

Review of Small Scale ROC levels

- Notification to EU completed on biomass on 3 month standstill period - standstill period ends early July.

RO/ NIRO Closure Order / grace periods

- Submission on small scale grace period options with HoD – but agree more general submission will issue first.
- Closure Order drafted as far as possible but not cleared by DSO. Cannot be completed until Ministerial decision on grace periods. Needs to be laid in June.
- SL1 for closure order to be with HoD in June.

Small Scale FIT

- Teleconference on NI's inclusion scheduled for 14 May.
- DECC meeting on SS FiT review with other DAs 4 June – Scotland and Wales travelling to London to attend – might be worth NI (Michael H) attending as well.

Community Energy

- Draft Action Plan completed – to be circulated next week with 3 weeks to respond. Final draft will be with HoD in June.

Other

- Planning – SPPS Executive paper being tabled again on 14 May.
- Offshore decommissioning – submission being drafted for Minister to write to NIO (again) and Crown Estate in an effort to move this forward.

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

- Uptake of Scheme has increased over recent months with NI applications at 5% of total GB figures in January. Current estimates show that @ 3.1% of total heat is provided by renewable technologies.
- Rolling monthly expenditure is around £1.2m. Consideration being given to future tariff reductions for most popular biomass tariff as part of 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 in August 2015. Consideration is being given to incorporating future Energywise needs into HEaT initiative.

RHI Phase 2 (Domestic)

- Over 200 applications received to date, rising quickly after slow start.
- Application data is being captured electronically and saved in TRIM.
- Legal advice confirms that households that received NISEP grants should have these deducted from RHI payments - procedures for doing so are being put in place.
- Work ongoing to update database with additional data needed for RHI tariff payments for potential 1,200 RHPP applications transferring to the RHI scheme, (856 to date).
- Work ongoing to develop effective administration procedures, develop IT systems and complete risk analysis for scheme.
- Trading Standards - Greenhouse Renewables. Case ongoing with solicitor now questioning costs of inspections.

- Issue has arisen over how annual RHI payments are calculated. EPCs in NI are produced using an older (2009) version of the software than GB (2012) and don't report the heat information needed for deeming RHI payments. Discussions ongoing with DFP on this issue.

RHI Phase 2 (Non-Domestic)

- Work ongoing to review and finalise the Phase 2 policy proposals.
- Proposals passed to Ofgem to provide cost estimate and to prepare short feasibility study for updating their systems and procedures to accommodate the proposed changes. £100k profiled in 2015/16 for development costs associated with this work.
- Work started on State Aid Notification for additional technologies and tariffs proposed under Phase 2.
- Work will soon start to prepare draft amendment Regulations for Phase 2 proposals.

Energy Efficiency Directive

- Previous Minister had agreed in principle that DETI lead on EnergyWise (formerly 'HEaT') project. Meeting to be arranged to brief new Minister / SpAd
- EnergyWise Scheme now a DETI project with Chris Stewart the SRO. Work underway to finalise business case for pilot scheme to be introduced later this year, and also to complete other project documentation – PID, Risk Register etc.
- 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 have been briefed on proposals.
- Regulator has issued consultation on reallocation of NISEP costs amongst customer groups and one year extension (if necessary) until HEaT is in place.
- Consideration being given PSO funding EnergyWise scheme and whether legislation needed. Meetings with Regulator/DSO have taken place DSO advice awaited.
- 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.
- UK Project Board established to commission and oversee Article 14(1) Comprehensive Assessment – NI contribution £8k for 15/16.
- Article 18 energy labels work – now completed and recommends using the EnergyWise website to promote existing trade bodies and schemes to public.
- UK Project Board established to take forward implementation of 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 budget £430m for 2015/16 - DETI share of this would be @ £10-12m, but no confirmation has been forthcoming. Seeking clarity on future RHI budgets for 2015/16 onwards and if we can continue to spend out of the original £25M.
- Uptake of Non-domestic RHI Scheme has increased dramatically with 470 applications received in 2014/15 compared to 130 in previous 12 months. Monthly payments have risen to over £1.1m with over £22m annual expenditure forecast for 2015/16. Current AME profile assumes £11m expenditure in 2015/16 which would mean funding would run out mid September. E-mail sent to Trevor Cooper seeking clarification of RHI budget and whether a revised AME profile (£22m for 2015/16) can be submitted.

- £108.5k has been profiled for Ofgem for RHI Phase 2: £8.5k for a feasibility study and £100k has been profiled for development costs.
- £50K profiled for Energywise 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 – penultimate set of questions for this session to issue on 21 May – scheduled for answer on Tuesday 2 June.
- ETI Committee oral briefing on Electricity Review Part III scheduled for 2 June.

2015/16 Divisional Plan

- Divisional Plan update to 31 December with HoD for sign-off.
- Risk commentary/ratings finalised on 2015/16 Divisional Plan – Divisional briefing now re-scheduled for Thursday 21 May.

Finance

- June monitoring return submitted which included bid to cover additional SO post for Energy Efficiency Branch.
- Awaiting feedback from Finance re: AME budget

New Staff & Development

- Accommodation issue temporarily resolved (subject to final outworking of staff reduction exercise) – Orla/Renée re-located.

Staffing General

- End -Year Reviews – staff interviews / reports being progressed
- 2015/16 PPA's to be finalised / agreed asap.
- Currently two SOs down in form of Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry. Resources Group meeting scheduled for 13 May.
- Voluntary Exit Scheme – await further updates on position/progress.

Other

- Secure File Transfer Protocol / Shared Group Drive exercise – liaising with DBS on Divisional briefing etc.
- Office safety risk assessments need to be completed – slight delay in progressing due to focus on NICS Website consolidation exercise re-scheduled to w/c 18 May.