

Electricity Networks Strategy Group 2020 Vision Reports Update

Introduction

The ENSG aims to publish updated 2020 Vision reports in early 2012. Their publication will be a useful and accessible resource for stakeholders showing the potential scope of network developments and reinforcement to 2020 and assisting stakeholders in engaging in the regulatory and planning processes at an early stage. They will also be a valuable contribution to the ongoing discussions about how to develop our electricity infrastructure in order to meet the challenges facing the GB electricity system.

As with the original reports, the updated reports are not a Government plan for developing the networks, nor do they prejudge future decisions by transmission companies, planning authorities or Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) on the timing, routing or design of specific network reinforcements.

The ENSG 2020 Vision reports

The ENSG is a high level forum, which brings together key stakeholders in electricity networks working together to support Government in meeting the long-term energy challenges of ensuring secure, clean and affordable energy. It is jointly chaired by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and Ofgem.

In March 2009 the ENSG published a report entitled "*Our Electricity Transmission Network: A Vision for 2020*". It summarised a study by the GB Transmission Owners (TOs - National Grid Electricity Transmission, Scottish Power Transmission and Scottish Hydro-Electric Transmission Limited), with industry-wide input through the ENSG, of the strategic transmission network investment potentially required to ensure that sufficient generation to meet the UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments' 2020 renewable energy targets could be accommodated (based on a generation scenario that met those targets - "Gone Green"). The study (the "full report") was also published to allow access to economic and technical analysis behind the summary report.

The Updated ENSG 2020 Vision reports

In February 2011 the ENSG established a Working Group to develop/manage an update of the 2009 ENSG reports. It felt that there had been sufficient developments in potential generation scenarios, technologies, and network arrangements for such an update.

The updated ENSG 2020 Vision reports adopt a similar approach to the original reports. Again there will be two reports – one by the TOs to the ENSG setting out detailed technical and economic analysis and a summary report by the ENSG which presents those findings to stakeholders. The reports again use the Gone Green scenario ("2011 Gone Green" updated through stakeholder engagement) as the baseline for determining potential reinforcements.

The full report to the ENSG is based on technical and economic analysis of possible network options and extensive stakeholder engagement that TOs undertook in preparing Business Plans for the next transmission price control (RIIO-T1), as submitted to Ofgem in July 2011. The summary report draws from the full report, presenting content in a more widely accessible way.