

UNC Workgroup 0516 Minutes
Information provision by large Customers to aid understanding of
site characteristics

Thursday 23 October 2014
at 31 Homer Road, Solihull B91 3LT

Attendees

Bob Fletcher (Chair)	(BF)	Joint Office
Ian Hollington (Secretary)	(IH)	Joint Office
Alex Ross-Shaw	(ARS)	Northern Gas Networks
Andrew Margan	(AM)	British Gas
Andy Clasper	(AC)	National Grid
Bethan Winter*	(BW)	Wales and West Utilities
Colette Baldwin	(CB)	E.ON UK
David Addison	(DA)	Xoserve
David Mitchell	(DM)	Scotia Gas Networks
Gareth Evans	(GE)	Waters Wye
Hilary Chapman	(HCh)	Xoserve
Kirsten Elliott-Smith	(KE)	Cornwall Energy
Mark Jones	(MJ)	SSE
Stephen Perry*	(SP)	Ofgem
Steve Mulinganie	(SM)	Gazprom

* *via teleconference*

Copies of all papers are available at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0516/231014>

The Workgroup Report is due to be presented at the UNC Modification Panel on 19 February 2015.

1.0 Outline of Modification

GE outlined the purpose of this modification, which was to enable the provision of safety information on sites shut down and start up procedures for use should supplies need to be interrupted due to an emergency situation.

This information is to be held in a register, although he was not intending to specify whether this should be central or transporter specific.

AM asked how this modification could place obligations on organisations that were not party to the UNC and this point was discussed with GE advising that the data would be held for reference and each company could decide whether to use it or not. SM's view was that transporters responsibility would be to satisfy themselves that appropriate procedures were in place.

BW raised the point that all emergencies were individual and she questioned the value of using a record system that could be out of date as transporters would be using live data to make their assumptions on load shedding and this information might never be used. Participants discussed this with SM summarising the overall view that the use of this information/system is not mandatory. If a DN has a system in place it need not adopt it, but it is something that would be available if they chose to use it. GE added the point that the modification is to facilitate the provision of information and the extra process involves only the holding of the register.

SP provided Ofgem's view which was that they still expected organisations to have emergency procedures in place and for conversations with sites to take place in these situations, however, this was possibly another tool in the box for them to use. He did consider that the modification should reflect this fact rather than place a total reliance on the register. GE confirmed that this was the case although he would review the wording to clarify the point if necessary.

The Workgroup continued to discuss this and the on-going maintenance of the register, which GE summed up as being an annual process whereby the customer applies to be included on the register and the Network confirms they are eligible and have been entered. Where a customer does not reapply their entry could be deleted.

The Workgroup asked for a link to the ICoSS report to be included in these minutes and this is shown below:

<http://www.icoss.org/uploads/Gas%20Interruption%20paper%20final.pdf>

2.0 Initial Discussion

2.1. Initial Representations

None Received

2.2. Issues and Questions from Panel

BF confirmed two questions had been raised by Panel and added to the Terms of Reference for consideration:

- 1) Would the proposed process require central systems development to record the information, if so should it be a User Pays modification based on possible Supply Point administration changes;

The Workgroup had discussed the fact that the register may be held centrally but in the view of the proposer this was not being mandated. This discussion had included the issue of User Pays and GE's view was that it would not be subject the User Pays service as it was a process to help transporters meet their obligations for collating information about large sites.

- 2) Within the modification, should the obligations on Consumers be replaced with obligations on Shippers.

The Workgroup had already discussed this point and the consensus view was that the onus would be on the consumers to apply and reapply as needed, although this could not be an obligation in Code. Transporters would have an obligation that if a request is received they record the information on a register. Shippers would have an obligation to facilitate the communication process if required.

3.0 Workgroup Report

3.1. Action 0901 from Distribution Workgroup

Action 0901: Transporters to provide a view on the potential use of customer site characteristic data within an emergency situation.

Update: AC advised that in an emergency situation National Grid prefers to use information that gives facts instantly rather than something that has to be analysed and ARS supported that view adding that Northern Gas Networks do place a large emphasis on historical information and preferred to use live data..

GE summed up the thoughts of the Workgroup as being that reactions were mixed, with some participants thinking it would be of use and some not. **Closed.**

3.2 Business Rules

BW queried Business Rule 7 and how information provided could be validated. GE replied that it would be done independently but there was the option available to request further information.

3.3 Relevant Objectives

CB questioned Relevant Objective A being quoted along with the associated statement in the Summary Section. The Workgroup discussed this briefly and decided no action was necessary.

3.4 Consideration of Impacts and Costs

The Workgroup did not discuss this as a separate issue having touched on it earlier in the meeting.

4.0 Next Steps

BF advised that if the amended modification was provided by 07 November, a formal request for Legal text could be made at the 20 November Panel meeting.

5.0 Any Other Business

None Raised

6.0 Diary Planning

Further details of planned meetings are available at: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/Diary

Workgroup meetings will take place as follows:

Time / Date	Venue	Workgroup Programme
10:30 Thursday 27 November 2014	31 Homer Road, Solihull, B91 3LT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amended Modification • Consideration of Business Rules • Consideration of User Pays • Review of Impacts and Costs • Review of Relevant Objectives • Consideration of Wider Industry Impacts • Consideration of Legal Text • Development of Workgroup Report
10:30 Friday 12 December 2014	31 Homer Road, Solihull, B91 3LT	To be confirmed

Action Table

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
0901	25/09/14	1.5	0516 - Transporters to provide a view on the potential use of customer site characteristic data within an emergency situation.	All DNs	Closed