

Review Group 0140 Minutes
Friday 18 May 2007
Elxon, 350 Euston Road, London NW1 3AW

Attendees

John Bradley (Chair)	JB	Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Lorna Dupont (Secretary)	LD	Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Chris Logue	CL	National Grid Transmission
Christiane Sykes	CS	Statoil
Claire Rozyn	CR	Ofgem
Clive Woodland (alternate)	CW	BGT Centrica
Eddie Proffitt	EP	MEUC
Louise McGoldrick	LM	National Grid Transmission
Paul Gallagher	PG	National Grid Transmission
Rekha Patel	RP	Waters Wye
Richard Fairholme	RF	E.ON UK
Roger Golding	RG	Scotia Gas Networks
Stefan Leedham	SL	EDF Energy
Steve Rose	SR	RWE npower
Stuart Waudby	SW	Centrica Storage
Tim Davis	TD	Joint Office of Gas Transporters

Apologies

Abid Sheikh	AS	energywatch
Amrik Bal	AB	Shell
Chris Wright	CW	BGT Centrica
Joel Martin	JM	Scotia Gas Networks

1. Introduction and Review Group Operation

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and explained the relevant UNC Modification Rules governing the operation of the Review Group.

JB reiterated that Ofgem was in full support and referred to the Demand Side Working Group (DSWG), to which the Proposer CL had committed to provide regular updates on the progress made at this Review Group.

2. Outline of Proposal**2.1 Gas Information Review Proposal UNC0140 - Presentation**

A presentation was given by CL (National Grid Transmission), explaining that the intent of the proposal was to review much of the data currently published on National Grid's website, with some exceptions.

The Proposer described the 4 main aims for the Review Group:

- To identify data of little use

- To identify duplicated data - this was not always provided from the same source and could contain subtle differences; to reduce opportunities for confusion, very clear definitions may need to be agreed.
- To identify possible gaps in the data – to come to agreement on what is required and how improvements can be made
- To review NCORM with a view to simplification, allowing more efficient and user friendly data provision – in its current state NCORM is seen to be an inflexible way to provide data.

As part of the discussion, JB also brought the Group's attention to the following point raised by AS, who was unable to attend the meeting:

“ ..in assessing the relevance of the data contained in the reports, the Group may want to set criteria for that assessment including consideration of the usefulness of particular data items under different scenarios. Data which may not be particularly used in benign market conditions may be very useful at times of system stress, and so there may be a need for some flexibility in retaining discrete data items subject of course to appropriate cost/benefit considerations”.

CL observed that the market had evolved over the past few years and much of the information has become outdated or has been superseded. National Grid was in the process of replacing servers with a new system (MIPI 07/08). The first stage (for completion in October 2007) would seek to provide a robust platform and migrate key reports to the new system, eg within day data. The second stage was planned for October 2008, at which time the remaining data would be migrated. Migration of obsolete, useless or unwanted data was to be avoided. The new platform should be more user friendly and provide more flexibility for data presentation and selection.

The Proposer outlined at least three opportunities for developing and proposing Modifications that may be created through the work/progress of the Review Group, and which could be generated before the conclusion of the review, at the Group's discretion.

Not all data published was an obligation as a result of a modification or as a UNC obligation, and if the Group agreed that certain data was no longer of significance it could be 'removed' through an appropriate method. NCORM may or may not need to be changed by a Modification Proposal - the UNC Committee may approve changes.

In response to a question from SR, CL confirmed that the aim was to review primarily operational data.

After a brief discussion, the Group agreed with the rationale for raising the Review Proposal. CW was asked whether BGT would still like to progress the suggestions for further data publication made at the April Transmission Workstream. CW stated that it would wish to progress this but would also wish to review its list prior to bringing firm proposals to the Review Group. The following action was, therefore, taken:

Action RG140/01: BGT to review (publication, timing, sensitivity, etc) its data list (provided at the Transmission Workstream) before the next Review Group meeting.

2.2 Discussion Topic: Demand

CL and PG presented a spreadsheet containing details of currently provided/identified report data/information in respect of Demand to the Group. The methodology of the categorisation (red, amber, green) was explained, whereby green items were deemed to be still relevant and therefore would not need to change, red items had been identified as either duplicated information or infrequently/narrowly used and may therefore be potential candidates for removal, and amber items had been identified as being the less clear cut areas that would need more discussion before reaching a decision. It was thought that most discussion would

therefore centre on the red and amber items. CL would, however, like more feedback on this Topic spreadsheet before a review of any further areas was tackled - the identification of items no longer required and any noticed gaps in the data.

PG explained that National Grid NTS would like to reach a point where forecast demand was clearly defined (one or more definitions, dependent on subtleties, promoting consistency but avoiding duplication) and published in one location. The Group thought that publishing in one place with a clear definition was basically a good idea, but added that a data item should also appear in a summary and that definitions should be aligned with what the Group agreed.

There was a short discussion on data relating to the implementation of Modification 0121.

PG stated that volume of usage was defined by the report usage and not by single data item. Some issues included, for example, publishing 2 days and 5 days ahead as a single figure; some items were published in volume terms and not energy terms; or at LDZ level or national level, etc. Different levels of detail were being reviewed and questioned.

SL observed that he would like to see physical and actual demand rather than depend solely on entry flows. He could think of two variants of LDZ demand – end-user demand at Supply Points and apparent demand at offtakes. The difference between the two was due to shrinkage, Stock Change in holders etc and, in some cases boil-off gas injected directly into the LDZ.

SW agreed that differentiation was required between demand on the grid and end-user demand. PG agreed there might need to be subtle definitions as appropriate depending on the Group's views.

The industry would need to ascertain what it required, by reviewing what was published, where, whether it was appropriate, and come to agreement on a correct definition and exactly what should be published on National Grid's website rather than on all of the DNs' websites. It was also to be borne in mind that National Grid NTS may not have access to all current data in the future, and that certain data may reside with the DNs. This may depend on whether data is derived from or provided by certain sources. The principle was agreed that the data should be appropriately located and easy to access.

Action RG140/02: National Grid NTS (PG) and DNs (RG) to consider whether both types of demand can be displayed on the system, and establish/confirm that the DNs would be in acceptance of such. RG to ascertain data owned by DNs and confirm that inclusion on a single website would be acceptable.

Action RG140/03: National Grid NTS (CL/PG) to expand spreadsheet format to include website location/pathway of data, any UNC obligations, define current format (pdf or CSV), and circulate list of categories.

Action RG140/04: JO (JB) to establish whether the organisation Gas Management Services Ltd (GMSL) is represented on the circulation lists, and if not then specifically issue an invitation to attend the Review Group meetings.

There was a short discussion on how the data was currently presented. SW thought that some data may be better presented in graphical format, eg storage monitors. CW observed that it should still be possible to get to the data behind the graphs. CL commented that he was happy to receive feedback on the presentation of data but would like to move away from the rigidity of formats. PG advised that the new, more sophisticated system would enable users to reconsider how they want to access data, and would allow selection of data items from the lists, and should be able to be set up as an Application Programme Interface (API).

The new system will be a 3 page system. Page 1 will carry key data items, eg Daily Summary Report, from which a user will be able to drill down to an area of interest. Page 2 will carry predefined reports (similar to current reports). Page 3 will give the opportunity to download, to pick and choose data items more precisely, specifying time/period, etc. The

system will be backed up by an API to give automatic downloads, similar to what has been done with 006 – a very similar concept. CL offered to give a presentation to enable the Group to get a feel for the look and functionality of the new system.

Action RG140/05: National Grid NTS (CL/PG) to give a presentation on MIPI at the next meeting.

In summary EP observed that the Group needs to identify what the market needs and wants, then identify where it should sit, the format in which it is to be provided, and how it should be accessed.

3. Consider Terms of Reference

The draft Terms of Reference were amended following discussion by the Group and will be submitted by the JO to the UNC Modification Panel.

Action RG140/06: JO (JB) to place Terms of Reference on the website and present to the UNC Modification Panel.

4. Review Group Process

SL would like an idea of the programme of work to be covered so that internal consideration can be given, and views collated and aired to the Group.

Action RG140/07: JO (JB) and National Grid NTS (CL) to devise an appropriate programme of work.

5. Diary Planning for Review Group

The next meeting of Review Group 0140 has been arranged for Tuesday 19 June 2007, at Elexon Offices, 350 Euston Road, London NW1 3AW (10:00 – 16:00).

A further meeting has been arranged for Monday 09 July 2007, at Elexon Offices, 350 Euston Road, London NW1 3AW (10:00 – 12:00).

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

APPENDIX A

ACTION LOG - Review Group 0140 18 May 2007

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref (original ref)	Action	Owner*	Status Update
RG140/01	18/05/07	2.1	BGT to review (publication, timing, sensitivity, etc) its data list (provided at the Transmission Workstream) before the next Review Group meeting.	BGT (CW)	19 June 2007
RG140/02	18/05/07	2.2	National Grid NTS and DNs to consider whether both types of demand can be on the system, and establish/confirm that the DNs would be in acceptance of such. RG to ascertain data owned by DNs and confirm that inclusion on a single website would be acceptable.	National Grid NTS (PG) and DNs (RG)	19 June 2007
RG140/03	18/05/07	2.2	National Grid NTS to expand spreadsheet format to include website location/pathway of data, any UNC obligations, define current format (pdf or CSV), and circulate list of categories.	National Grid NTS (CL/PG)	19 June 2007
RG140/04	18/05/07	2.2	JO to establish whether the organisation Gas Management Services Ltd (GMSL) is represented on the circulation lists, and if not then specifically issue an invitation to attend the Review Group meetings.	JO (JB)	19 June 2007
RG140/05	18/05/07	2.2	National Grid NTS to give a presentation on MIPI at the next meeting.	National Grid NTS (CL/PG)	19 June 2007
RG140/06	18/05/07	3.0	JO to place Terms of Reference on the website and present to the UNC Modification Panel.	JO (JB)	19 June 2007
RG140/07	18/05/07	4.0	JO and National Grid NTS to devise an appropriate programme of work.	JO (JB) and National Grid NTS (CL)	19 June 2007

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref (original ref)	Action	Owner*	Status Update