

Minutes of the meeting of the Network Connections Technical Group

Held on 17 April 2024, 9.00am to 5.00pm
EA Office, Level 7 AON Centre, 1 Willis Street

Members present:	Grant Benvenuti (Chair), Gavin Bonnett, Ronald Beatty, Michael Gibbs, Howard Wood, Paul Blue, Matt Gazzard, James Byrne, Tim Edmonds, Trent Tscheuschler, Stuart Johnston, Anna Li, Rupert Holbrook, Suzanne Doran
In attendance:	Allen Davison, Katherine Hume-Pike, Jasper Eaton
Guests:	Stephen Batstone & David Reeve (Sapere) and James Walker (Drive Electric) (12.45-1.45pm)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The EA gave a brief update on its progress to update Part 6 in response to NCTG comments provided at the 8 April meeting and post meeting.

2. Reviewing NCTG comment provided post 8 April

- 2.1. The NCTG reviewed member comment on the change proposal put forward at the 8 April meeting. Overall, the NCTG was supportive. Key issues included:
 - adopting some CMF elements for networks but not all
 - ensuring there are finite timeframes to approve or decline applications
 - the value of a 3-stage process for large capacity applications
 - the importance of clear capacity rights
 - a view that prescribed terms for load may be valuable
 - the value of mandatory initial fees to deter 'tyre kickers.'

3. Discussion of draft Part 6 clauses

- 3.1. The NCTG discussed draft Part 6 clauses put forward by the Authority.
- 3.2. The NCTG were supportive of a network connections pipeline, and greater visibility of network capacity, and discussed ways to do this efficiently. The NCTG supported a switch from nameplate capacity to maximum export power for DG.
- 3.3. The NCTG proposed entirely separate processes for DG and load, rather than combined clauses for both. The Authority agreed to this approach.

3.4. The NCTG discussed the importance of prioritising applications to increase throughput and ensuring alignment as much as possible with Transpower's approach.

4. Sapere presentation on the barriers to connect load

4.1. Sapere presented on the barriers to connect EV chargers and other load and answered NCTG questions. The study was funded by Drive Electric.

5. Continued discussion of draft Part 6 clauses

5.1. There were various NCTG opinions on where the thresholds for load applications should sit. It was agreed that the Authority would confer with the load access seekers in the NCTG to determine the most appropriate thresholds and come back to the NCTG.

5.2. The NCTG were supportive of using a similar approach for load as Part 6 uses for DG. There was some discussion of whether a streamlined process (e.g. Part 1A) could be used for load, but this was thought difficult for large load applications. The NCTG agreed to use kVA for load rather than kW.

6. Next meeting

6.1. The NCTG agreed 11.00am Friday 26 April for its next meeting. The meeting concluded at 4.30pm.

7. Summary of outstanding action points

Action	Who	When
Provide a more complete and updated draft Part 6	Authority	26/04/24

Confirming that the NCTG has approved that the meeting minutes are a true and correct record.

Dated 24 February 2025



Grant Benvenuti

Chair