

Introduction



Happy new year from all the MRASCo team

We are still on track with our new year resolutions and are ready to take on the changing face of the energy industry in 2019. This is a special year for the MRA, with 2019 marking its 21st birthday and the beginning of a new era.

Throughout the past 21 years there have been significant changes in the electricity market from Deregulation all the way to the upcoming implementation of a dual fuel Retail Energy Code. Change in the next 21 years does not look to be slowing down, starting with the reviews into wider Code governance.

It's important to note the legacy of the MRA as the transition into the Retail Energy Code takes shape. In 1998, MRASCo was formed to administer the MRA to enable Distribution Networks and Suppliers to more easily process the transfer of Customers following deregulation, the catalyst which changed the face of the UK electricity market forever.

To commemorate the MRAs 21st Birthday, this issue will highlight updates on some of the current MRA projects as well as celebrating the achievements of ECOES and a look to the future of Code governance.

We hope you enjoy this edition, and as always, if you have any feedback let us know by contacting us using the details on page 7 .

Rachel Clarke – MRA Governance and Communications Manager

MRASCo News

Market Intelligence Service update

In the December MRASCo newsletter, we reported the successful launch of 'twin fuel' API-based access to both ECOES and the gas registration system, DES. We're pleased to report there has been strong interest from MRA parties, with 18 having been granted access. In early December a meeting of the Joint MIS Development Group (JMDG) was held to reflect on progress to date with the MIS and also to plan for its future.

Discussion of the future focused on what the MIS should look like, the effectiveness of the governance, and how this should fit into the wider industry (especially Central Switching Service (CSS)/Retail Energy Code (REC)). Members recognised the value added by the use cases delivered to date, in particular the twin fuel API access launched in December which met Ofgem's requirement for the MIS.

As a result of the change in focus within MIS, it was agreed that the project team should make recommendations to MRASCo on reform

of the project. Gemserv presented ideas about how the MIS could represent the framework for non-transactional data, and this was welcomed by members. However, there was general consensus that without further clarity on intentions around CSS, Retail Energy Location (REL) and REC the future of JMDG is uncertain in how it can play a 'strategic' role.

In the first half of 2019, valuable 'tactical' work for the MIS project will progress, with JMDG reviewing the position in Summer 2019. In the meantime, JMDG meetings will be held as and when required whilst maintaining a close relationship with wider data and governance initiatives. MRA parties will be kept up to date with progress via the newsletter.

MRASCo News

Faster Switching update

Stage Zero and Data Cleanse Activities

A key component of the new switching arrangements will be a new Central Switching Service (CSS), which will replace the switching elements of existing registration services. In addition, Ofgem have proposed several remedies to improve the data that is held across the industry, including the creation of a new Address Service within the CSS.

The creation of a CSS will require population with data from existing Central Data Services, such as ECOES and DES, which will be achieved through migration of data into the CSS in the programme's Design, Build and Test (DBT) phase. To prepare for this, Ofgem is looking to update and improve the data held in these services, prior to migration into the CSS. These activities are collectively known as [Stage Zero Data Activities](#). For electricity, this work is being

undertaken by the Faster Switching Expert Group (FSEG). FSEG will take over some existing data cleanse activities, that were being carried out under the Issues Resolution Expert Group (IREG) which will be essential to improve the quality of data going into the CSS. If you would like to get involved with this work or have any queries, please get in touch via FSEG@gemserv.com.

Design, Build and Test Phase (DBT)

Linked to Faster Switching and readiness of the CSS is the [DBT](#) phase in which is due to launch in April 2019. To confirm whether the Programme is ready to proceed to the next phase, Ofgem will be ensuring that the decisions set out in the [Outline Business Case](#) (OBC) remain valid at this point in the programme. The results of the assessment are expected in Q1 2019 as part of a Final Business Case (FBC). Ofgem will also include in this assessment whether there are any impacts of a planned go-live date in Summer 2021. Ofgem does not expect any material changes to the Programme.

MRASCo News

Regulatory Design

Ofgem regulatory design activities until March 2019 will focus on completing Retail Energy Code (REC) V2 drafting, developing consequential changes for implementation as part of the [Switching Significant Code Review \(SCR\)](#) and determining policy positions in relation to the migration of provisions to facilitate the closing down of the Supply Point Administration Agreement (SPAA) and MRA.

The Ofgem Programme Board has agreed that a second SCR will be launched in Spring 2019 to cover the closure of SPAA and MRA, with provisions migrating into the REC and other Codes. This Code Consolidation SCR will be progressed in parallel with the Switching SCR – implementation at the Central Switching Service (CSS) go live. One set of drafting is to be developed for the REC Schedules impacted by both SCRs, for example; Enquiry Services, Entry Assessment, Exceptions and Prepayment. Where possible, drafting is expected to be developed by March 2019.

MRA Engagement day

The next MRA Engagement day is due to be held on 8th March 2019.

This is a full day training event for those new to the industry, new to the MRA or wanting to brush up on what the MRA does. It's an informal, informative day where you are given the opportunity to learn what the MRA does and ask questions to those who work on the front line of MRA Governance.

The engagement days are in high demand and places fill up quickly, so if you don't want to miss out, secure your place at the event by emailing MRASCoHelpdesk@Gemserv.com.

Industry News

Ofgem Retail Energy Code Company (RECCo) budget Consultation

Ofgem published a letter to all MRA Parties in late January to launch a consultation of the proposed RECCo budget for 2019/20.

This provides information on how the budget was created and how it will be funded. Ofgem intend to start invoicing Suppliers around 1st March 2019, with invoices payable by the end of March in order to have the RECCo budget ready to fund the project from the start of the financial year. In the letter Ofgem notes 'If any Supplier would have difficulty setting up payments to RECCo before the end of the current financial year, we encourage them to contact us and agree a date when their first payment may be made.'

A link to the Ofgem letter can be found [here](#) and the closing date for responses to this budget consultation is 15 February 2019. Any comments should be submitted by email to: switchingprogramme@ofgem.gov.uk.

Change

The scheduled February release for the MRA and DTC changes is 28th February 2019.

If you would like any further details on what will be included in the release, you can follow the link to the MRASCo website [here](#).

Looking to the future

Do I Digitise or Should I be Digitalising?

Digitalisation. What is it? And how does it differ from Digitisation?

More than likely, at some point in the last six months, you will have been in a meeting, where an enlightened colleague (or someone trying to impress) has stated in emphatic tones that “we should be digitalising what we do”. The terms “digitise” and “digitalise” have become interchangeable.

As explored in Gemserv’s recent Thought Leadership Paper [Modernising Energy Governance](#), there are three distinct definitions:

Digitisation:

changing from analogue to digital form e.g. changing a document from paper format into a searchable data file.

Digitalisation:

using digitised data and digital technologies to change working practices and business models, so that new efficiencies and revenue opportunities can be identified.

Digital Transformation:

changing sector and cross-sector behaviours, by adopting digitalisation.

BEIS and Ofgem have talked about digitalising the energy market. To Digitally Transform successfully, it is necessary to effect changes in peoples’ behaviours, as well as their work environment and business tools.

In the transition to a digital form of energy governance, we need to start with digitising existing documents and digitalising our working practices. We have started this work already within Gemserv, through our Digitalise Now! Initiative.

If you would like to find out more about the meaning of “digital” and/or Digitalise Now! please contact MRAheldpesk@Gemserv.com.

Systems

Old ECOES Interface Switch Off - Reminder

As I'm sure you are aware, we have recently launched ECOES2, but here are some of the achievements made by it's predecessor, ECOES1.

16 YEARS
OF ECOES1

0.3 BILLION
SEARCHES
(356,597,058 to be precise)

ECOES2 LAUNCHED AT MIDNIGHT
ON 3RD DECEMBER 2018

Integrating it's 40,000 users, with greater functionality and a new and improved look

Contact Details

For feedback on our newsletter please feel free to contact us at MRAHelpdesk@gemserv.com

Key contact emails:

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Next MRA newsletter is due on 27th March 2019.

Key Dates

Date	Event
31/01/2019	MDB
05/02/2019	SCWG
06/02/2019	JMDG
07/02/2019	MRA MSC
13/02/2019	IREG
19/02/2019	FSEG
21/02/2019	MRA Forum
26/02/2019	MEC/BOARD
28/02/2019	MDB

Date	Event
06/03/2019	JMDG
07/03/2019	MRA MSC
08/03/2019	MRA Engagement day
12/03/2019	FSEG
13/03/2019	IREG
14/03/2019	GDEG/PTSC
26/03/2019	MEC/Board
28/03/2019	MDB