheduling & Dispatch

- Brendan O Sullivan gave an overview presentation on the scheduling and dispatch programme of work.
- Industry engagement and feedback discussed around prioritisations. Also considering how changes can be made as part of multiple drops and not just one big drop.

Future Arrangements System Services

- Niamh Delaney gave an informative presentation on Future Arrangements System Services.
- The path to enhanced operational capabilities and looking forward to 2026 and 2030 discussed.
- Provision of system services from new technology discussed.
- Risk of stalling of investments and ambition of targets discussed.
- Detailed design phase is being led by the Regulatory Authorities.
- 3 industry workshops planned for end of 2022.
- Timelines discussed – the TSOs estimate that the most optimistic delivery date is for October 2025 and this assumes timely decision making by the Regulatory Authorities. The Regulatory Authorities are intending to host industry workshops beginning in October (originally planned for end September).
- The Renewables representative group raised concerns re Regulatory Authorities Engagement on critical market projects for future industry investments to deliver the Government renewables targets as outlined in SOEF.
- Utility Regulatory NI noted these comments on urgency and regulatory engagement. They advised that both Regulatory Authorities are prioritising resources to this area going forward. They appreciate movement has been less than maximum over the summer following High Level Design publication.

Networks Discussion – Matthew Staunton, EirGrid

- Matthew Staunton gave an update presentation on the networks programme.
- Discussions took place around planning permission and handover of projects for development.
- ESNB noted alignment of windfarm outages, transmission and distribution.
- Coordination of outages discussed.
- Limitations and long-term trends discussed.
- Constraints in Northern Ireland and the importance of completing North-South interconnector to reduce constraints discussed.
- Increase on NI system discussed – mitigations required on N-S constraints.
- 2030 estimations and targets discussed – may add risk to delivery of 2050 targets if delayed. Network/Gas/Electricity would need to be considered with a holistic view.

ACTION: N-S timelines to be communicated with Advisory Council Members

Public Engagement Discussion – Sinead Dooley, EirGrid

- Sinead Dooley gave a detailed presentation on recent public engagement sessions, outlining the positive feedback and any issues that arose.
- Information and input received helps shape the roadmap.
- Rural workshops had shown people wanted clean green engagement, micro generation projects were discussed, which helped to shape 'EirGrid Energy Citizen Roadshow'.
- Infrastructure and grid usage discussed. Explaining the need for infrastructure and social acceptance.
- Dublin infrastructure Forum – open to offers for communications.
- Repowering EU discussed.
- Undergrounding projects and future infrastructure strategy discussed.

Operations Discussion – Eoin Kennedy, EirGrid

- Eoin Kennedy gave an overview of the Operations programme of work highlighting key activities to date and planned future activities.
- TSOs working across four Operations workstreams to deliver changes to operational policy to facilitate more renewables on the power system.
- Control Centre Tools and their usage by grid controllers discussed.
- General approach to Grid Code modifications (i.e. retrospective application) discussed.
- Operational Policy Roadmap shown and discussed with the focus of the discussion on the current 2030 target of 4 or less units for the Minimum Units constraint.
- A recent AEMO publication setting out plans for reducing from a 2 min unit constraint to a 1 min unit constraint in South Australia was discussed.
- Discussion on various aspects of the work ongoing on hybrid connections with a focus on the ability of hybrids to increase generation capacity factors and optimise use of transmission and distribution infrastructure.

SOEF V1.1 Discussion – Robbie Aherne, EirGrid

- Robbie Aherne gave an overview of the upcoming SOEF Version 1.1 highlighting the key change from 70% RES-E to 80% RES-E.
- A brief history of Version 1.0 and the preliminary analysis for Version 1.1 shown and discussed.
- Various engagement levels discussed.
- Slides shown to Advisory Council in context for analysis. Nonlinear progress from 70 to 80% RES-E discussed.
- Social acceptance and aggressive assumptions discussed.
- Operation of the power system and transition is dependent on clarity from RAs/Dept and input from industry.
- Proposed contents shown and discussed.

ACTION: Engagement with Advisory Council Members will be required in advance of the publication of SOEF Version 1.1.

AOB – Liam Ryan, EirGrid.

- No other business discussed.

Actions	Owner
Establish problem statement for SOEF and share with council members in advance of the next meeting.	TSO
To consider the expansion of the SOEF Advisory Council Membership to allow representation from the heat and transport sector	TSO
North -South delivery timelines to be communicated with Advisory Council Members	TSO
Engagement with Advisory Council Members will be required in advance of the publication of SOEF Version 1.1.	TSO

Next meeting: 18 January 2023