SEM Committee Meeting

Meeting 226 Minutes
Location: CRU Offices, Tallaght
Date: Thursday 26 March 2026
at 09.00 a.m.

SEM Committee:
Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU): Jim Gannon, Fergal Mulligan
Utility Regulator (UR): Rosamund Blomfield-Smith (Chair), John French, Paul McGowan
Independent members: Jonathan Hodgkin, Chris Harris (Deputy)

In attendance: To be updated
All items: John Melvin (CRU), Colin Broomfield (UR), Jon Carlton (SEMC advisor), Shauna McAuley (UR), Clare Newcomb (UR)
Item 3 – Robert O'Rourke (CRU), Charlene Little (CRU), Muhammad Bilal Ahmed (CRU), Gabriela Vargas Restrepo (Afry), Grainne Black (Afry)
Item 4 - Ross McFaul (UR), Ciaran Breen (UR)
Item 5 – Kevin Hagan (CRU), Peter Wibberly (Yellowwood consulting)
Item 6 - Gordon Downie (Sheppherd and Wedderburn), Natasha Durkin (Sheppherd and Wedderburn)
Item 7 - Barry Hussey (CRU), Niall Robb (UR), John Conneally (CRU), Stephen Garavan (CEPA), Gary Keane (CEPA)
Item 8 - Ross McFaul (UR), Marie-Therese Campbell (UR), Damien Doone (UR)
Items 9 – Emer Gerrard (CRU), Charlene Little (CRU), Elvis Sebastian (CRU)
Item 10 - Jean-Pierre Miura (UR), Owen Kearns (UR), Arjoo Gupta (UR)
Item 11 - Lisa Tate (UR), Niall Robb (UR)
Item 12 – Jonny Gallagher (Belmont)

Apologies: Dr Tanya Harrington
Minutes: Greg Irwin (SEMC Secretariat)
Declarations of interest: None

1. Approval and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was approved and adopted.

2. Review and approval of minutes from meeting 225, Thursday 26 February 2026

The minutes from SEM Committee meeting 225 were approved for publication.

The minutes of the extraordinary SEM Committee meeting on 2 March were approved subject to one small amendment.

3. SEMC strategy

Jon Carlton introduced this item which, as well as providing an update on the strategy development process following the Committee's discussion at its February meeting, proposed a mission and vision and strategic priorities and cross cutting themes for discussion.

Gabriela Vargas Restrepo and Grainne Black facilitated a discussion on the mission, vision and cross cutting themes.

The Committee endorsed the proposed mission and vision subject to consideration of some drafting suggestions.

In an extended discussion on the proposed strategic priorities and themes the Committee discussed the interplay between the strategic priorities the cross-cutting themes. Discussion on strategic priorities and the associated objectives identified some drafting refinements/ suggestions and amendments to improve clarity, for consideration.

The Committee also considered the proposed metrics under each strategic priority. In discussion, the Committee endorsed those metrics which best demonstrated the achievement of strategic priorities. There were some suggested drafting changes to other metrics and the Committee also identified those proposed metrics which were not considered as optimal for demonstrating the achievement of strategic priorities.

It was agreed that all the comments from the Committee would be considered as part of the process of developing a draft strategy to go out to consultation. Prior to the draft strategy being issued, it was agreed that the respective government departments with responsibility for energy. in Ireland and Northern Ireland, would be briefed. The draft strategy would be circulated to the Committee prior to the consultation being launched.

4. Generator extension request

The Committee considered a Long Stop Date (LSD) and Capacity Quantity End Date and Time (CQEDT) extension received by the Regulatory Authorities under J.5.8 of the Capacity Market Code, from a generator which had been awarded capacity from the T-3 2024/2025 Capacity Auction.

The Committee explored the implications of the proposed extension and reasons for the delay.

The Committee approved the recommendation as presented in relation to the LSD and approved the option to extend the CQEDT by 21 months.

5. DSU Energy payments

Kevin Hagan introduced this item which set out a proposed decision regarding Demand Side Unit (DSU) energy payments.

The Committee discussed the context for the proposed decision and previous Committee discussions on DSU energy payments and how this proposed decision related to the wider DSU workstream. The impact and risks associated with the proposed decision were also considered.

In noting, as part of next steps, that a further related paper on the supplier compensation price would be provided, the Committee approved the publication of the proposed decision.

6. Market Participant's issues

Gordon Downie provided a legal briefing on a market participant's bidding of certain costs into the SEM Balancing Market. The Committee agreed to consider a proposed minded-to decision and supporting papers at an extraordinary meeting on 2 April 2026 before making a SEM matter determination under the Directions.

7. Multi NEMO arrangements - presentation

Niall Robb introduced this presentation which provided an update on Multi Nominated Electricity Market Operator (NEMO) arrangements.

The Committee briefly discussed the timeline for the Multi NEMO arrangements go-live and recent correspondence.

The Committee noted the update.

8. CRM extension requests overview

Damien Doone introduced this overview of extension requests received under J.5 (Remedial Actions) of the Capacity Market Code (CMC) from 2023 to date.

The focus of the Committee's discussion was on the reasons for the delays, including broader geopolitical and macroeconomic impacts and planning issues. There was also consideration of whether the timing of auctions, and the potential to look at different time periods for delivery of capacity, would have had an impact on delays by generators.

The Committee welcomed the analysis, noted the impact of generation capacity already delivered under the auction programme to date, and agreed to keep this area under review.

9. CRM Development Project and State Aid application

Emer Gerrard provided an update on the progress of the CRM Development project and State aid application and set out immediate next steps and the planned development approach for the next iteration of the CRM and the State aid application.

The Committee briefly discussed potential opportunities to review the CRM design and clarified next steps.

In noting the update, the Committee also noted that a further presentation on emerging thinking around the CRM would be presented at the April SEMC meeting.

10. Market Monitoring Unit (MMU) update

a) Owen Kearns provided an overview of the latest MMU update for the period to the end of February. The Committee noted the changing demand profile and pricing trends.

b) Owen Kearns also briefed the Committee on the Bidding Code of Practice and planned next steps.

11. AIP update

Lisa Tate briefed the Committee on interim findings and recommendations from the review of All Island Programme (AIP) governance arrangements.

The Committee also delegated approval of the process documents and editorial changes to the governance arrangements to the AIP Sub-Committee

12. Updates

(a) SEMC communications and governance update. Greg Irwin introduced the SEMC communications review.

Jonny Gallagher led a discussion on initial findings from the review. In discussion, the Committee discussed opportunities to enhance communications. The appetite for increasing communications activity, and the scope and type of activity, was explored. The linkage between enhancing the Committee's communications and the developing SEMC strategy was emphasised (e.g. around stakeholder engagement).

A final communications review report will be provided for a future Committee meeting for consideration.

(b) Greg Irwin also introduced a short paper on an Interim Forward Work Programme (FWP). The Committee agreed to a further extension of the interim FWP to June, with a provision for a further extension from July to December to ensure alignment with the calendar year going forward.

(c) CRU/UR/Independent Members

CRU – Fergal Mulligan noted CRU resourcing, the affordability taskforce, energy tariffs, the large energy user data centre decision, the water price control and the strategic gas emergency reserve.

UR – John French noted recent tariff reductions, government support relating to home heating oil and ongoing Assembly questions/media enquiries and FoIs.

Independent member – Chris Harris noted the capacity auctions in GB.

(d) Legal Update
Colin Broomfield provided an update on a judicial review process.

13. Review of actions from SEMC meeting 225, Thursday 26 February 2026

Progress on SEMC actions was noted. There was agreement that the potential for SEMC to meet Ministers around the Energy Ireland conference should be explored.

14. SEMC correspondence

None

15. AOB

None.

The meeting concluded at 14.40 p.m.

Signed:_____________________________________

Rosamund Blomfield-Smith, SEM Committee Chair