

EIP002

Can we streamline the wayleaves and consenting process?

Problem Statement Details

We are seeing a large number of requests for connections work associated with the installation of heat pumps and electric vehicle chargers. Our current process for receiving consent to carry out work, such as unlooping of services, follows our standard process for all wayleaves, involving an external agency to contact customers to arrange consents. This adds time and cost to the process. We want to streamline the process and improve data quality and completeness through a digital self-service wayleaves platform.

We would like to develop a digital platform that would allow customers to consent to work on their land and, where required, would allow their neighbours to consent to work being undertaken on adjacent land. This would create a more efficient process reducing time and cost.

In addition, the platform could be used to provide extra information to the DNO in addition that already provided, to further streamline the process. It could also give customers, particularly neighbours, information about the process of unlooping and what any potential work would entail. This would be useful in smoothing conversations that our operatives have on site with householders.

Key Stakeholders

Residential customers will be the key beneficiaries in getting faster LCT connections. DNOs will benefit from time, resource and cost savings.

Target Market

Our forecasts predict the installation of c. 140,000 EV chargers by the end of RIIO-ED2 (c. 120,000 in SEPD and c. 20,000 in SHEPD). We also forecast c. 120,000 heat pumps will be installed in the same time period (c. 90,000 in SEPD and c. 30,000 in SHEPD). Approximately 1 in 10 installations could require services to be unlooped. We would therefore estimate that we would be looking to use this service between 14,000 and 28,000 times in the next 5 years.

The requirement for this service would also continue for the longer term as home continue to decarbonise.

Enablers and Constraints

No enablers or constraints have been noted. However, it must be noted that a digital service will not be able to facilitate consents in all circumstances. The process must allow for other avenues to be pursued if, for example, properties are rented or in the event of neighbour disputes.

Scalability and Target Implementation Date

At a minimum, a successful solution will be able to be applied across the SSEN distribution areas facilitating the connection of up to c. 30,000 LCT devices in the next 5 years. In theory this approach can be adopted by all DNOs and has the potential to facilitate a huge number of connections across Great Britain. It may also be applicable to other nations.

Innovation Strategy Target Areas

Innovation Theme	Target Area	Primary or Secondary
Data and Digitalisation	<p>The shift to data-driven, digitally-enabled networks is critical as we move towards Net Zero.</p> <p>We need your help to drive standardisation, interoperability, security and digital skills whilst accelerating our transformation to data-driven networks by the mid 2030s.</p>	Secondary
Flexibility and Market Evolution	<p>Energy networks must quickly and efficiently respond to the rapidly evolving needs of the energy system transition. We need your support to eliminate barriers to new market entrants, deploy novel commercial and network management solutions whilst ensuring fair participation and eliminating regulatory barriers within the RIIO-2 price control periods.</p>	
Net zero and the energy system transition	<p>In order to meet the UK net zero targets of 2050 we must start converting our networks to deliver low carbon fuels today. We want to work with you to develop the role of our gas networks into the future by investigating, trialling, implementing and delivering safe, low carbon alternatives to natural gas such as Hydrogen.</p> <p>Net Zero requires connection of more low and zero carbon sources of energy generation, storage and demand to both the transmission and distribution networks. We need your innovative methods for effective network management and accessing flexibility to improve visibility, forecasting and modelling of low carbon technologies.</p>	Primary
Optimised assets and practices	<p>Innovation has a key role to play in ensuring our networks continue to remain reliable, safe, secure and resilient to our changing climate. We are constantly looking to improve and welcome support to identify methods to prevent interruptions, ensure resilience, reduce climate impact and future-proof our networks.</p>	Secondary
Supporting Consumers in Vulnerable Situations	<p>Equality and fairness are the foundations of a just transition to Net Zero. We hope you can provide insight into the transient and situational nature of vulnerability and how we can overcome the impact the energy system has on consumers, building strong relationships for the future.</p>	
Whole Energy System Transition	<p>The energy system must consider the full range of opportunities, risks and interdependencies that exist across the energy networks to integrate and optimise them in a way that best serves the consumer. We are looking for ways to improve visibility of the networks and transitional options, co-ordinate approaches and collaborate across the UK.</p>	