

Grid Connections/ ETI Committee Review

- Grid connection response now issued to ETI Committee.
- ETI Committee wish to discuss on 28 April

Review of Small Scale ROC levels

- Biomass sustainability consultation response issued and noted by the Committee.
- Notification to EU completed – 3 month standstill period commenced.

RO/ NIRO Closure Order / grace periods

- Grace period & transition consultation closed 15 April. Couple of late responses agreed (NIE & NIRIG) to be here by end week.
- Energy Amendment Order tabled for debate 11 May. NIRO Amendment order (for small scale PV) drafted and still with DSO for final checking.
- Closure Order drafted but not cleared by DSO. Subject to outcome of consultation. Aiming to get to DSO early May for clearance. Needs to be laid by early June.
- SL1 for closure order to be with HoD by early May.
- Working through consolidated order – SL1 to be with HoD by June.

Small Scale FIT

- DECC has agreed to NI being included in SS FIT review.
- Agreed text included in grace period consultation
- DECC has commissioned a consultant to gather data of existing small scale projects.

Community Energy

- Drafting of DETI aspects of Action Plan complete – almost ready to circulate to other Departments for completion before seeking comment from HoD.
- Community benefits register – fields agreed. IT work agreed in principle but to be actioned depending on IT branch / NI Direct workload – anticipate up and running in April – official launch date to be agreed /aligned with Plan.

Other

- DFP Rating – DETI Minister has written to DFP counterpart requesting a meeting – no date has yet been arranged.
- Planning – SPPS Executive paper being tabled again on 16 April.
- Offshore decommissioning – briefing paper being drafted for HoD on key issues - need 30 minute meeting with HoD to agree way forward in next few weeks.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY (STUART)**RHI Phase 1**

- Carbon Trust loan issue now resolved Data sharing Protocol agreed with Ofgem Uptake under the scheme has increased over the last few months with NI application numbers at 5% of total GB figures in January. Current estimates show that around 3.1% of total heat is provided by renewable technologies.
- Rolling monthly expenditure is close to £1m. Currently working with DETI Finance to try and obtain some clarity around future RHI budgets. Due to recent increases in uptake of Non-domestic Scheme, consideration is now being given to including future tariff reductions for the most popular biomass tariff as part of the Phase 2 proposals.
- RHI schemes to be audited by DETI Internal Audit during 2015/16.

- RHI 14/15 'Energywise' campaign completed. GAU contract with Navigator Blue ends August 2015. Consideration is being given to incorporating future Energywise needs into HEAT initiative.

RHI Phase 2 (Domestic)

- Regulations made and Scheme went live in December 2014. To date over 150 applications received - picking up quickly after slow start.
- Application data is being captured electronically and saved in TRIM.
- Work ongoing with Ofgem / NI Direct to update some of the Guidance documents.
- Issue has arisen over households wanting to apply for Domestic RHI Scheme who have received NISEP grant for Solar Thermal – legal advice confirmed that NISEP grants qualify as public funding and should be deducted from RHI payments.
- Work has begun to update database with the additional data needed for RHI tariff payments for the 1,200 RHPP applications transferring to the RHI scheme.
- Business Case for additional RHI staff has been submitted to DETI Resourcing Group – approval received for RHI SO post. BIT have approved grading. Awaiting DTR approval to fill post.
- Work ongoing to develop effective administration procedures, develop IT systems and complete risk analysis for scheme.
- Trading Standards Case against Greenhouse Renewables. Letter received from Solicitor representing Greenhouse Renewables confirming receipt of funding for inspections. Inspections / Assessments for those installations affected by Case have been completed and no issues have arisen. Affected installations will be accredited over the coming weeks. A draft GBER notification has been prepared to cover the issue of ESCOs and Landlords who are eligible for RHI payments and is with EU Programmes for comment.

RHI Phase 2 (Non-Domestic)

- Work ongoing to review and finalise the Phase 2 policy proposals.
- Proposals have been passed to Ofgem to provide a cost estimate for updating their systems and procedures to accommodate the proposed changes. £80k has been profiled in 2015/16 for this work
- Work started to prepare State Aid Notification for additional technologies and tariffs being proposed under Phase 2.
- Work will shortly start to prepare draft amendment regulations for the Phase 2 proposals.

Energy Efficiency Directive

- Heat Project - looks likely DETI will be delivery Department for HEAT. Chris Stewart briefed on the proposals on 6 March. Work ongoing to complete draft OBC for clearance at next Project Board meeting on 7 May.
- DETI/DSD/OFMDFM have agreed to share SIB costs for next 6 months until scheme is launched. £50k has been profiled for this.
- Eugene Rooney and Trevor Cooper briefed on proposals on 3 April. Further follow-up meeting with Finance Division to be arranged.
- Minister / SPAD to be briefed on proposals following Board approval of OBC.
- Regulator has issued consultation on reallocation of NISEP costs amongst customer groups and one year extension (if necessary) until HEAT is in place.
- Consideration is being given to using PSO to fund HEAT initiative and whether legislation needed. Separate meetings with Regulator and DSO to be arranged.

- Work underway to identify existing and proposed schemes that could contribute energy savings for EED Article 7 purposes beyond 2016 when NISEP ends – draft energy savings reporting templates for Affordable Warmth and Social Housing schemes sent to DSD and NIHE for comment.
- Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) – Workshops held on 21 Nov to provide advice and training on ESOS requirements for business and industry and NIEA's enforcement role – DETI's role now limited to reporting to DECC as required.
- UK Project Board established to commission and oversee Article 14(1) Comprehensive Assessment – NI contribution to be £48k. £40k for 14/15 and £8k for 15/16. Business Case approved by Minister.
- Article 18 energy labels work – considering final report from RSM McClure Watters but it is clear that creation of a new NI specific quality labels scheme would not be cost effective. Instead, much more emphasis should be given to using Energywise website to promote existing trade bodies and schemes to public.
- UK Project Board established to take forward implementation of the The Heat Network (Metering and Billing) Regulations 2014 (Articles 9-11 EED). Regulations amended to extend notification deadline for communal/district heating suppliers from 30 April to 31 Dec 2015.

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. Work ongoing to get clarity on future RHI budgets from DFP/HMT/DECC for 15/16 onwards and whether we can continue to spend out of the original £25M. Updated AME profile will be completed for May.
- £50k has been profiled for DETI's contribution towards SIB costs for HEaT project for first 6 months of 15/16
- £8k has been included for residual heat mapping work associated with the EED A14 comprehensive assessment.
- £50K profiled for Energwise campaign in 2015/16 - this might be delivered through HEaT initiative when GAU contract with Navigator blue ends.

CO-ORDINATION (PAUL)

NI Assembly

- DETI Orals – next scheduled for Monday 11 May with questions due close 30 April.
- Security of Supply joint briefing with UR re-arranged for 28 April. Session also now scheduled to include DETI briefing on Electricity Review Part III.

DETI Corporate/Business Plan 2014/15

- End-year progress reports collated and with HoD – due with CLU noon 17 April.

DETI Corporate/Business Plan 2015/16

- Understand Dept Board content with Energy input – however, CLU awaiting INI and PfG clarifications before submitting Plan to Minister/ ETI Committee for approval.

Divisional Plan/Risks

- Divisional Plan update to 31 December with HoD for sign-off.
- Work being progressed on draft 2015/16 Divisional Plan - HoBs to confirm key risks against delivery of targets.