

Minutes of the Metering Committee Meeting 19

11 October 2022 | 09:30 – 12:40 | Via MS Teams

Status of Minutes: **APPROVED**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Formoy	SF	Chair*	Christina Blackwell	CB	Customer Representative Member
Mark Doherty	MD	Retailer Member	Angela Brown	AB	Wholesaler Member
Paul Heron	PH	Retailer Member	Kevin McCalliskey	KM	Wholesaler Member
Claire Stanness	CS	Retailer Member	Rosie Rand	RR	Wholesaler Member
Shaun Kent	SK	Owat Representative*	Michelle Thompson	MT	Wholesaler Member
John Davies	JD	MOSL Representative*	Mitchell Yeoman-Boldry	MYB	Wholesaler Member

**Non-Voting Members of the Committee*

OTHER ATTENDEES

Martin Hall	MH	MOSL Presenter	Alex Cowie	AC	MOSL Secretariat
Simon Bennett	SPB	MOSL Presenter	Ivy Mandinyenya	IM	MOSL Observer
Adrian Smith	AS	MOSL Presenter	Harriet George	HG	MOSL Observer
Dean Marshallsay	DM	Artesia Presenter	Joanne Barnes	JB	Anglian Water Observer
Giles Fox	GF	Artesia Presenter	John Briggs	JBg	MOSL Observer

APOLOGIES

Ben Kershaw	BK	Retailer Member
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1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the Metering Committee (“Committee”) meeting.
- 1.2. It was noted that apologies had been received from BK and that agenda item 7 ‘Quick Start Project 3 – Read Rejections’ would drop off and be picked up either at a subsequent meeting or ex-Committee.
- 1.3. The Chair drew attendees’ attention to the MOSL recording policy and reminded members that, in line with section 5.7 of the Market Arrangements Code (“MAC”), they were to act impartially and not in the interest or as a representative of any organisation or individual.
- 1.4. It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meetings

- 2.1. The Committee agreed to approve the minutes of the Metering Committee meeting held on 06 September as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 2.2. It was agreed that the following actions would be closed: A16_01, A11_03 and A16_04.

3. Programme Overview

- 3.1. The Committee noted a verbal update from MH on an initial draft metering roadmap that built out the interactions and interdependencies of Committee's workstreams and had been developed with the Strategic Panel Metering and Data Subset.
- 3.2. The Committee discussed the programme overview, noting the following key points.
 - There was broad support for the metering roadmap presented. Thought it was agreed that there was a further opportunity to detail the expected benefit of each workstream and demonstrate how it will support delivery of the Strategic Panel's priority market outcomes.
 - Recognising that it is not possible to include all of the detail in a roadmap, it would be useful for the roadmap to drill down into the key decision points, milestones, and attainable success measures. It was further noted that each of these decision points could affect how the future direction and delivery of other parts of the roadmap and the illustration of the interdependencies between the workstreams was welcomed.
 - It would be beneficial to include additional detail on the environmental considerations for each strand of the roadmap and how this programme will have a positive impact.
 - The customer representative questioned whether 'end visual reading process' should be included as a desired outcome, and whether they could or should ever be phased out entirely while maintaining good customer service. The ability for customers to enter visual reads was regarded as important and should not be discarded as a by-product of any changes.
 - Draft Water Resource Management Plans were expected to be available to be published by wholesalers in November and it would be important for the MOSL team to keep on top of the approach and for the Committee to review the approach being taken by the market when they are available so what is happening in the market can be factored into future work.
 - There was support from the Committee for the three emerging groupings for the Committee's work:
 - developing a national metering strategy;
 - improving meter reading processes; and
 - making granular consumption data available to all.
 - There was an appetite to explore what a national strategy for metering could look like, including how interoperability issues could be addressed and differentiated approaches for large and small meters and varying consumption levels. In this context it was noted that it would be beneficial to consider existing research that has been undertaken in

other sectors, albeit recognising that the water market is very different to other utilities. Any national metering strategy working group should also consider its interaction with the Market Performance Framework Reform Programme, although this should apply equally to the other work groupings.

- The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to establish a small subgroup to explore the development of a national metering strategy and that MH would approach Committee members who had expressed an interest offline to form that subgroup. It was further agreed that MH would approach the Central Markets Agency in Scotland for their thoughts on a national metering strategy, present on this to the Major Energy Users Forum and follow up with CB and CCW to see how the customer voice could be brought in.

ACTION MC19_01

4. Project AMIDST

JB, GF and DM joined the meeting

- 4.1. The Committee received an update from MT on the findings and recommendations of Project AMIDST, a Market Improvement Fund (“MIF”) project that aims to investigate how AMI smart meter read data can be automatically entered to the Central Market Operating System (“CMOS”) by creating an online pathfinder platform that can be used by wholesalers to directly share available AMI data in a standard format, amongst other capabilities.
- 4.2. The Committee noted that the next steps for Project AMIDST included:
 - presentations to key groups such as the Committee and the Strategic Panel to garner support to progress the report’s recommendations and for a webinar making those recommendations to market stakeholders;
 - promotion of the interim solution, uptake of the MVI-API to automatically transfer wholesaler reads into CMOS and for retailers to adopt the T105-R process subject to confirmation from MOSL that issues (such as capacity limits) had been identified and resolved and the successful completion of a pilot programme to test the API solution; and
 - Anglian Water to work with MOSL to monitor the accuracy of settlement from monthly AMI meter reads versus historical accuracy and build evidence supporting potential future Code changes.
- 4.3. The Committee discussed the findings and recommendations, noting the following key points:
 - A review undertaken by another wholesaler of uptake of their AMI meter reads being entered into CMOS indicated that, of 30,000 AMI meter reads in one month, 20-40% of reads were entered within a week and 75% within two weeks rising to 80% over a longer time period. This data was seen as extremely positive and highlighted the potential impact of the Project AMIDST work.
 - Ultimately, the interim solution would only be successful if wholesaler and retailers worked together and used the MVI-API that had been developed and a key part of the next steps would be to promote the MVI-API and provide educational tools to try and encourage uptake.

- The challenges of implementing a long-term solution that made wholesaler reads able to be entered directly into CMOS and be settlement affecting were highlighted and it was noted that as those challenges were worked through over time the interim solution could end up being used in the market for a number of years.
- The MOSL team would need to consider CMOS capacity to ensure that the system is able to cope with any significant upsurge in meter reads as a result of the roll out of smart metering programmes.
- There was a broad consensus that the project would benefit from a pilot programme with a retailer or retailers to further test the MVI-API solution and identify any bugs. MD indicated that he would be interested in exploring the possibility of involvement in a pilot programme.

4.4. The Chair thanked MT and JB for their presentation.

JB and JBg left the meeting

5. Data Sharing Standardisation

- 5.1. The Committee received an update from DM and GF on the progress of the data sharing standardisation workstream and feedback received from the stakeholder engagement programme.
- 5.2. The Committee briefly discussed the stakeholder engagement feedback, noting that:
 - It would be important for Artesia to consider the GDPR implications of their data interoperability standard at each stage as the work progresses, including as the data gathered is shared more widely.
 - It would be important for the final data standard adopted to allow sufficient flexibility to adapt to future customer wants and needs and to act as an enabler of innovation in the market.
 - The final data standard would need to allow the ability to request data in different frequencies (e.g. 15 minute or hourly data).
 - Challenges around increase in data volumes retailers would be required to store if they are provided with granular consumption data were noted along with the potential benefits of a central data platform, although it was recognised that this was potentially outside the scope of this workstream and should be considered as part of the Metering Roles and Responsibilities work central data platform option.
 - There would be the potential for unintended consequences, and the impact on the competitive dynamics of the market if there is a sudden spike in data volumes should be considered as part of the project.
 - It would be worth considering the issues posed by logger data, including whether it would be possible to tie logger reads back to a manual read entered into CMOS in order to avoid a divergence in read values.
 - It was recommended that Artesia ensures that customer groups are included as part of their stakeholder engagement work.

- 5.3. The Committee noted that the project was progressing on time and that Artesia expected to produce an initial draft standard by the start of November, consult on and iterate the standard through the end of November/early December and deliver the final data interoperability standard by the end of the calendar year.
- 5.4. The Chair thanked DM and GF for their presentation and noted that they would present the initial draft data standard at the November Committee meeting.

DM and GF left the meeting

6. Roles and Responsibilities Phase 2

- 6.1. MH provided a brief verbal update on the progress in establishing the next phase of the Metering Roles and Responsibilities strategic theme, including ongoing efforts to define the scope of the work to be delivered by any external consultant.

7. QSP 9 Standard Meter Locations

- 7.1. The Committee received a verbal update from AB on the draft Retail Wholesaler Group (“RWG”) good practice guidance for standardising the meter location free descriptor, including a possible change proposal to introduce a free text field to capture WhatThreeWords.
- 7.2. The Committee discussed the draft RWG good practice guidance, noting the following key points:
 - There was a broad concern around the implementation of WhatThreeWords alongside XY coordinates, and the difficulties of maintaining two data sources. It would be important to review the advantages of focusing resources to improve XY as a data item, over the addition of a free text field to capture WhatThreeWords. The change proposal should also consider the future commercial challenges of pairing with this organisation and how an additional item will link with the MPF.
 - It would be important for the Committee to hear the outcomes of a feasibility study, in particular those that are already implementing WhatThreeWords into their systems. This would provide some insight on the benefits vs challenges of maintaining two data sources.
 - It would be beneficial for the appropriate abbreviations to have greater consistency throughout the guidance.
 - The guidance should consider potential challenges of sharing videos across systems that e.g. demonstrate how a meter reader has accessed a meter pit.
 - It would be useful for the guidance to provide greater insight on the process enabling Trading Parties to move between the different levels.
 - It would be beneficial to run a pilot test of the processes detailed in the guidance to determine their understanding of how it should feel to operate at the different levels and measure whether the anticipated benefits are being realised.
- 7.3. Following discussion, it was agreed that AB, SPB and CS would review the Committee’s feedback with the RWG group and share a revised draft of the RWG good practice guidance with the Committee for further review at a subsequent meeting.

- 7.4. The Chair thanked AB for her presentation.

8. Tabled Updates

- 8.1. The Committee noted the Tabled Updates paper circulated in advance of the meeting detailing progress on the Committee's workstreams and metering-related projects.
- 8.2. It was confirmed that Quick Start Projects 11 ('New Connections') and 14 ('Wholesaler Reads Part 2') had been suspended and that there was no further action required by the Committee on these work areas at this point. The Committee noted that work in relation to new connections was being taken forward by the RWG New Connections Sub Group and that work on wholesaler reads would be picked up as part of the follow on to Project AMIDST.
- 8.3. Discussion of submeters and consideration of looking at submeters and replacement to another quick start project was recapped. It was noted that this work is included in next year's plan as a potential quick start project, but that background work is already underway in terms of looking into CMOS changes and costings.

9. AOB, including reflections from the meeting

- 9.1. SPB raised an AOB relating to wholesaler meter accuracy tests, asking whether wholesalers were undertaking any such testing and, if so, how frequently. Wholesaler Committee members indicated a willingness to share data on this and it was recommended that SPB reach out to additionally contact WRC, who have been testing a sample of household meters for accuracy, for further information.
- 9.2. The Committee reflected on the meeting.
- 9.3. There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting.