

Update on the Joint UNC/SPAA CoS meter read for smart meters working group for the May 2014 UNC Modification Panel (Chris Warner, National Grid Gas Distribution).

Agreed high level process:

- At SSD both suppliers will obtain a reading directly from the smart meter
- The new supplier will issue the reading to Xoserve as per current process
- Xoserve will validate and issue the official CoS reading to both suppliers as per current process
- Where Xoserve validation fails, or no reading has been received, Xoserve will deem a reading and issue this as the CoS reading as per current process
- Where either supplier has not been able to obtain a reading or they do not agree with the CoS reading, they can instigate the disputed readings process
- For disputed readings the reading obtained from the smart meter will take precedent

Scope:

- This process will apply to any smart meters serviced by the DCC;
- This process can apply regardless of whether both parties are opted in/out of the DCC. For instance if the losing supplier is opted in and gaining supplier out, the losing supplier will still obtain the read, and process through the disputed reads process. No impact on customer as the gaining supplier would not have opened the account

CoS Read Timing:

- The midnight reading will be the CoS read as this is a safer than trying to use the 6am read. It is hard coded with less change of failure and aligns the process with electricity providing a consistent, clearer process for the customer to understand
- Impact on settlement as a result deemed to be very low ~ cfr. In electricity £50 per day across industry

Further issues to look at:

- Co-ordinated switching and billing across fuels
- Clear Customer Billing
- Addressing Data Quality – concerns around centrally held (MTD) frequently being incorrect i.e. not aligning with the data recorded onto the meter
- Governance Framework – exclusion of I&C

Next steps

- Findings to be documented in an interim report and submit it to Ofgem by the summer of 2014.
- Report to be signed off by the SPAA EC as well as the UNC Panel and iGT UNC Panel at their respective June 2014 meetings
- Preference for both gas and electricity reforms to be implemented at the same time in June

Regards,

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