

Variation Request

0487S - Introduction of an Advanced Meter Reader (AMR) Service Provider (ASP) Identifier (ASP ID) and Advanced Meter Indicator

Date: 06 October 2014

The Proposer, Gazprom Energy, requests a variation to this modification, pursuant to UNC Modification Rules Section 6.5.1(c) of the UNC.

Reason for Variation

In developing the proposal we determined that we needed to consider how arrangements would be managed in both in Pre Nexus and also post Nexus. This was necessary as with the major Nexus IT programme currently being undertaken any system changes required in Pre Nexus would be finite. Based on this principle we reduced the scope of the Pre Nexus requirements to facilitating an Advanced Meter Reader (AMR) Service Provider (ASP) Identifier (ASP ID) within central systems. The approach, although not perfect, allows Shippers to infer where an AMR device is present, with a workaround designed to enable shippers to signal the presence of an AMR device where the ASP is unknown. This approach was identified as minimum impact within the Pre Nexus system.

This then led us to effectively split the proposals into 2 modifications: -

0487S – Introduction of an Advanced Meter Indicator and Advanced Meter Reader (AMR) service provider identifier in advance of Project Nexus go-live

0511 - Introduction of an Enduring Solution for managing Advanced Meters in central systems post Nexus

Two complimentary change proposals have been progressing through SPAA: -

CP 14/283 – A transitional (pre-Nexus) change to record the ASP ID and the presence of an AMR meter. This is proposed to be achieved by using the existing 'SMO' field to record the ASP ID using appropriate three-character organisation short codes, with a code also created to indicate where an AMR meter is present but the ASP ID is unknown. From these three-character organisation codes, it should be possible to infer whether an AMR device is present, as well as the identity of the ASP.

CP 14/284 – An enduring change to be implemented from Nexus go-live to create a bespoke 'ASP' field to record the ASP ID, and to introduce a new Asset Class Code to record the presence of an AMR device separately.

In reducing the scope of 0487S we have removed the obligation to record the presence of an Advanced Meter Indicator prior to Nexus Go Live. As described above, pre-Nexus there will be a need for shippers to record the presence of an AMR device where the ASP is unknown. In order to be fully functional at Nexus go-live, CP 14/284 also requires an accompanying obligation in the UNC for shippers to keep the AMR device field up to date.

It is important that this obligation is included in UNC 0487S, to enable both SPAA CP 14/283 and SPAA CP 14/284 to be fully functional. Given it's broader scope, UNC 0511 will not be deliverable for Nexus go-live, and so reliance on this to support SPAA CP14/284 would leave a gap in arrangements.

It should therefore be understood that UNC 0487S is intended to facilitate both a pre and post-Nexus solution, via SPAA CP 14/283 and SPAA CP 14/284. UNC 0511 is intended to consider whether any further changes on top of this are required to support a fully interoperable AMR market.

For the avoidance of doubt, we believe that the creation of the Advanced Meter Reader (AMR) Service Provider (ASP) Identifier (ASP ID) within central systems would not cease upon Nexus Go Live but would continue to be facilitated Post Nexus. AMR device presence should also be recorded as described both pre and post Nexus. UNC 0511 then, will look at whether any further changes are needed to provide a complete and enduring solution to AMR interoperability issues, including consideration of whether any further data items need to be held centrally, and how multiple AMR assets should be recorded.

To avoid the potential gap identified and to provide clarity on what requirements we believe should be in place both prior to and immediately upon Nexus go live, we are proposing to amend 0487S to address these concerns.

Nature of Variation

It is proposed that an obligation is placed on Shippers, where relevant, to populate and maintain the Advanced Meter Reading Service Provider (ASP) ID and Advanced Meter Indicator.

The Shipper shall be responsible for updating the ASP ID and Advanced Meter Indicator as soon as reasonably practicable once it becomes aware of the existence of Advanced Metering and/or an ASP associated with the MPRN. The triggers that are currently identified are as follows: -

1. Following the initial appointment and any subsequent appointment by the Supplier of an Advanced Meter Reader Service Provider (ASP)

2. Where the Supplier is aware of an Advanced Meter being in-situ and that an Advanced Meter Reader Service Provider exists who is not appointed by the Supplier e.g. if the consumer has arrangements with an Advanced Meter Reader Service Provider

3. Where an Advanced Meter is identified as being insitu

For avoidance of doubt should multiple ASP's exist then it is the ASP providing services to the Supplier that should be reported.

For clarity, it is anticipated that the Advanced Meter Indicator will only be available for population from Nexus Go live.

Pre Nexus go-live, where the ASP ID is not known and no customer appointed ASP is thought to be in place, but an AMR device is known to be at site, the Shipper shall be responsible for recording this through use of the appropriate ASP ID code. This should be done as soon as reasonably practicable once the Shipper becomes aware of the relevant arrangements at site. This obligation should fall away at Nexus go-live.

From Nexus Go Live, Shippers will be obliged, where relevant, to populate and maintain the Advanced Meter Indicator, which identifies that the in situ meter is advanced.

The Shipper shall be responsible for updating the Advanced Meter Indicator as soon as reasonably practicable once it becomes aware of the existence of an Advanced Meter being present at the MPRN.

For avoidance of doubt, post NEXUS the ASP ID will continue to be required to be populated as well as the AMR device field.

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