

- Article 18 – model contracts – DECC has appointed consultants to develop model contracts and best practice guidance – this work will include NI and should complete by end December.

## **Energy Services Agreement Forum**

- Minister has agreed to terminate. Letters will be with HOD by end September.

## **Grid Connections/ ETI Committee Review**

- Minister wants to chair a SEIDWG meeting re: grid issues following letters from NIRIG and NIAUR – no date arranged as yet.
- Meeting with NIE/SONI on cluster policy arranged for 22 September – re: impact on NIRO and FIT CfD.

## **Review of Small Scale ROC levels**

- Consultation on review of small scale ROC levels closes end September.
- NIRO biomass sustainability and reporting requirements consultation with HOD for clearance – needs to issue when Minister's box re-opens on 22nd as tabled for ETI Committee on 9 October.

## **RO/ NIRO Closure Order / grace periods**

- Draft consultation document on grace periods and closure being prepared – need a slot with HOD before end September to discuss prior to finalising consultation document.
- Will discuss grace periods with DECC on 24 September.

## **Small Scale FIT**

- Awaiting DSO and DECC legal advice on whether or not NI can join GB Small Scale FIT.
- Meeting with DECC 24 September to discuss options for Small Scale support when NIRO closes.

## **Community Energy**

- First inter-Departmental meeting on community energy arranged for 23 October. HoG to chair.

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY BRANCH (STUART)**

### **RHI Phase 1**

- Carbon Trust loan issue ongoing – Letter issued to Ofgem on interim arrangements for dealing with RHI applicants with CT loans and on using reasonable operating hours to project tariff payments (until Regulations are amended) – await response.
- Hope to address most of applications affected by applying De Minimus State rules. Exploring opportunities for paying other applications outside the Regulations using powers under Energy Order.

- Longer term plan is to amend Regulations to allow repayment of CT loan. Exploring potential options to use Domestic Regulations to make this change.
- Data sharing issue ongoing – Information Management investigating new service for data transfer and will report back to Energy Division shortly.
- Uptake under the scheme remains positive in comparison to GB figures.

## **RHI Phase 2**

- Accountability & Casework confirmed DFP approval required in respect of domestic scheme although same pot of money (£25m) as original approval.
- Business Case revised to address Casework Committee comments/concerns. Clearance received by Finance Branch 23 July and papers submitted to DFP. DFP have now cleared business case.
- Minister has approved policy. ETI Committee has approved SL1.
- Anticipated dates –Minister to make initial announcement on scheme in September and scheme to go live in November.
- First draft of legislation has been sent to DSO. Hope to lay regulations in October.
- Terms and Conditions / Guidance documents for scheme being finalised prior to drawing up letters, application forms etc.
- Preparatory work for developing the administrative system being taken forward with IT colleagues –good progress being made.
- Business Case for additional RHI staff has been submitted to DETI Resourcing Group.
- Trading Standards Case against Greenhouse Renewables – MCS/DECC have confirmed that those affected households cannot be included on MCS scheme. Exploring opportunities to include those households affected on domestic RHI scheme provided boilers can be checked and validated to ensure they meet MCS standards.

## **Energy Efficiency Directive**

- Work underway to prepare to develop options for meeting EED Article 7 requirements beyond 2016, including measuring/reporting energy savings from other existing/proposed NI energy efficiency schemes besides NISEP (including OFMDFM's proposed HEAT project).
- Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) – DETI to arrange workshops in November for DECC to provide advice and training on ESOS requirements for business and industry and NIEA's enforcement role.
- UK Project Board established to commission and oversee Article 14(1) Comprehensive Assessment – hope to have estimate of required NI funding contribution in November.
- Stuart and Alison to discuss transfer of residual EED work/actions.

## **2015/16 Budgets**

- DECC received budget of £430m for 2015/16, a DETI share of this would be the order of £10-12m, however no confirmation has been forthcoming.

**Communications**

- Meeting held with Navigator Blue on 2013/14 research findings. Awaiting draft plan for 2014/15 RHI campaign.
- Business Case for this work being prepared.

**ENERGY CO-ORDINATION (PAUL)****NI Assembly**

- DETI Orals – next scheduled for Monday 13 October – questions issue 2/3 October.
- ETI Committee meetings moving to Tuesdays from w/c 6 October.
- One written briefing on Consultation on Proposed NIRO Grace Periods and Biomass Sustainability Reporting on agenda for 7 October meeting.

**Minister's Availability**

- Minister's box re-opens on 22 September.
- Minister's meeting with UR re-scheduled for 23 September (pre-brief 3:15pm)
- Rol – Alex White has replaced Pat Rabbitte as DCENR Minister.

**Corporate/Operating Plan Update to 30 September**

- HoB input sought by 7 October with return due to CLU by 15 October.
- SEF Implementation Plan / Divisional Plan updates to be commissioned.

**Corporate/Divisional Risk Registers**

- Corporate Risk/Divisional Risk Register exercises imminent.
- Energy Division Risk Register to be considered by Departmental Board on 21 October. HoD will be asked to attend.

**Honours**

- Energy return due with HoG by 26 September – relevant citations etc. being finalised for HoD consideration/approval.

**Finance**

- Divisional return to October monitoring submitted to Finance Division.
- Anticipated that January monitoring exercise will issue mid-October.

**New Staff & Development**

- Arthur Cox legal briefing for new staff/others re-arranged for 18 September.
- Dates still to be arranged for individual HoB briefings.
- Resources Group – meeting end September – DP/SO bids
- Plain English event.