

Project Nexus

Executive Summary of Business Requirements

Prepared for

Project Nexus UNC Workgroup

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1 Background

1.1 Purpose of the Document

This document summarises the Business Requirements defined at the Project Nexus UNC Workgroup. The intention is to summarise the detailed proposed changes at a high level, sufficient for the reader to develop an understanding of their key features and their external and mutual dependencies.

In combination with the detailed requirements documents this document, this document should provide a common basis for a high level assessment of the impacts of the proposals on their business and inform the financial and non-financial impacts of the Project Nexus proposals by all affected parties.

This document assumes a reasonable working knowledge of current industry processes, by highlighting key proposed changes from the current arrangements.

1.2 Background to Project Nexus

At the time of the last Gas Distribution Price Control Xserve anticipated the need for a major IT systems investment programme. Stakeholder consultation was initiated, under the banner of 'Project Nexus' to inform the scope and nature of Xserve's future services that IT systems would need to support – the detailed Business Requirement Documents that support this document form a key input to the design of that investment programme.

The initial phase of Project Nexus was a Consultation exercise, in which interested parties were asked for their views on the long-term strategic requirements for Xserve's services. The consultation also developed a preferred approach to further definition of stakeholder requirements.

Following the Consultation Phase of Project Nexus, an Initial Requirements Register (IRR) was compiled, identifying all the topics that respondents to the Consultation had raised.

Topics were grouped into three broad categories:

- UNC changes
- Independent Gas Transporter (iGT) services
- Data management

A UNC Workstream was established to consider the UNC topics and develop requirements.

Following an initial industry meeting regarding the generic 'data management' topics, it was agreed to suspend further discussion in this area, pending greater clarity regarding the scope of the then-anticipated smart metering programme.

Given that there were ongoing discussions under different governance around iGT services, this area was not progressed as part of the Project Nexus requirements definition work, although an iGT representative has maintained engagement with Project Nexus and developments associated with iGT services have been closely monitored by Project Nexus. iGT services came to

the fore towards the end of 2011 following the raising of an iGT UNC Modification and the more active engagement of iGTs with Xserve. iGT representatives now support the concept of a single central supply point register and work will commence in early 2012 to gather industry requirements for this additional service.

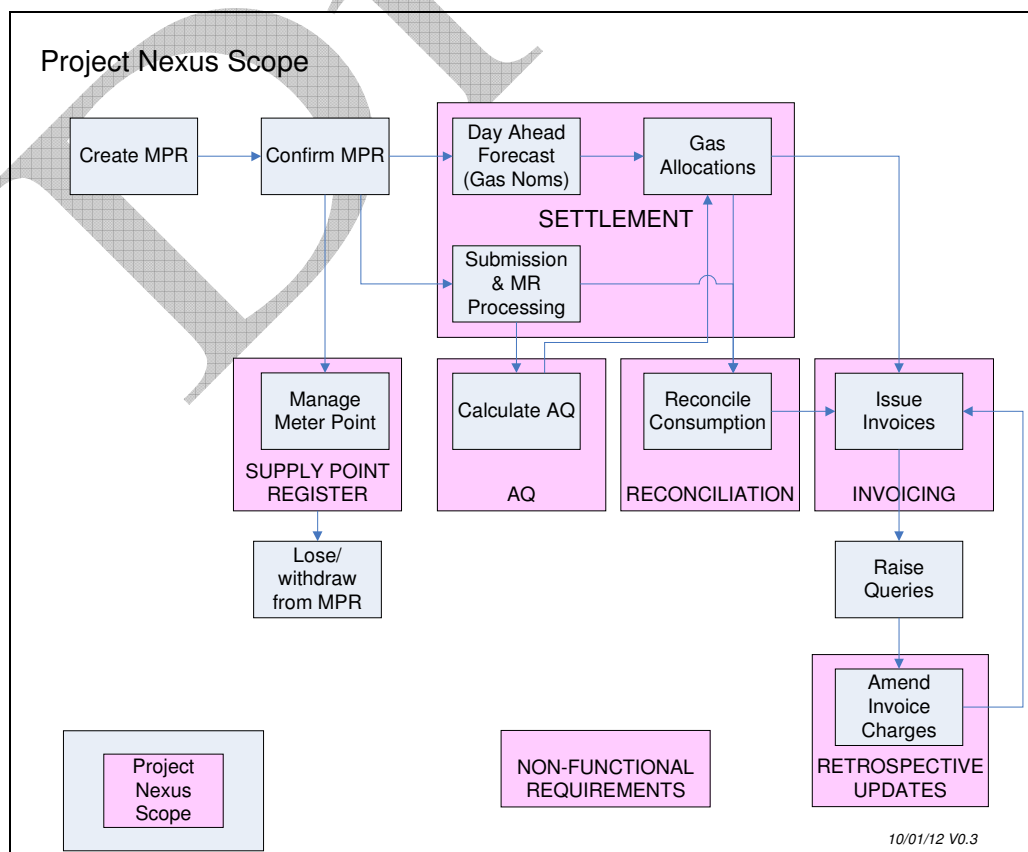
The Project Nexus Advisory Group (PNAG) was also established to provide advice and support on the most effective manner in which Xserve should define future service requirements with full stakeholder engagement.

1.3 Development of Requirements

In 2009 the Uniform Network Code (UNC) Modification Panel agreed a Workstream (later renamed Workgroup) should be set up to define industry requirements for the development/enhancement of the UNC in areas that are relevant to Xserve's services. The Initial Requirements Register (IRR) formed the basis of the discussions. Consultation responses were grouped into related topics and relevant as-is process models were reviewed and agreed. The Project Nexus Workgroup discussed the consultation responses and reached a consensus on whether to carry forward or close the requirement. The outputs from the Workgroup Topic meetings were baselined Business Requirements Documents and To-Be process models (i.e. future state processes).

1.4 Areas of Requirements Development

The following diagram shows the approximate relationship between the seven topic areas:



1.5 Overview of Business Requirements

The original comments in the IRR were grouped into a number of topics, loosely based on existing industry process areas. These topics were tackled in sequential order, to minimise the amount of re-work. The 7 topic areas covered under Project Nexus UNC (PN UNC) Workgroup discussions were:

- Settlement (i.e. submission of Meter Readings and use in Daily Allocation)
- Annual Quantity
- Reconciliation
- Invoicing
- Supply Point Register
- Retrospective Updates
- Non-Functional requirements

Business requirements documents (BRDs) have been documented for each of these topics and have been reviewed by stakeholders. Sections 2 to 8 of this summary document set out the key features of each of these BRDs.

1.6 Status of BRDs

The BRDs set out the requirements developed through PN UNC discussions. They have not been subject to a cost/benefit assessment. They could form the basis of UNC Business Rules to support a proposal for a UNC Modification. Before they can be viewed as requirements against which to progress process and systems development, it will be necessary to gain an appropriate level of confidence regarding the level of industry support for these requirements, to ensure that there is a high likelihood that they will be progressed to a formal modification of the UNC.

1.7 Dependencies / interdependencies of BRDs

The BRDs have been developed sequentially, where relevant as far as possible taking into consideration outputs of earlier BRDs in developing rules for the next topic.

The BRDs have been developed during a period when DECC's Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP) has been running in parallel. To some extent it is expected that the full take-up of some elements of the BRDs will only be achieved as smart metering rolls out (e.g. Settlement Product 3). However it is important to understand that there is no hard dependency of any of the BRDs on the rollout of smart metering. Nor has the SMIP identified any dependency on the Project Nexus requirements.

Although the BRDs have been developed sequentially, it is Xoserve's view that in some cases elements of one BRD logically should not be delivered as 'stand alone', i.e. there are some process changes within individual BRDs that are dependent on process changes proposed in other BRDs. This gives rise to a view of which BRDs / elements of BRDs should logically be considered to be delivered together and in what order. In conducting an industry impact assessment these interdependencies must be agreed and work progressed with these groupings and sequencing in mind.

Xoserve's view of related BRD elements is set out below, with reference to the appropriate section of this document.

<i>Topic Grouping</i>	<i>Group A</i>	<i>Group B</i>	<i>Group C</i>	<i>Group D</i>
<i>Settlement</i>	Meter Reading Validation (2.7)	Introduce Product 2 and Product 3 for LSP (2)	Enhanced NDM Allocation and Gas Nomination arrangements (2.5, 2.9)	
<i>Reconciliation</i>		NDM Resynchs, Product 3 one-day recs (3.5)	Universal meter point rec Remove RbD, replace with LDZ-wide smearing (3.2, 3.4)	
<i>AQ</i>	Monthly AQ Calculation (4)			
<i>Retrospective Updates</i>		Replace any meter reading (5.3)		Retrospective asset updates (5.2)
<i>Supply Point Register</i>				Supply Point Register enhancements (2)
<i>Invoicing</i>				Invoicing
<i>Non-Functional Requirements</i>	As appropriate	As appropriate	As appropriate	As appropriate

The above does not represent an implementation plan, but is a suggested grouping of sub-topics, which should ensure that interdependencies are properly considered.

Notes

- A. Monthly AQ calculation has been widely discussed as the highest priority for many (but not all) industry participants. A monthly cycle would not allow time for the current amendment activities, so higher read quality would be a pre-requisite. Thus monthly AQ calculation can only be implemented with or after the new read validation as described (or similar).
- B. Group B packages together new services for Larger Supply Points which take advantage of the roll-out of improved meter reading technology prior to the mass roll-out in the SSP sector. These products are alternatives to the current DM Voluntary and Elective services.

- C. It is not feasible to move to universal individual meter point reconciliation without removing Reconciliation by Difference (RbD) and replacing it with a new smearing arrangement. Unless NDM Allocation arrangements are changed at the same time, the allocation process could introduce new cross-subsidies which would only be corrected by reconciliation.
- D. The enhancements to the Supply Point Register have been grouped together.

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2 “Settlement” (Submission of Meter Readings and Use in Daily Allocation)

2.1 Key Proposals

- Shippers continue to be responsible for obtaining, validating and submitting meter readings
- Gas Transporters’ agent performs validations on the read against data held on the GTs’ supply point register
- Choice of four future services for attribution/allocation of daily gas off-taken
- Shippers will have access to a daily settlement service for all meter points – if desired
- Introduction of an industry-wide “smear” for Unidentified Gas and any other gas not accounted for through initial measurements or allocations

2.2 Overview of the 4 Products

The Business Requirements include proposals for 4 “Products” which will all be available to all meter points (with the exception of very large meter points – see 2.2.1 below). All these products are intended to be available in the future regime, and as such do not represent a range of design options. Rather, they represent customer choice in attribution/allocation and reconciliation arrangements (considered in more detail in the Reconciliation section below).

Each product is described below in turn. The key features are compared in 2.3 below.

2.2.1 Product 1 – Time Critical DM

A mandatory service for meter points with an AQ of over 58.6m kWh. Shippers may elect other meter points to be subject to this service on an optional basis. Shippers may elect to use this service for even the smallest meter point.

Meter readings must be submitted by 10am for these meter points, in order to support allocation processes for non-daily metered meter points. Where no readings are received in time, the GT agent will calculate an estimate based on the recorded consumption from 7 days earlier (a “D-7” estimate). The Shipper has the option to submit their own estimated meter readings, but they must conform to the D-7 calculation. Readings can be replaced without restriction up to D+5, at which point the latest accepted reading will be used for Energy Balancing and Commodity billing purposes.

The working assumption is to allow for an unbundled meter reading regime for all directly connected LDZ meter points, including DM meter points.

2.2.2 Product 2 – Non-Time Critical DM

An elective service available to any meter point with an AQ below 58.6m kWh. Shippers may elect to use this service for even the smallest meter point.

Meter readings must be submitted within 24 hours of the end of the gas day for these meter points, i.e. by 05:59 the following morning. In order to support allocation processes for non-daily metered meter points, the GT agent will use a “D-7” estimate in any allocation runs, until an actual reading is received.

Where no readings are received by D+5, the D-7 estimate will prevail. The Shipper has the option to submit their own estimated meter readings, but they must conform to the D-7 calculation. Readings can be replaced without restriction up to D+5, at which point the latest accepted reading will be used for Energy Balancing and Commodity billing purposes.

Products 1 and 2 are very similar, with the key differences being mandatory application of Product 1 to the largest meter points, and a longer read submission window for Product 2.

2.2.3 Product 3 – Batched Daily Readings

A voluntary service available to any meter point with an AQ below 58.6m kWh.

The meter point is subject to non-daily metered allocation each day based on its AQ and an allocation algorithm. The need for change to the allocation algorithm is considered in section 2.5 below. Gas usage is subsequently reconciled for each day’s individual consumption, by the Shipper submitting a batch of daily readings, which may be actual or estimated. The proposed read frequencies for batch submission are weekly, fortnightly and monthly.

2.2.4 Product 4 – Periodic Readings

A voluntary service available to any meter point with an AQ below 58.6m kWh.

The meter point is subject to daily non-daily metered allocation based on its AQ and an allocation algorithm. Gas usage is subsequently reconciled when the Shipper submits a periodic meter reading, which must be an actual reading. The reconciliation quantities and values are derived using the original allocation profile.

2.3 Key features of the four Products

<i>Process Description</i>	<i>Basis of energy Allocation</i>	<i>Basis of Energy Balancing</i>	<i>Shipper Read Submission</i>	<i>Missing read arrangements for energy allocation</i>
Product 1: Daily Metered Time Critical Readings	Daily Read	Daily Read	Daily by 10 am on GFD+1	D-7 estimate – Shipper or GT
Product 2: Daily Metered not Time Critical Readings	GT Estimate (until receipt of actual reading)	Daily Read	Daily by end of GFD+1	D-7 estimate – Shipper or GT
Product 3: Batched Daily Readings	Allocation Profiles	Allocation Profiles	Periodically in batches of daily readings	Not applicable – not used in allocation
Product 4: Periodic Readings	Allocation Profiles	Allocation Profiles	Periodically	Not applicable – not used in allocation

2.4 Mapping of the future Products to current services

The four proposed products can be mapped approximately to the existing services as shown below. However, please see the individual descriptions for further details.

Current services	Future “product”	
DM Mandatory/ DM Voluntary	Product 1 – Time Critical DM	DM
DM Voluntary/ DM Elective	Product 2 – Non-Time Critical DM	
Non-Daily Metered	Product 3 – Batched Daily Readings	NDM
	Product 4 – Periodic Readings	

2.5 Treatment of “Unidentified Gas”

An initial estimate of unidentified gas will be calculated each day as part of the daily gas allocation process.

Step 1

Daily reads are received from Products 1 and 2. (Note: for Product 2, D-7 estimates are used until an actual read is received, or where there is no reading for Product 1).

Step 2

The NDM Algorithm calculates an initial allocation for all Product 3 and 4 meter points. This will require an improved estimation methodology. It is anticipated that this will still be based on AQ, but will be more responsive to other factors, such as weather. Further work on reviewing NDM Algorithms will be undertaken by the Demand Estimation Sub-Committee (DESC).

Step 3

Total LDZ Throughput less Shrinkage, less Step 1 and Step 2 = Unidentified Gas for the LDZ.

Step 4

Unidentified gas in each LDZ is shared out to all portfolio Shippers in the LDZ based on their total Step 1 and Step 2 measurements for the day. The charge will be at portfolio level by Shipper by LDZ, not at meter point level.

This process is referred to as Allocation Scaling Adjustment in the Business Requirements Document. Unidentified Gas will be amended subsequently and re-shared as meter point reconciliations occur. See Reconciliation section (3) below.

2.6 Submission of Meter Readings

Notwithstanding the introduction of DCC, little change is envisaged to the read submission arrangements. Submission of meter readings will remain the responsibility of the Shipper, and there is an assumption that Shippers will take on responsibility for obtaining and submitting reads for LDZ DM meter points, i.e. DM meter reading will become an unbundled service.

2.7 Meter Reading Validation

Shippers will continue to have responsibility for validating meter readings prior to submission to the GTs' agent. The proposals include a new two-step validation process. Shippers will validate meter readings using the current AQ/SOQ for the meter point:

- For daily read meter points (Products 1 to 3), by comparing the energy that the reading would generate to the SOQ for the meter point
- For periodically read meter points (Product 4), by comparing the energy that the reading would generate to the AQ for the meter point, applied pro-rata for the number of days in the read period

If the proposed energy passes the first test, it can be loaded to the GTs' system and used in all subsequent processes.

The GT agent will replicate the Shipper validations and in certain circumstances will reject reads if they fail the tests. This enhanced validation is essential to support the changes to downstream AQ calculation and reconciliation processes, which rely on these readings.

If the energy fails the first test but passes the second test, it can only be loaded if it has been submitted with an “Override” flag. By using this flag the Shipper confirms that they have checked the reading (and the energy generated) and acknowledges that the energy is unusually large or small, but confirms that it is correct. The “flag” could be populated at first attempt at submission, or at a subsequent re-submission following a rejection by the GT.

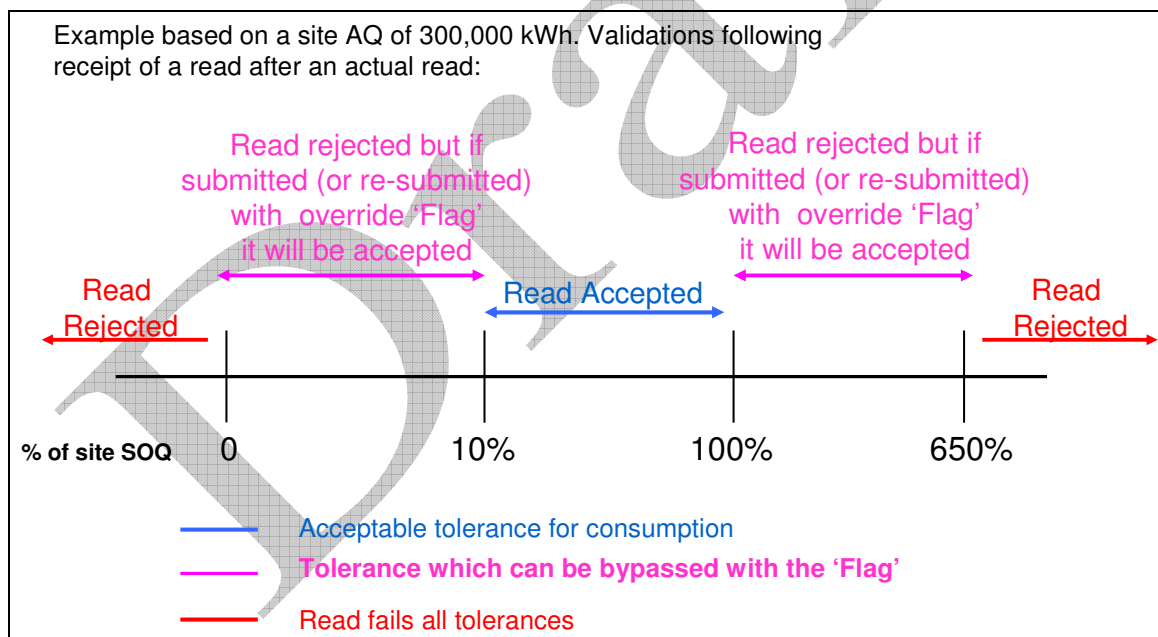
Reads where the energy fails the second test cannot be loaded.

As a safeguard, if the “override flag” is set for a reading which according to the GTs’ agent’s calculation would pass both tests, the read will be rejected. This is to protect all downstream processes from erroneous use of the flag, e.g. trying to “force” reads through without performing full validation.

2.7.1 Read validation tolerances

The interaction of the two tests is shown below.

The working values of the tests can be found in the detailed Settlement BRD. It is intended that the actual values will be determined through further analysis at a later stage, and that there should be sufficient flexibility to amend the values after implementation if the industry agrees changes.



2.8 Interaction with Smart Metering Programme/DCC arrangements

None of the proposals for meter read submission is directly dependent on roll-out of smart meters or introduction of DCC, although we would expect that use of Products 1-3 would require automated meter reading facilities.

Product 4 is likely to be the default service for a current NDM meter point.

2.9 Day Ahead Gas Nomination Processes

One of the Workgroup's objectives was to maintain or improve the alignment of Day Ahead NDM Gas Nominations with NDM Allocations (after the Gas day). The proposal is to mirror the new NDM Allocation arrangements and to remain fairly close to the current principles for Day Ahead Gas Nominations:

- For the future equivalent of daily metered meter points (Products 1 and 2), the Shipper will nominate the next day's gas consumption
- Where the Shipper does not submit a gas nomination for Product 1 or 2 meter points (either for the interim or final runs of the nomination process) the GT will use a D-7 estimate (based on recorded consumption from 7 days earlier)
- For the future equivalent of daily non-metered meter points (Products 3 and 4), by estimating the next day's gas consumption, in a consistent manner to the after-the-day allocations
- Within each LDZ, the sum of daily metered nominations plus the sum of the NDM Estimates is deducted from the LDZ forecast consumption (as predicted by the Gas Control Room – unchanged from current arrangements)
- The difference between total LDZ forecast and the sum of all the meter point level forecasts is equal to forecast Unidentified Gas, and will be shared out to all portfolio Shippers in the LDZ based on their total forecast measurements for the day. As with the Allocation Scaling Adjustment the charge will be at portfolio level by Shipper by LDZ, not at meter point level.
- This process is referred to as Nominations Scaling Adjustment in the Business Requirements Document.

2.10 Access to Settlement Products

Except as detailed in 2.2.1 above, any meter point can access any of the 4 products. Shippers will be required to designate a Product in advance for a meter point, and give future notice (probably a number of days' notice) of a change of Product.

3 Reconciliation

3.1 Key Proposals

- Meter point reconciliation for all MPRs
- Removal of RbD and replacement with an industry-wide scaling adjustment
- No change to reconciliation principles and calculations, just to the range of meter points to which they apply
- Introduction of the concept of Resynchronisation for NDM meter points where meter readings are derived using certain types of automated reading equipment

3.2 Reconciliation services by Settlement Product

The four Settlement Products will be subject to meter point reconciliation as follows:

<i>Process Description</i>	<i>Basis of initial Allocation</i>	<i>Basis of Energy Balancing</i>	<i>Shipper Read Submission</i>	<i>Reconciliation</i>
Product 1: Daily Metered Time Critical Readings	Daily Read	Daily Read	Daily by 10 am on GFD+1	Meter Point level following a re-synch or estimate
Product 2: Daily Metered not Time Critical Readings	GT Estimate (until receipt of actual reading)	Daily Read	Daily by end of GFD+1	Meter Point level following a re-synch or estimate
Product 3: Batched Daily Readings	Allocation Profiles	Allocation Profiles	Daily Reads in Batches	Daily Rec at Meter Point level on receipt of a batch of reads
Product 4: Periodic Readings	Allocation Profiles	Allocation Profiles	Periodically	Meter Point level at receipt of read

Reconciliation will still be based on a reconciliation energy amount (kWh) and will consist of Energy at SAP and Transportation Commodity costs at the applicable rates.

The three key reconciliation scenarios which exist in the current regime will continue to exist:

- DM Reconciliation on receipt of an actual reading following a series of estimated reads
- Resynchronisation reconciliation on receipt of a resynchronisation read, back to the previous resynch read

- NDM reconciliation, where periodic reads are received and reconciliation energy is attributed to the days since the last reading based on the allocation profile

In addition, Product 3 will introduce the concept of daily reconciliation when a batch of daily meter readings is received. The resulting reconciliations will be a series of one-day NDM reconciliations.

Meter point reconciliation will apply to all meter points, and will be triggered by the submission of a meter reading.

3.3 Reconciliation Safeguards

There will be a number of safeguards to ensure that meter point reconciliation takes place in a timely manner. These safeguards all exist in the current regime, but the rules have been reviewed as part of these proposals. The safeguards include:

- Rules on which products or meter read frequencies can be adopted, based on meter point AQ
- Performance standards for meter read submission (i.e. requirement to submit readings for a certain proportion of the portfolio each day/month/year)
- Where the reads are derived by meter reading equipment such as a datalogger, a requirement to obtain a check reading to a specified frequency. Note that meter reading equipment which captures and transmits the actual index of the meter, rather than relying on meter pulses or similar technology, would not require a check read.
- A “Must Read” requirement if reads are not submitted for a standard interval, whereby the GT will obtain a single meter reading and use it to trigger a reconciliation

The proposed trigger levels are set out below:

<i>Process Description</i>	<i>Qualification criteria</i>	<i>Performance standard</i>	<i>Must Read Requirement</i>	<i>Check Read Requirement (where applicable)</i>
Product 1: Daily Metered Time Critical Readings	Mandatory for all meter points with AQ >58.6m kWh	[99%] of required reads submitted each day	[4] months since last reading	Every [12] months
Product 2: Daily Metered not Time Critical Readings	Any meter point	[97.5%] of required reads submitted each day	[4] months since last reading	Every [12] months

<i>Process Description</i>	<i>Qualification criteria</i>	<i>Performance standard</i>	<i>Must Read Requirement</i>	<i>Check Read Requirement (where applicable)</i>
Product 3: Batched Daily Readings	Any meter point	Reads submitted for [90%] of meter points each month	[4] months since last reading	Every [24] months
Product 4: Periodic Readings – Monthly Read	Product 4 meter points with AQ >[293,000]	Reads submitted for [90%] of meter points each year	[4] months since last reading	Every [24] months
Product 4: Periodic Readings – Annually Read	Any meter point	Reads submitted for [70%] of meter points each year	[24] months since last reading	Every [24] months

3.4 Impact of Reconciliation on Unidentified Energy

Each reconciliation, re-reconciliation and resynchronisation changes the measurement at an individual meter point, and therefore changes the amount of unidentified energy for the reconciliation period in the LDZ.

Instead of the current RbD (Reconciliation by Difference) arrangements, under these proposals all meter point reconciliations (of all three types listed in 3.2 above) will trigger an equal and opposite amendment to Unidentified Gas. This will result in debits or credits to all Shippers in the LDZ in line with their original measurements for the day. These amendments to Unidentified Gas will consist of energy charges only; there will be no Transportation Commodity element. These amendments are referred to as Reconciliation Scaling Adjustments, and it is envisaged that they will be processed monthly on the Reconciliation Invoice, at portfolio level only, not attributable to individual meter points.

LDZ Measurement Errors would be treated in the same way, with the opposite entry being included in the Reconciliation Scaling Adjustment.

3.5 Resynchronisation

The concept of resynchronisation already exists for DM Meters, where drift between the datalogger readings and physical readings is accounted for and billed/credited in energy and transportation commodity terms.

The Proposals introduce the concept of resynchronisation for an NDM meter (Products 3 and 4) alongside DM Resynchronisation. Where the readings are derived, e.g. through a datalogger or other automated meter reading equipment, those reads can be used for daily or periodic reconciliation, but

there will be the capacity for drift between datalogged derived readings and physical readings at the meter. The minimum requirements for resynchronisation frequencies are set out in 3.3 above.

There will be a new requirement to perform resynchronisation within a set timeframe and to advise the GT of the outcome, including any new readings. Resynchronisation will cause a re-reconciliation back to the date of the last resynchronisation. The same principles as for current DM resynchronisation will apply, with the drift treated as arising equally across the period.

There will be no requirement for resynchronisation on smart meters or other equipment which transmits the actual index of the meter.

3.6 *Impact on Reconciliation Communication files*

The move to universal individual meter point reconciliation could dramatically increase the number of reconciliation transactions on the Reconciliation Invoice supporting information file. NDM Reconciliation processes currently handle around 200,000 transactions per month. Assuming that all SSPs initially adopted the annual read frequency, this would add around 1.7m extra transactions per month to the reconciliation invoice. A Shipper with 10% of both the NDM LSP and NDM SSP markets would see an approximate increase from 20,000 to 190,000 transactions per month on the invoice supporting files. Due to the structure of the invoice, there are usually at least 3 records for each transaction. As meter points move to monthly read frequency or from Product 4 to any other Product, these volumes will increase further.

3.7 *AUGE (Allocation of Unidentified Gas Expert)*

The current proposal is that the role of the AUGE may be retained and the AUGE may continue to review the level and causes of Unidentified Gas. The AUGE may determine that the amounts apportioned to different sectors via Allocation Scaling Adjustments and Reconciliation Scaling Adjustments should be altered to reflect differing levels of contribution to Unidentified Gas. This alteration could be in the form of an amount of energy to be transferred between sectors or a % transfer between sectors.

3.8 *Impacts on other Processes*

The meter read validation described in 2.7 above is intended to remove the need for the current USRV ("NDM Filter Failure") and SRV processes, as all reads which pass the Shipper and GT validations are deemed suitable for use in downstream processes, e.g. reconciliation and AQ. The current queues of USRVs awaiting attention from Shippers are likely to be replaced by rejected meter readings awaiting investigation and correction/resubmission by Shippers. The volume of rejected reads will depend on a large number of factors, including the accuracy and efficiency of the Shipper's processes, the frequency of read submission and also on the level at which the read tolerances are set. The tolerance values will be a matter for future industry agreement.

In exceptional circumstances there may be a need for the GT agent to remove items from the reconciliation invoice for further investigation, where they produce excessively large debit or credit charges. This will protect the

individual Shipper and all other Shippers in the LDZ from the impact of the charges. Following investigation (by the Shipper and/or GT agent), the item would be either released or amended. The wider the read validation tolerances, the greater the need for this failsafe mechanism. Its use could be expected to be infrequent, given the increased emphasis on validation of meter readings.

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4 Annual Quantity (AQ)

4.1 Key Proposals

- Monthly re-calculation of AQ, if a new meter reading has been received in the last month
- If reads have previously passed validation against data held on the GT register they are deemed suitable for all processes, including AQ
- Removal of amendment and appeals phases of AQ process
- 2 SOQs – one for Allocation and another ‘fixed SOQ’ which applies for 6 or 12 months for transportation charging purposes.

4.2 Monthly AQ calculation process

Each month (expected to be the 10th day of the month) new AQs will be calculated for all meter points where a reading has been loaded since the last calculation run. If no new reading has been received, the AQ will not be recalculated. For a read to have loaded to the GTs’ system, it must have passed the validations described in 2.7 above. Where more than one read has been received in the month, only the latest dated reading will be used. Where one or more replacement reading has been supplied for the latest date, only the last provided reading will be used.

The AQ calculation will use the current approach of a WAALP (Weather Adjusted Annual Load Profile), to covert the actual consumption to a seasonal normal consumption. The exact formulation of future WAALPs will depend on the outcome of DESC’s deliberations on changes to the NDM Algorithm.

New AQs will automatically go live with effect from the 1st of the following month.

<i>Process Description</i>	<i>Timing of AQ calculation</i>	<i>Reads used for AQ calculation</i>	<i>Read Type used for the AQ calculation</i>	<i>SOQ Calculation</i>
Product 1: Daily Metered Time Critical Readings	Monthly	2 reads a minimum of 9 months & max of 36 months apart	Actual & Shipper Estimate	Shipper Nominates
Product 2: Daily Metered not Time Critical Readings	Monthly	2 reads a minimum of 9 months & max of 36 months apart	Actual & Shipper Estimate	Shipper Nominates

<i>Process Description</i>	<i>Timing of AQ calculation</i>	<i>Reads used for AQ calculation</i>	<i>Read Type used for the AQ calculation</i>	<i>SOQ Calculation</i>
Product 3: Batched Daily Readings	Monthly	2 reads a minimum of 9 months & max of 36 months apart	Actual & Shipper Estimate	GT Derives
Product 4: Periodic Readings	Monthly	2 reads a minimum of 9 months & max of 36 months apart	Actual	GT Derives

4.3 AQ Calculation for Products 1 and 2

The optimum read period for AQ calculation will be 50 weeks, with a minimum of 9 months and maximum of 36 months. Estimated readings can be used as either the start or end reading of the reference period (or both).

4.4 AQ Calculation for Products 3 and 4

The optimum read period for AQ calculation will be 50 weeks, except for Annually Read meters on Product 4, where it will be 42. In all cases the minimum reference period is 9 months and the maximum is 36 months. Estimated readings can be used as either the start or end reading of the reference period for Product 3 only.

4.5 Validation of AQs

As all reads used in the calculation of AQs have been subject to both Shipper and GT validation as described in 2.7 above, there will be no Shipper review and challenge phase prior to their application. A communication file will be issued to Shippers, detailing all re-calculated AQs. These AQs will go live automatically, and there will not be an "Amendment Window", unlike the current regime.

4.6 Correction of AQs

If a Shipper identifies an erroneous AQ, e.g. due to incorrect meter reads or meter asset details, they must correct the erroneous data and/or submit a further meter reading. The next AQ calculation will use the revised data and will calculate an improved AQ. There will be no retrospective correction of AQs. The new arrangements should allow the Shipper to correct their AQ for the following month.

Any mis-allocation of energy during the period that the AQ was erroneous will be corrected by the normal workings of reconciliation (which will apply to all meter points individually in future).

There will be a mechanism to amend AQs, to be used in exceptional circumstances, e.g. following a significant change in gas usage at a meter point. The Shipper will need to submit a request to the GT, which will be validated prior to acceptance/rejection.

4.7 Calculation and Use of SOQs

Shippers will continue to nominate SOQs and SHQs for Product 1 and 2 meter points.

For Products 3 and 4, the GT will continue to calculate the SOQ, using Load Factors or a similar approach. As the AQ varies each month (assuming that monthly reads are received) so the SOQ and associated EUC for NDM Allocation will also vary. A change in AQ from the 1st of the month would result in a change to NDM Allocation level and patterns from that date.

In addition for Products 3 and 4, SOQs at a snapshot date (date to be determined) will continue to apply for a period of [12 or 6] months for Transportation charging rate purposes. This will give certainty of costs/income to both Shipper and GT. Regular monthly AQ updates will not affect this SOQ, although an AQ correction (as described in 4.6 above) would change this SOQ and therefore Transportation charging rates.

4.8 Communication of amended AQs

Shippers will be issued with a monthly update of their revised AQs, SOQs and EUCs (where applicable), which shows existing and revised values. Note, this communication will only be received where there are values to display, i.e. where there is at least one revised AQ to report.

There will be a separate report of all rolled over (i.e. unchanged) AQs and the reason for non-calculation.

4.9 Reporting

The proposals envisage that there will be a need for monthly reporting of AQ movements and non-movements, although the exact contents have yet to be finalised.

The same safeguards that ensure that meter point reconciliation takes place at a reasonable frequency (see 3.3 above) should ensure that AQs are updated with reasonable frequency, depending on the AQ of the meter point.

4.10 Impacts on other Processes

The Workgroup identified that if monthly AQ calculation were implemented at the same time as or after universal meter point reconciliation, then the “End of Year AQ Reconciliation” for AQ Threshold Crossers (UNC E7.4.3) would no longer be required. If implemented earlier, then End of Year AQ Reconciliation would still be required for a transitional period.

These proposals remove the current AQ Amendment process, as the new values will go live automatically the following month. The AQ Appeal process will also be replaced, as the Shipper will have the power to amend the AQ at any time by submission of an up-to-date meter reading.

Draft

5 Retrospective Updates

5.1 Key Proposals

- Facility for current Shipper to amend asset data for their period of ownership
- Automatic financial adjustments for amended asset data
- Ability for current and previous Shippers to amend any periodic meter reading for their period of ownership
- Automatic re-reconciliations where a meter reading is amended

5.2 Update of Meter Point/Meter Asset Data

The current Shipper will be able to amend the key meter asset data for any effective date in their period of ownership (e.g. the metric/imperial indicator or the read units). The earliest effective date for an update would be the first day of their ownership, although they will submit the correct date of the update for information purposes.

If applicable, a financial adjustment will be calculated and issued automatically following an update to meter asset data, in the form of a re-reconciliation. The invoicing Line in the Sand will continue to apply, so some reconciliation periods may not be adjusted and invoiced, if they fall before the cut-off date. Changes to current Line in the Sand arrangements are outside of the scope of the Topic Workgroups.

Any previous Shippers will not be able to amend assets for their period of ownership and will not receive any notification of changes by subsequent Shippers. If a Shipper previously owned a meter point, lost it and regained it, the amendment facility applies only in the current period of ownership.

Where a previous Shipper identifies an error in the set up of meter assets for their period of ownership, they will need to request a financial adjustment via the GTs' agent.

5.3 Replacement of Meter Readings

Any Shipper will be able to change any reading in their period of ownership for all Products, subject to the Line in the Sand date. An amended reading for Product 3 or 4 will usually trigger two re-reconciliations, for the two periods either side of the reading. For Products 1 and 2 a first time replacement would trigger two reconciliations, for the two days either side of the reading. Subsequent replacements would trigger re-reconciliations.

Replaced meter readings will be subject to the validations described in 2.7 above. Change of Shipper readings can only be changed with the agreement of both the outgoing and incoming Shippers.

5.4 Address Amendments

Both the Shipper and the GT will be able to amend the address details for a meter point. Where an address amendment changes the LDZ to which the meter point is assigned, this may change the Transportation charging rate for the meter point. If applicable, where the current Shipper amends address data,

a financial adjustment will be calculated and issued automatically following an update to address data, in the form of a re-reconciliation.

Draft

6 Supply Point Register

6.1 Key Proposals

- GT monitoring of Shippers' compliance with the check read requirement
- Provision of 12 months' consumption data (where available in the GTs' systems) to any potential new Shipper
- Improved management of priority and vulnerable customers

The proposals developed by the Workgroup have been documented as "Business Principles", as they are generally at a higher level than for the preceding topics.

6.2 Monitoring of check read submission

The GT will develop processes to record, monitor and report Shippers' performance in obtaining and submitting check reads. Obtaining the check read will remain the Shipper's responsibility: the GT will not become the "Check Read Provider of Last Resort".

6.3 Provision of historic consumption data

A Shipper contemplating a Supply Point Nomination will have the facility to obtain 12 months of consumption history, to assist in understanding the consumption levels and patterns of the meter point. The completeness of the read history will be dependent on the read submission performance of the Shipper(s) owning the site for the previous 12 months. Daily consumption history is only likely to be available for Products 1 to 3, and may not be complete if the meter point has only recently been moved to that Product from Product 4, or if there has been an equipment failure.

6.4 Improved management of priority and vulnerable customers

The GT will develop improved processes to record and manage data relating to Vulnerable and Priority Consumers, so that any incoming Shipper can be advised of the current status of the meter point. Responsibility for maintaining these data items will remain with the Shipper.

6.5 Extension of the scope of the Supply Point Register

Subject to a cost/benefit assessment, the Workshop agreed an aspiration to have a single consistent Supply Point Register service, including:

- Unique Sites
- NTS meter points
- iGT meter points
- LPG meter points
- Interconnectors

6.6 iGT Meter Points

There is a longstanding aspiration amongst many Shippers have a single consistent Supply Point Register service for all iGT supply meter. This is currently being explored by iGTs and GTs. Ofgem are considering the governance and funding aspects.

It is a working assumption that iGT meter points (CSEP meter points) will be included on the Supply Point Register and will be subject to the same processes and interfaces as for directly connected sites, especially for confirmation, read submission and AQ.

However, a considerable amount of further work is needed before this assumption can be fully validated.

Draft

7 Invoicing

7.1 Summary

The proposals developed by the Workgroup have been documented as “Business Principles”, as they are generally at a higher level than for the preceding topics.

The [draft] principles established in the Workgroup include:

- No wholesale change to current “thin invoice” and “thick supporting information” structure
- Requirement for all supporting information to be itemised at meter point level wherever possible
- Additional fields may be added to invoice supporting information to allow Shippers to sort/segment their invoices according to their own needs
- Aspiration for all Adhoc supporting information to be sent by electronic transfer
- Aspiration for a single supporting information format for Adhoc invoices
- Aspiration to reduce the number of Adhoc invoices

8 Non-Functional Requirements

8.1 Summary

The proposals developed by the Workgroup have been documented as “Business Principles”, as they are generally at a higher level than for the preceding topics.

The [draft] principles established in the Workgroup include:

- Direct access to view and report the Shipper’s own meter asset, meter reads and invoicing details, with the facility to extract or report data
- Aspiration to minimise the change to communication file formats for invoices, read files etc.
- More parameterisation of values to make change to values easier

It will also be helpful to gain an early view of anticipated volumes, on a without prejudice basis.

9 Glossary of Terms

Key jargon/abbreviations used in this document. UNC defined terms are indicated with a *.

<i>Term</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
AUGE	Allocation of Unidentified Gas Expert*
AQ	Annual Quantity*
BRD	Business Requirements Document
CSEP	Connected System Exit Point*
D-7 estimate	An estimate of consumption based on the recorded consumption from 7 days earlier
DESC	Demand Estimation Sub-Committee
DM	Daily Metered*
EUC	End User Category*
GT	Large Gas Transporter (Distribution or Transmission Network)
iGT	Independent Gas Transporter
IRR	Initial Requirements Register
LDZ	Local Distribution Zone*
LSP	Larger Supply Point*
NDM	Non-Daily Metered*
RbD	Reconciliation by Difference
SAP	System Average Price*
SHQ	System Hourly Quantity
SOQ	System Offtake Quantity
SSP	Smaller Supply Point*
SRV	Suppressed Reconciliation Value*
UNC	Uniform Network Code
USRV	User Suppressed Reconciliation Value*
WAALP	Weather Adjusted Annual Load Profile

10 Document Control

10.1 Version History

Version	Status	Date	Author(s)	Summary of Changes
0.1	Draft	20/12/2011	Xserve	First draft
0.2	Draft	11/01/2012	Xserve	Updated following internal review.
0.3	Draft for PN UNC review	19/01/2012	Xserve	Further internal review and designation as "Draft"

Reviewers

Name	Version	Date

10.2 Approval

Name	Role	Date
PN UNC Workgroup		

Draft