

0564R: 'Must read' trial outcome and next steps

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Background

- National Grid raised its Review of Annual Read Meter Reading Requirements under Modification 0564R in Oct 2015 with the intention to both review the existing UNC obligations concerning cyclic reading of Annual Read Meters and to consider whether to extend the current ‘must read’ process to include Annual Read Supply Meters
 - We believe this scope is consistent with the CMA investigation into the energy market
- The Code Cut Off Date was indicated as the point at which National Grid would carry out its ‘must reads’
 - There are currently circa 26,000 Supply Meters within the National Grid Network which have not received a Valid Meter Reading within the previous 3 to 4 year period
 - A further circa 26,000 Supply Meters within the National Grid Network have not been read for over 4 years and will also be scheduled for a ‘must read’
- Shipper feedback indicated that in absence of procuring warrants of entry, we would be likely to fail to provide any further Meter Readings as all reasonable efforts by Shippers had already been taken
- As a consequence of the feedback National Grid carried out a 100 site trial on a random selection of the 26,000 Supply Points not read between the 3-4 year period.
 - The trial followed the current ‘must read’ process and did not require warrants of entry
 - The trial was carried out at full cost to National Grid with no recharge to the relevant Shipper



Trial outcome

- Up to 5 visits were carried out to each site
 - Visits took place between 22 March 2016 and 20 April 2016
 - Current 'must read' process was used with no special instructions given or warrants procured
- 49 of the 100 site visits led to a Meter Reading being taken
 - This is a comparable success rate to the current Monthly Read 'must read' process
 - Readings have been provided back to Xoserve as per the current 'must read' process
 - The breakdown of the number of readings per visit are as follows

	Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5
Successful reads	22	9	7	10	1
Cumulative	22	31	38	48	49

- The following table highlights the reason where a Meter Reading could not be taken at 51 sites

No access	Site vacant	Refused access	Meter blocked	Demolished
25	13	7	5	1

- A breakdown of individual results are available to Shippers on request

Next steps

- We have shared the outcomes of the trial with Ofgem and will now begin the process of extending the current 'must read' process to include Annual Read Supply Points
- National Grid are now engaging with Xoserve to design the process
 - The aspiration is to begin the Annual Read Supply Point 'must read' site visits from Sept/Oct 2016
 - This is dependent upon process development – Shippers will be updated if timescales slip
 - Initially the visits will be carried out to capture 'must reads' ahead of the Code Cut Off Date
 - The Supply Meters which have not received a read for over 4 years will also be scheduled into the program where we are able to do so
- The process will, as far as possible, match the timeline previously indicated to Shippers

