

23th April 2020
11.00 am
Gotowebinar

REA webinar with Ofgem



Housekeeping for the Webinar

- All please join as *muted & without videocam*
- Please note where the *question box* is

Thank you



Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- REA work on Covid-19 and business continuity
- Ofgem updates on E-Serve schemes (namely RHI, RO, FIT and SEG) (**NOT POLICY ISSUES**)
 - Stats on Ofgem operations - maintaining BAU
 - Public comms on COVID-19
 - Specific queries:
 - Data submissions on the RO and RHI
 - Annual audit reports for the RO and RHI
 - Changes to the FIT deadline
 - RHI deadlines (to the extent Ofgem can cover this matter)
 - E-Serve schemes payments
 - Fuel Measurement and Sampling questionnaire



Covid-19 & Business Continuity

General business issues:

- we defer to CBI and Trade Union advice

Sector-specific problems or potential problems:

- REA's issues log (working on 32 issues across the industry and list is growing)
- Number of requests directed to relevant Government, regulators and civil servants
- Weekly calls with Energy Minister & Senior Director within BEIS
- Weekly calls with Defra and Scottish Government
- Regular calls with the group feeding in Business Continuity messaging to Number 10 on energy issues
- Senior level contact with all relevant Government Departments and Regulators

Also REA are cited on the UK Government COVID -19 website for Sector specific queries

[Coronavirus support from Business Representative Organisations and Trade Associations](#)

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Issue log

Excel

REA Covid-19 Industry Concerns Log Live - Saved

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1	Reference	Summary Issue	Action Requested?	Technologies Affected	Member Forums Affected	REA Action Proposed	Initial REA Action Taken	Follow up Activity	Further Notes	Current Status	Status Key:						
2																	
3	1	Biomethane plants and propane requirements- risk of supplies running low	Temporary derogation from regulatory requirements	Anaerobic Digestion	Biogas, Organics	Joint letter to Ofgem	Letter sent (joint with ADBA) to Ofgem - 17/03/20. Numerous follow on discussions.	Discussions with GDNs, ENA and biomethane producers on what options are available to ensure capping incidents do not result in massive costs to shippers / suppliers and ultimately end users	Ofgem letter clarifies situation - on website (03/04/2020). Paragraph to be included in newsletter. REA now liaising with ENA (GDNs) & propane suppliers (K2) - K2 setting a working group to progress these discussions. (w/c/ 20/04/2020)	ONGOING	Red - High Priority, Progress needed						
4	2	Refuse lorries - risk of transmission when signing weighbridge tickets	Temporary derogation from regulatory requirements- not signing weighbridge tickets	Composters, Waste management sites, Anaerobic Digestion, ACT	EW, ACT, Organics, Biogas	Allow recipient to sign ticket and note C-19. Requests to EA, SEPA and NRW.	Email sent on 16/03/20 and another with more detail on 23/3/20 by JG to all UK regulators	SEPA issued guidance saying remote signatures acceptable. EA guidance says they will be pragmatic. No further issues raised by members	JG dealing with this	COMPLETED	Green - Issue resolved						
5	3	Non-delivery of goods and/or services from third-countries. Solar panels have become harder to source due to the dramatic fall in production in China, the world's major producer	TBC	ALL	ALL	Support business group actions on this	Support CBI view on this	Ongoing support of CBI position	Updated by IM 30.03.20	ONGOING							
6	4	RHI Projects' Tariff Guarantees at risk of being missed due to operational constraints in project development	Implement extension to Tariff Guarantee deadlines	Heat	WHA, Biomass Power, Biogas/Biomethane	Contact with BEIS, Letter to Ofgem	Letter sent (from REA Only) 19/03/20	Continue to raise with BEIS / MS & K2 and weekly calls with BEIS	Response (letter) received by BEIS on 02/04/2020. Jane Lumb stated BEIS are sketching out options - likely to be a mix of solutions.	ONGOING- AT RISK							
7																	
8		Issues	Stakeholders	Critical Workers													



Covid-19 & Business Continuity

Important Information Sources

Government information:
www.gov.uk/coronavirus

**STAY AT
HOME** 

**PROTECT
THE NHS**

 **save
lives**

Information for REA members only

- REA's [Webpage](#) on Covid-19
- REA's [briefing](#) summarising all guidance available from Government, Regulator, Trade Body and Trade Union Covid-19 Policies
- REA's [briefing](#) on Furloughing staff and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- Ofgem [response](#) to request for information on propane contingency plans
- BEIS initial [response](#) to REA's letter on RHI Tariff Guarantees commissioning deadlines.
- BEIS sector specific [briefing](#) on Government action for the heat sector.
- Environment Agency's [view](#) on Technical Competence Management Attendance and other docs from EA and SEPA
- Information/clarifications on essential sectors/key workers, and much more

COVID 19 – SUPPORTING OUR
MEMBERS AT THIS CHALLENGING TIME



Covid-19 & Business Continuity

Examples of specific issues (1)

1. RHI projects at risk

- Letter to BEIS cc Ofgem to request:
 - *Derogation / grace period for RHI TG projects*
 - *Extension to the ND RHI scheme*
 - *Urgent clarification of announcements made in the Budget on third allocation round of Tariff Guarantees*
- Extensive list of case studies / examples of projects at risks submitted
- Raised during weekly calls with BEIS, including the Head of the RHI
- BEIS currently sketching out options – more than one fix may be needed
- Extension to FITs may set a strong precedent for similar action for the ND RHI?

2. Difficulties in accessing the Government's Covid-19 Business Interruption Loan Scheme and other financial support



Covid-19 & Business Continuity

Examples of specific issues (2)

3. Feedstocks

Fed to BEIS, Defra, Ofgem and environmental regulators concerns over feedstock supply

- *AD plants: reduction in feedstocks, mainly from commercial sources and some from LAs*
- *Biomass supply chain disruptions: e.g. disruption to the construction and demolition industry and closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres*
- Request to Government to accelerate settlement of ROC claims and extend RO eligibility by one year
- Progressing discussions with Ofgem on temporary changes to FMS rules under RHI and RO to allow new feedstocks.
- Lobbied Defra to ensure food waste collections are classed as priority collections - which they now are, see Defra's [guidance](#)
- Working with suppliers of surplus food wastes to match them with AD plants with spare capacity - Joint REA/ADBA [UK-wide survey](#) to identify AD plants with capacity



Questions?

