

UNC Transmission Workgroup Minutes
Thursday 05 October 2023
via Microsoft Teams

Attendees		
Eric Fowler (Chair)	(EF)	Joint Office
Helen Cuin (Secretary)	(HCu)	Joint Office
Alex Nield	(AN)	Storengy UK
Amy Howarth	(AH)	Storengy UK
Andrew Blair	(AB)	Interconnector
Anna Shrigley	(AS)	ENI
Antony Miller	(AM)	South Hook Gas
Bethan Winter	(BW)	WWU
Brian McGlinchey	(BM)	Vermillion Energy
Carlos Aguirre	(CA)	Pavilion Energy
Chris Wright	(CW)	Exxon Mobil
Christiane Sykes	(CS)	Shell
Conor McClarin	(CM)	National Gas Transmission
Corrine Brooke	(CB)	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)
Ellie Rogers (11:15)	(ER)	Xoserve
Gavin Williams	(GW)	National Gas Transmission
Georgie Price (12:36)	(GP)	Ofgem
Hannah Reddy	(HR)	Corella on behalf of Xoserve
Isabel Capp	(IC)	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)
James Lomax	(JLo)	Cornwall Insight
Jeff Chandler	(JC)	SSE
Jonath Roche	(FR)	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)
Jonathan Balls	(JB)	Ofgem
Joseph Leggett	(JL)	Interconnector
Kirsty Appleby	(KA)	National Gas Transmission
Lauren Jauss	(LJa)	RWE
Lona Wilson	(LW)	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)
Lucy Manning	(LM)	BP
Marion Joste	(MJ)	ENI
Maryam Khan	(MK)	Ofgem
Mathew Chandy	(MC)	Ofgem
Matthew Atkinson	(MA)	SEFE Energy
Matthew Newman	(MN)	National Gas Transmission
Niamh Holden	(NH)	Joint Office
Nick King	(NK)	CNG Services
Nick Wye	(NW)	Waters Wye Associates
Ofordi Nabokei	(ON)	National Gas Transmission
Phil Hobbins	(PH)	National Gas Transmission
Phil Lucas	(PL)	National Gas Transmission
Richard Fairholme	(RF)	Uniper

Ritchard Hewitt	(RH)	Hewitt Home Energy Solutions
Shiv Singh	(SS)	Cadent
Stephen Huang	(SH)	Castel Commodities UK
Steve Mulinganie	(SM)	SEFE Energy

This Workgroup meeting will be considered quorate provided at least two Transporter and two Shipper User representatives are present.

Please note these minutes do not replicate detailed content provided within the presentation slides, therefore it is recommended that the published presentation material is reviewed in conjunction with these minutes. Copies of papers are available at: <https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/TX/051023>.

1. Introduction and Status Review

Eric Fowler (EF) welcomed all parties to the meeting.

1.1. Approval of minutes (07 September 2023)

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

1.2. Approval of Late Papers

EF noted no late papers.

1.3. Review of Outstanding Actions

None.

1.4. Industry Update from Ofgem

An update was provided from the Ofgem Expected Decision Dates (EDD) publication timetable at: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/code-modificationmodification-proposals-ofgem-decision-expected-publication-dates-timetable>) dated 22 September 2023 noting the most recent updates (see below table).

Modification	Estimated Decision Date
0696V - Addressing inequities between Capacity booking under the UNC and arrangements set out in relevant NExAs	Rejected 29 September 2023
0808 - Reverse Compression	TBC
0823 - Amendment to the Allocation of Entry Capacity and Flow Quantities to Qualifying CNCCD Routes	22 December 2023
0839 - Revision of the Modification Panel Membership Cessation Provisions	12 January 2024
0846 - Use of Entry Capacity Holdings at Easington at the Rough Storage ASEP in Winter 2023/2024	Implemented 25 September 2023

1.5. Pre-Modification discussions

1.5.1. Extension of the arrangements introduced via UNC Modification 0814

Matthew Newman (MN) provided a brief update concerning the extension to arrangements of the UNC 0814. MN confirmed that the Modification had lapsed at the end of September and explained that due to unforeseen delays in the implementation of the Modification and market conditions, BBL had not had sufficient chance to utilise the services.

MN explained that NGT planned to permit BBL access temporarily as this would give BBL another opportunity to use the services and create a level playing field with Interconnector Ltd. MN confirmed that NGT had originally intended to raise the modification in September but had reflected on the feedback received in the previous Workgroup meeting.

Joseph Leggett (JL) requested confirmation whether this is to be a Self-Governance Modification. MN confirmed that it will be raised as such for the October UNC Modification Panel.

1.5.2. Clarification of Provisions Regarding Utilisation of the System Without Holding System Capacity

Phil Lucas (PL) provided the background to the pre-Modification advising that its purpose is to acknowledge the extent of Transporters' obligations to accept gas tendered for delivery to (or make gas available for offtake from) the System in the provisions that set out the charges payable where a User utilises the System without holding system capacity.

PL referring to previous Workgroup discussions relating to Overruns and several actions confirmed the commitment to raise a clarification modification to cross reference Section TPD B to TPD Section I and Section J to set out the extent of the relevant Transporter's obligations to accept deliveries of gas to, and make gas available for offtake from, the Total System. For details, please refer to the draft proposed Modification.

The Workgroup considered the Solution provided within the Modification and the reference to National Gas Transmission (NGT) not being obliged under any provision for the Code to make gas available for offtake from the Total System by a User at a DM Supply Point which exceeds the registered Supply Point Capacity. PL clarified this is not to say that gas cannot be made available, simply there is no obligation to provide an offtake quantity which exceeds the User's Registered Supply Point Capacity. Lauren Jauss (LJ) queried whether this means that NGT are not liable for compensation if the gas wasn't made available. PL stated that this sounds logical. Jeff Chandler (JC) asserted that NGT would not be able to stop you from flowing gas. LJ explained that she had recently raised a pre-modification to ensure aligned understanding. LJ advised that this pre-modification was separate and would affect a different section of the Code but looked at a similar issue.

The intention was to raise the Modification for the October UNC Modification Panel. It was agreed to discuss with the Joint Office the best time to raise this Modification to manage workload.

Lauren Jauss (LJa), referring to the potential change in operations, the recent National Gas webinar, and Q&A documents stressed the importance of not delaying the Modification as there is a material impact on procurement strategies for purchasing capacity. LJa explained that although this is a clarification Modification it is very important.

Steve Mulinganie (SM) also expressed the need to consider the two proposals in parallel while the issues are fresh in mind.

2. Transmission Horizon Plan

Kirsty Appleby (KA) took the Workgroup through the National Gas Transmission Change Horizon plan, noting three key items:

- Gemini Sustain Plus program due to be implemented in September 2024.
- Modification 0846 decision approved, with several system drops due.
- Modification 0823 expected decision in December.

Gemini Sustain Plus Engagement

KA explained that a Change Freeze will be put in place ring-fencing the legacy Gemini system to mitigate regret spend. This is not a UNC Modification freeze. Change development activities will continue during this period in the new Gemini Sustain plus platform.

The high-level delivery plan was provided, with a partial freeze from March - April 2024 and a full change freeze from May - September 2024.

SM enquired about the contingency arrangements if there is a failure to deliver the new platform and the impact on the freeze if the whole plan needs shifting. Referring to the dress rehearsal KA explained the approach to stop developing the old system and provided a number of options during the Change Freeze which included manual workaround options. KA agreed to confer with the project team on the change freeze if the implementation date changes.

New Action 1001: *Gemini Sustain Plus* - NGT (KA) to confirm the mitigation/contingency plans on the change freeze if there is a delay in implementation and if this will be extended or shifted in line with the implementation date.

KA advised that updates will continue to be provided to the Transmission Workgroup and made available on the Gemini Sustain Plus website:
<https://www.xoserve.com/change/investment-change/gemini-changes-overview/gemini-sustain-plus>. More detail can be provided with input from the Workgroup on any questions or topics. These can be submitted to: kirsty.appleby@nationalgas.com

3. Workgroups

The following Workgroup meetings took place:

3.1. 0835R - Review of Gas Demand Side Response Arrangements

(Report to Panel 21 March 2024)

<https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0835/051023>

3.2. 0852 - Shipper notification in relation to option exercise for Customer Demand Side Response

(Report to Panel 18 January 2024)

<https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0852/051023>

3.3. 0854 - Revision of Virtual Last Resort User and Contingent Procurement of Supplier Demand Event Triggers

(Report to Panel 18 January 2024)

<https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0854/051023>

3.4. 0856 – Introduction of Trials for System Management Services

(Report to Panel 16 November 2023)

<https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0856/051023>

4. Issues

No new issues have been identified.

5. Any Other Business

5.1. Mercury Content

Kirsty Appleby (KA) provided an update on the consultation that NGT conducted on the NTS Specification for Mercury. Referring to recent communications KA confirmed that having considered all the information available, NGT have determined to leave the guidance limit for mercury at $10\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at this time, as detailed in the Gas Ten Year Statement.

The Gas Ten Year Statement can be found at: <https://www.nationalgas.com/insight-and-innovation/gas-ten-year-statement-qtys>

KA provided the background and rationale on leaving the guidance limit of $10\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Please refer to the published presentation.

RF questioned the source of this guidance limit, stating that they had always worked on the understanding that $0.1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ was the limit. RF expressed his concern regarding the environmental impact of this higher limit, querying whether it would need to be discussed with the environment agency.

KA explained that following two surveys, the feedback suggested that respondents were not all in agreement. Some would like a higher figure, whilst others would prefer lower. LJ touched on RF's point, querying whether NGT had been in touch with the environment agency, suggesting that further sampling may be necessary.

KA took the Workgroup through the survey results and advised on the rationale behind leaving the limit at $10\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, KA advised that a judgement call had to be made which complied with the

GS(M)R. KA said that they were conscious that many would be disappointed with the limit staying as is, but noted the following future developments:

- Further Sampling
- Risk Assessment
- Device Trials
- RIIO3

KA explained that there were currently several possibilities under consideration, requesting a slot in January to discuss updates.

New Action 1002: Mercury Content - NGT (KA) to provide an update following further sampling and risk assessment

LJ questioned whether NGT planned to follow up with the Environment Agency. KA confirmed that NGT had taken the initial steps. EF confirmed that KA would be welcome to provide an update in January.

5.2. EU Requirements

Phil Hobbins (PH) enquired about resurrecting the EU Requirements as a standing agenda item, for the NGT project lead to provide updates to the Workgroup. PH explained that there is an EU gas package going through at the moment, which could have implications for decisions we make in the UK.

SM expressed that this would be useful to have those discussions again. JL, as an interconnector, encouraged these discussions, and JC strongly supported the idea of bringing these discussions back as a standing item.

The Workgroup considered how often updates should be provided welcoming bi-monthly updates from November.

5.3. Return to physical meetings 2024

EF enquired about the appetite for Transmission Workgroup meetings to be held face-to-face.

Some Workgroup participants welcomed the option of attending meetings face-to-face, having a hybrid option. It was noted that to justify travel physical meetings would need to be substantial in content.

NGT expressed a preference for physical meetings as often as possible. Some Workgroup participants supported hybrid due to considerable travel time, noting that teleconference options allow wider participation without travel constraints.

It was agreed that future planning of physical meetings would take into account the length of meetings, content and travelling time.

5.4. GDFN

GDFN paper was provided for information only. Further updates expected towards the end of the year.

5.5. End to End Balancing Guide

Available at: <https://www.nationalgas.com/balancing/end-end-balancing-services>

6. Diary Planning

Further details of planned meetings are available at: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/events-calendar/month

Time / Date	Paper Publication Deadline	Venue	Programme
10:00 Monday 16 October 2023	Short Notice Papers.	Microsoft Teams	Workgroup 0856 only.
10:00 Thursday	5 pm Wednesday	Microsoft	Standard Transmission

02 November 2023	25 October 2023	Teams	Workgroup Agenda Including 0835R, 0852, 0854 and 0856
10:00 Thursday 07 December 2023	5 pm Wednesday 29 November 2023	Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda Including 0835R, 0852 and 0854
10:00 Thursday 04 January 2024	5 pm Friday 22 December 2023	Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda Including 0835R, 0852 and 0854
10:00 Thursday 09 February 2024	5 pm Wednesday 01 February 2024	Microsoft Teams	Standard Transmission Workgroup Agenda Including 0835R

Transmission Workgroup Action Table						
Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Reporting Month	Owner	Status Update
1001	05/10/23	2.0	<i>Gemini Sustain Plus</i> - NGT (KA) to confirm the mitigation/contingency plans on the change freeze if there is a delay in implementation and if this will be extended or shifted in line with the implementation date.	November	NGT (KA)	Pending
1002	05/10/23	5.1	<i>Mercury Content</i> - NGT (KA) to provide an update following further sampling and risk assessment	November	NGT (KA)	Pending