

Stage 03: Draft Modification Report

0434:

Project Nexus – Retrospective Adjustment

At what stage is this document in the process?



This modification is one of a number of complementary modifications seeking to implement the requirements identified under Project Nexus. This modification identifies changes to the UNC to enable the retrospective adjustment of relevant Transportation and Energy Balancing invoices through the entering of revised Meter Information, Meter Readings, relevant Supply Point and Address data to the Supply Point Register.



Responses invited by 06 January 2014.



High Impact:
Users and Transporters



Medium Impact:



Low Impact:

0434

Draft Modification Report

21 November 2013

Version 1.0

Page 1 of 27

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Contents

1	Summary	3
2	Why Change?	4
3	Solution	5
4	Relevant Objectives	7
5	Implementation	8
6	Legal Text	9
7	Recommendation	10

About this document:

This Draft Modification Report is issued for consultation responses, at the request of the Panel on 21 November 2013. All parties are invited to consider whether they wish to submit views regarding this modification.

The close-out date for responses is 06 January 2014, which should be sent to enquiries@gasgovernance.co.uk. A response template, which you may wish to use, is at www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0434.

The Panel will consider the responses and agree whether or not this modification should be made.



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1 Summary

Is this a Self-Governance Modification?

The Modification Panel determined that self-governance procedures were not appropriate for this modification.

Why Change?

As part of the outcome of the last Gas Distribution price control review, it was agreed that funding should be available to support a major IT systems investment programme by the Transporters agent, Xoserve. This major systems investment for UK-Link Replacement provides an opportunity to consider whether the existing UNC requirements remain appropriate. Rather than asking Xoserve to procure replacement systems that deliver the existing functionality, there is an expectation that introducing regime enhancements at this stage would be the most economic time to implement any such change. This is particularly opportune since it is coincident with the development of smart metering, such that requirements can be specified that recognise changes to metering arrangements rather than any changes to accommodate smart metering being retrofitted in due course. The requirements gathering exercise for the enhancements is entitled Project Nexus. This modification is one of a number of complementary modifications, which reflects the requirements.

Solution

The output in terms of systems requirements have been published as a Business Requirement Document (BRD)¹. This identifies arrangements whereby Users are able to retrospectively replace Meter Information, Meter Readings, relevant Supply Point and Address data for the purposes of reconciling consumption at Supply Points. This would lead to more accurate relevant Transportation and Energy Balancing invoices through an improved reconciliation process.

Relevant Objectives

This modification would have a positive impact on relevant objectives d) Securing of effective competition and f) Promotion of efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Code.

Implementation

01 October 2015 if an Authority decision is made by 31 March 2014

01 April 2016 if an Authority decision is made by 30 September 2014

With a backstop lead-time of 18 months (549 calendar days) should the Authority makes its decision after 30 September 2014. This is noting that no implementation would take place in the winter operations period for the Gemini system being 02 October – 31 March and any implementation must be on the first of the month.

If Ofgem issues a direction that this Modification should be made, this text would take effect on the Project Nexus Implementation Date. Consequently, following Authority direction (should this occur) the modified text would need to be monitored and amended as necessary as part of any relevant Modification which may arise to ensure that it remains in line with the version of the Code applicable at any one time.

The additional costs of implementing this modification, over and above the cost of replacing UK Link systems on a like for like basis with existing functionality, amounts to between £3 and £6m.

¹ <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/nexus/brd>

2 Why Change?

Background to Project Nexus

At the time of the current Gas Distribution Price Control Xoserve 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 Xoserve'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 Xoserve'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 Workgroup was established to consider the UNC topics and develop requirements.

3 Solution

The BRDs identify detailed business rules which form the foundation for the necessary changes to the UNC. The following BRD is relevant to this Modification Proposal:

<i>Document Name</i>	<i>Version and Date</i>	<i>Current Location (12/09/12)</i>
Business Requirements Document for Retrospective Updates	V4.0 25/10/2013	www.gasgovernance.co.uk/nexus/brd

Introduction

The following information outlines arrangements under which the UNC would be modified to provide for the adjustment of Meter Information and Meter Readings on a retrospective basis.

Key Proposals

- Facility for the current User to amend Meter Information ('meter asset' data) for their period of Supply Point Registration ('ownership')
- Automatic financial adjustments for amended Meter Information
- Ability for current and previous Users to amend any periodic Meter Reading for their period of Registration
- Automatic re-reconciliations where a Meter Reading is amended
- Retrospective updates to Meter Point/Supply Point and Address data
- Automatic re-reconciliations where relevant updates are made

Update of Meter Point/Meter Asset Data (Retro Updates BRD Section 8.2)

The current (incumbent) User would be able to amend the key Meter Information for any effective date in their period of Supply Point Registration (e.g. the metric/imperial indicator or the read units). The earliest effective date for any charges would be the first day of their ownership (Registration), although they would submit the correct date of the update.

If applicable, a financial adjustment would be calculated and issued automatically following an update to Meter Information, in the form of a re-reconciliation. The invoicing 'line in the sand' or 'backstop' Code Cut Off Date² for reconciliation would continue to apply, so some reconciliation periods may not be adjusted and invoiced if they fall before the Code Cut Off Date. Changes to current backstop arrangements are outside of the scope of this Modification Proposal.

Any 'previous' User/s would not be able to amend Meter Information for their period of Registration and would not receive any notification of changes by subsequent Users. If a User was previously registered at a Supply Point, lost it and subsequently regained it, the amendment facility would apply only in the current period of Registration.

Where a previous User identified an error in the set up of Meter Information for their period of Registration, they would need to request a financial adjustment via the Transporters agent, Xoserve.

Retrospective Update to Meter Point/Supply Point (Retro Updates BRD Section 8.3)

The current User would be permitted to make retrospective updates to data held on the Supply Point Register relating to the Meter Point/Supply Point. This includes changes to the Conversion factor and Supply Meter Point status. If applicable, where the current User amended the relevant data, a financial adjustment would be calculated and issued automatically following an update to such data, in the form of a re-reconciliation.

² TPD Section E1.3.9

Replacement of Meter Readings (Retro Updates BRD Section 8.4)

Any User would be able to change any Meter Reading in their period of Registration for all Products³, subject to the Code Cut off date. An amended Meter Reading for Products 3 or 4 would usually trigger two re-reconciliations, for the two periods either side of the Meter Reading. For Products 1 and 2 a 'first time' replacement would trigger two reconciliations, for the two days either side of the Meter Reading. Subsequent replacements would trigger re-reconciliations.

Replaced Meter Readings would be subject to validation [as described in Modification Proposal 0432]. Change of User (Opening) Meter Readings can only be expedited with the agreement of both the outgoing and incoming Users.

Address Amendments (Retro Updates BRD Section 8.5)

Both the User and the Transporter would be able to amend the address details for a Supply Meter Point. Where an address amendment changed the LDZ to which the Supply Meter Point is assigned, this may change the Transportation charging rate for the Supply Meter Point. If applicable, where the current User amended address data, a financial adjustment would be calculated and issued automatically following an update to such data, in the form of a re-reconciliation.

User Pays

Classification of the modification as User Pays, or not, and the justification for such classification.

Since substantial changes to central systems are envisaged in this modification, and those changes involve enhancements to the existing UNC regime, this modification technically could fall within the definition of a User Pays Modification. Xoserve has indicated that the additional costs of implementing this modification, over and above the cost of replacing UK Link systems on a like for like basis with existing functionality, amount to between £3 and £6m. The actual difference in costs between a like for like and enhanced systems development will never be known since only one procurement and development exercise will be undertaken, based on the identified requirements. Ofgem believes that all reasonably foreseen costs arising from the UK Link replacement have been considered when price controls were set, and funding provided. If significant additional costs beyond this can be demonstrated and justified, these should be considered in the context of the arrangements for funding which are in place following the review of Xoserve's governance and funding. On this basis, given this change is embedded with a wider system replacement, it is not proposed to include a User Pays element in the funding equation.

Identification of Users of the service, the proposed split of the recovery between Gas Transporters and Users for User Pays costs and the justification for such view.

Not applicable

Proposed charge(s) for application of User Pays charges to Shippers.

Not applicable

Proposed charge for inclusion in the Agency Charging Statement (ACS) – to be completed upon receipt of a cost estimate from Xoserve.

Not applicable

³ Product definitions are identified within UNC Modification 0432
<http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0432>

4 Relevant Objectives

Impact of the modification on the Relevant Objectives:	
Relevant Objective	Identified impact
a) Efficient and economic operation of the pipe-line system.	None
b) Coordinated, efficient and economic operation of (i) the combined pipe-line system, and/ or (ii) the pipe-line system of one or more other relevant gas transporters.	None
c) Efficient discharge of the licensee's obligations.	None
d) Securing of effective competition: (i) between relevant shippers; (ii) between relevant suppliers; and/or (iii) between DN operators (who have entered into transportation arrangements with other relevant gas transporters) and relevant shippers.	Positive
e) Provision of reasonable economic incentives for relevant suppliers to secure that the domestic customer supply security standards... are satisfied as respects the availability of gas to their domestic customers.	None
f) Promotion of efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Code.	Positive
g) Compliance with the Regulation and any relevant legally binding decisions of the European Commission and/or the Agency for the Co-operation of Energy Regulators.	None

Implementation of the changes identified within this modification is expected to facilitate Relevant Objective d) Securing of effective competition between Users. These changes are expected to lead to more accurate allocation of costs between Users. In circumstances where better and more accurate data is available to a User than that prevailing in the Supply Point Register, then it is desirable that the facility is made available for such data to be entered. The resultant more accurate cost allocations through an improved reconciliation facility is a fundamental underpinning for effective competition.

Implementation would allow a User on change of supplier to update the existing data records so that it more accurately reflects the situation on site. This would allow all Users rely on the data held on central systems so the would be able to provided consumers with accurate quotations which supports relevant objective d) Securing of effective competition between Users.

Implementation would lead to a reduction in barriers that currently prevent records being updated, by the introduction of an automated process that would allow Users to amend records. Furthermore the implementation will mitigate the associated risks as outlined in Section 6 of Appendix A - benefits case consultation report. This leads to improvements in existing process by reducing complexity and costs. This would aid Users in maintaining the accuracy of data provided to Transporters and therefore promote efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Code f).

5 Implementation

01 October 2015 if an Authority decision is made by 31 March 2014

01 April 2016 if an Authority decision is made by 30 September 2014

With a backstop lead time of 18 months (549 calendar days) should the Authority makes its decision after 30 September 2014. This is noting that no implementation would take place in the winter operations period for the Gemini system being 02 October – 31 March and any implementation must be on the first of the month.

If Ofgem issues a direction that this Modification should be made, this text would take effect on the Project Nexus Implementation Date. Consequently, following Authority direction (should this occur) the modified text would need to be monitored and amended as necessary as part of any relevant Modification which may arise to ensure that it remains in line with the version of the Code applicable at any one time.

The Workgroup recommends that as this modification is dependent on Modification 0432 - Project Nexus – gas settlement reform, it should adopt the same implementation timescales as it could not be implemented in isolation.

6 Legal Text

Text

The Text for this modification has been prepared by National Grid Distribution and is published along side this report, and no issues were raised by the Workgroup regarding its content.

The Workgroup considers a transitional mechanism for providing the visibility of both current and future state of legal text for Project Nexus modifications is required. The proposal will be for the UNC TPD Sections to reflect the prevailing state and will include footnotes and links to the future state Legal Text.

7 Recommendation

The Panel have recommended that this report is issued to consultation and all parties should consider whether they wish to submit views regarding this modification.

8 Appendix A

Modification 0434 Project Nexus Retrospective Updates, benefits case consultation report

A report provided to the Modification 0434 Workgroup for inclusion in the Modification Report

1st November 2013

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Cost Benefit Assessment
3. Overview of Modification 0434
4. Consultation approach and overview
5. Consultation responses
6. Additional information identified at the Modification 0434 workgroup meetings

Appendix 1 The original consultation document for reference

Appendix 2 The ICOSS response letter

Appendix 3 National Grid Gas Transmission response in full

1. Introduction

This report has been prepared during the development modification 0434 for inclusion in the draft and final modification reports.

The purpose of the report is to document the responses to the cost benefit consultation and present the benefits case for modification 0434.

A draft of this report was presented to the Nexus Workgroup and review comments made at these meetings have been included within the report.

The consultation document is shown in Appendix 1.

2. Cost Benefit Assessment

The information provided in the responses and discussed at the 0434 workgroup has not provided reliable quantitative benefits for use in this report. Many supportive comments and concerns refer to a cost avoidance benefit of this modification. The 0434 workgroup considers that this modification provides for a “safety net” in the event of an incorrect asset or read record existing on the UK Link systems.

3. Overview of the Modification 0434

Modification 0434 provides for the retrospective update of the supply meter, supply meter installation or supply point data and for any relevant reconciliation charges to be processed automatically.

The modification provides the current registered user with the ability to update asset and read data it has provided to UK Link systems, and to update asset data that the previous registered user has (or has not) submitted in its period of ownership. Where required, reconciliation charges will be processed for the current registered user, the previous registered user is not financially affected by the actions of the current registered user.

The modification will only apply to data submitted and accepted on UK Link after the date of implementation of the modification.

The full details of the modification can be found on the Joint Office website:

<http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/00434>

4. Consultation approach and response summary

To determine the industry cost benefit case Xoserve prepared on behalf of, and with industry support (through the Project Nexus Workgroup), a consultation document. This document was issued to the industry in January 2013. The original consultation document is included in appendix 1.

The following organisations provided a written response to the consultation:

Shipper organisations:
British Gas

0434
Draft Modification Report
21 November 2013
Version 1.0
Page 12 of 27
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Corona Energy
Eon*
Npower
Scottish and Southern Energy
Scottish Power
Utilita

Gas Transporters
National Grid Transmission

*responses provided directly to Ofgem, any financial information provided by these organisations has not been provided to the authors of this report nor included in this report.

In addition, a draft of the report was presented to the Nexus Workgroup and review comments made at this meeting have been included in this report.

ICOSS submitted a letter in support of Modification 0434 to the May 2013 workgroup meeting. The industry were invited to comment on this letter, no comments were received and so the letter presented in May forms part of the cost benefit analysis. The text of the ICOSS letter is in Appendix 2.

5. Consultation questions and responses

The following are the comments received from industry participants in response to the Modification 0434 Project Nexus Retrospective Updates consultation document. The comments provided below are the exact comments from the responses. Due to the varying nature of the comments it was not considered possible to summaries them, the comments have been grouped into “supportive” and “concerns”.

There is a reference made to the Performance Assurance Framework (PAF) in a number of comments. The cost benefit consultation spanned the period of the formation of the Performance Assurance Workgroup (see Joint Office website under Network Code, Workgroups). This workgroup was established in January 2013 (and at the time of this report is still established) to consider a Performance Assurance Framework (PAF) for the gas industry to ensure settlement accuracy across the gas market. In their responses to the 0434 cost benefit consultation a number of Shippers, whilst welcoming the industry requirements, wish to see the PAF developed in such a way that incentivises robust industry performance to ensure the delivery of the expected Project Nexus benefits.

All references to the Shipper identity have been removed from the response comments. The responses are structured in the same way as the consultation document. More than one Shipper referenced themselves in their responses, all the references have been replaced with the single code of XXX.

5.1 Allows retrospective updates relating to the asset for the correct effective date e.g. prior to any current meter readings.

5.1.1 Files containing asset updates to be applied to the supply point register will be accepted (subject to validation). Adjustment activities are automated.

5.1.1.1 Supportive comments

Creates an efficient process that benefits both the Shipper and customer that will resolve issues quicker.

This affords the shipper the ability to update accurate information to the Transporters agent to ensure the accuracy of the data to be used for charging purposes.

Given that gas shipping is a relatively low-margin business, accurate industry records, balancing and reconciliation activity is very important to the business.

The increased accuracy and faster reconciliation will have positive impacts on our cashflow. It will also enable us to ensure that customers are billed in a more timely and accurate manner.

All of the above creates increased certainty for the business.

The proposals in the modification would remove a number of constraints in industry systems that currently are quite detrimental to the business.

There will also be a significant reduction in the resource that has to be dedicated to the manual processing of queries seeking to correct industry data.

Automation of adjustment activities would save on current FTE allocated to the process.

5.1.1.2 Concerns

We have a concern around the 'Gentlemen's agreement' that will be required for the current shipper to process the update for a previous shipper. While in principle this would appear fine, it has not worked in ICOP in the past.

There is a potential for the focus on updating information across all updates types in a timely manner to become less of a priority for shippers, as the information can be amended at a later date.

We strongly believe that controls and reporting are required around this and should be covered under a Performance Assurance Framework.

5.1.2 Benefits comments

Difficult to quantify as the current levels may not be representative of future levels due to the accelerated smart meter rollout programme. Potentially significant benefits up to 2021 but once all new meters are installed it will have less benefit.

XXX does not see any difference between the benefit shippers and customers will enjoy immediately at the time this Mod is to go live (which we presume is what is meant by "one-off" benefit) and on an ongoing basis.

5.2 Allows previous reads to be replaced.

5.2.1 Adjustment activities are automated. Validation on the read would apply.

5.2.1.1 Supportive comments

This creates an opportunity for a shipper to adjust and align settlement and billing processes efficiently.

This process would allow increased accuracy across the SSP market in the first instance, as these sites are currently unable to reconcile to actual meter readings and there is no read replacement functionality.

The current process allows for the continuance of error with no means of redress.

This process will provide the opportunity to ensure accurate consumption data across the whole market, and more accurate AQ calculations and charging. As a result there would be clear benefit to the industry although the financial extent is difficult to quantify, due to a lack of data to demonstrate the precise correlation to this defect.

Key area for impact is Shipper Agreed Reads and subsequent ISD's. Saving on current FTE would be relatively small however if this functionality was not available then the cost for managing ISD's across entire customer base could be very high. In addition the ability to replace previous reads at change of supplier would enable quicker and easier correction of charges which would, in turn benefit customers going through the SWITCH process. Easier switching facilitates competition in the market. Our analysis shows that we are currently losing income each year due to timing issues with ISD's in the LSP market. Retrospective reconciliation would avoid this cost.

Removes some risk of incorrect customer billing.

5.2.1.2 Concerns

Retrospective Update is an area where we believe it is imperative that there are controls and reporting, and although there is reference to the shipper retaining evidence, we do not believe that this is sufficient control, and a Performance Assurance Framework is essential to address this risk

5.2.2 Benefits responses

Estimated annual benefit will be in the region of £2M per annum. We see this as an ongoing benefit especially as almost all meter readings will be used for reconciliation purposes.

5.3 Allows updates to Supply & Meter Point data.

5.3.1 Adjustment activities are automated. Validation on the update would apply.

5.3.1.1 Supportive comments

This should improve the accuracy of data on the supply point register therefore decrease the level of adjustments required in the long term.

Ability for data to be updated on the Supply Point Register allowing accurate information to flow. Again this is advantageous to the shipper, as it allows for previously incorrect data to be updated (particularly beneficial on a Change of Supplier where the previous supplier has failed to update the data, or there has been a timing issue with an update occurring at the point of transfer (and the incorrect data being sent on the conformation).

Errors do occur from time to time and an automated methodology to correct should be available.

0434

Draft Modification Report

21 November 2013

Version 1.0

Page 15 of 27

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5.3.1.2 Concerns

As detailed in the above response on asset details, we have real concerns surrounding the 'Gentlemen's agreement' aspect of reliance on another shipper to update information (although in principle agree with the requirement that the incumbent shipper should be responsible for updating of data).

We feel that reporting is a key requirement as there is an associated risk involved in systems holding incorrect data.

We believe that all controls and reports should be covered under a Performance Assurance Framework.

If all shippers were signatories to the SPAA then reports could be proposed as a schedule in the SPAA arrangements

5.3.2 Benefits comments

We believe that the incidence of these types of updates on our portfolio are at a level that there is no real quantifiable cost benefit that can be attributed in relation to current processes, any benefit would be covered in the asset and read updated above, via RGMA flows, as the updates we provide seek to resolve all known issues with the data at the point of submission.

As for the asset updates, this is likely to be a much bigger benefit during the smart meter rollout when all meters are being changed.

5.4 Allows retrospective fix to meter installations.

5.4.1 Adjustment activities are automated. Validation on the update would apply.

Whilst we agree with the principle that only the current supplier can adjust data items we hold some concern that anything identified by the new supplier may need the losing supplier to open historic accounts for a customer they are no longer in contract with. If agreement is not reached does this require a disputes process?

5.4.2 Benefits comments

Unable to quantify, as much of the detail is covered in the above responses.

The levels that fall into this category are anticipated to be small, in line with current meter exchange data. We are unable to quantify what this might mean in a Smart world, as there is the possibility that as rollout ramps up across the industry previously unknown errors may be uncovered.

As for the asset and supply & meter point updates, this is likely to be a much bigger benefit during the smart meter rollout when all meters are being changed.

5.5 Other Comments

One of the big benefits to XXX of the retrospective adjustment functionality is the effect of it acting as an 'insurance policy' against a manifest data error affecting many

thousands of meter points or readings and compromising the Settlements process for all shippers. This is especially relevant due to the smart meter rollout and the volumes of data items that will be being populated by new or amended shipper systems.

Against the 4 areas above it is very difficult to put a value figure on each of these as with new systems, improved data quality, etc., it is very likely that the errors that we experience at present will not bear any relation to future volumes in each of these categories. We do, however, place a high value on the ability to amend meter readings, including opening and closing readings, especially in a world of 'rolling AQ' where any errors will have to be turned around very quickly. At the moment the current AQ process allows any incorrect meter readings to be amended during the AQ amendment process which in the future will not exist.

The next ten years will see a significant meter exchange programme as we progress with SMART installations. Meter exchange is known to be a root cause of incorrect data and read issues, therefore it is felt that the historical view of benefits in this area, is not necessarily representative of what costs would occur if Retrospective Reconciliation was not put in place.

If 0434 is not developed and implemented now alongside Nexus, costs to introduce at a later date as we move through the SMART exchange programme and experience inevitable issues, will be significantly increased.

Due to the majority of our portfolio being SSP's in the current regime where we are unable to raise queries to amend metering dates and supplies are settled under RbD it is very difficult to try and quantify the value of being able to make retrospective adjustments based on this. Obviously under the new Nexus regime and individual meter point reconciliation the importance of having correct asset installation dates and all reads being valid is dramatically increased for the SSP market. As such I believe that automatic retrospective amendments would be an important asset to have especially since some of the queries that need to be made currently for LSP's, such as the RFA, can take a number of months to resolve.

Specific Questions

5.6 Question 1 - What resources (internal and external) do you have supporting your current query process with regards to historic asset and read updates

We have approximately 11 people in our I&C area but are currently unable to provide details for our residential team. This is however a resource intensive and manual process. Any efficiency improvements are welcome. It is worth noting that any increase or decrease in this activity may have an impact on gas MAMs workload/planning

XXX currently dedicates at least 1-2 man days per week to these query processes.

5.7 Question 2 To what extent does this disrupt any other aspect of your business e.g. relationship with the consumer?

This proposal reduces the risk of a customer receiving an incorrect bill and gives the Shipper the opportunity to correct settlement quicker thus aligning the Settlement and billing processes. This assists in understanding a customers true cost and can help to minimize the potential for revenue leakage. Taking these issues into account it has the

potential to improve customer relationships by resolving issues that impact billing faster and has the potential to improve pricing.

The currently manual nature of retrospective updates, and the limitations placed on these processes by the current UK-Link system has a range of knock-on implications for other areas of the business. The need to process queries manually means that often there are delays in financial flows owing to XXX as a result of reconciliation activity. This has implications for our cashflow as the need to manually process queries introduces a delay in becoming properly financially adjusted.

The status quo also means that a number of asset and financial details are inaccurate on industry systems. This situation is not desirable as it means that there is not the certainty for XXX that XXX's position is accurately reflected on industry systems.

5.8 Question 3 - PN UNC has described a scenario whereby in the future it becomes known that an attribute of a meter is incorrect and several thousand of these meter records require updating. The ability to do this via file submissions without the need to manipulate the data to enable it to be accepted is required. If this process were not available, to what extent would this disrupt your business?

It seems a sensible precaution to have this functionality available if to mitigate the potential customer impact of such a large scale issue. We cannot see any negative impacts to this.

XXX would be significantly disrupted if this service was not available. The need to manually manipulate the data would be time consuming and lead to the possibility of error.

5.9 Question 4 Would this functionality lead to a degradation of timely asset updates as Shippers know that the position can always be corrected at any point in time? Would this impact consumers in any way?

The timeliness of these corrections is currently governed under the SPAA which all suppliers are not currently signatories. Consideration should be given as whether a performance assurance measure is applied to drive correct utilization rather than attempt to predict the behaviour of market participants.

It is always in Shippers' interests to ensure that industry data is up to date in order that there is full accuracy and transparency around the Shipper's financial position.

There has to be awareness that in an industry that relies on the accuracy of many different mechanical instruments (meters) and the timely and accurate communication of developments by a range of industry players (notably the various MAMs that we deal with), there will be both errors and delays. In most instances such delays and errors are beyond the control of XXX. It is imperative that once we are provided with the correct information we are able to rectify errors in a timely and efficient manner through the functionality proposed in Mod 0434.

6. Additional information identified at the Modification 0434 workgroup meetings

The workgroup considered the implications of the implementation of Modification 432 Project Nexus Gas Demand Estimation, Allocation, Settlement and Reconciliation Reform. One of the main aspects of this modification is the implementation of individual meter point reconciliation for all supply points (not just larger supply points as currently).

A number of consumption adjustments are raised at present for the larger supply point market to correct consumption created by the submission of incorrect reads or to correct historic consumption as a result of the late /none update of the meter asset record.

It was considered by the workgroup that with the planned replacement of all "traditional" meters with smart meters there would, on occasions, be a late or incorrect update of asset details. Each occasion may give rise to a retrospective update, which in current arrangements would be treated as a consumption adjustment, but which under modification 0434 would be treated as a retrospective update. It was considered that if the number of retrospective updates could be determined this could demonstrate that modification 0434 would avoid the manual costs (shipper and Xoserve) associated of raising and processing consumption adjustment queries.

Xoserve has assessed the number of consumption adjustments presently processed for the larger supply point market. The results are shown below:

<u>Contact Type</u>	<u>Average Annual Volume</u>
Request for Adjustment (RFA)	550
Consumption Dispute Query (CDQ)	330
Filter Failure Consumption Adjustments	7,000
Total	7,880

The main scenarios that factor into the generation of Consumption Adjustments are:

- Meter Asset Incorrect
- Late Meter Attached
- Negative Volume
- Through the Zero's Incorrect

The figures above represent a consumption adjustment rate of 2.07% of the population of 380,000 larger supply points. If extrapolated to 23 million meter points this would equate to approx 475,000 consumption adjustment requests per annum. However, new read validation functionality may stop the majority of the read submissions that lead to the requirement for a consumption adjustment occurring.

It may not be considered that this data will be reflective of the future volume of meter exchanges. For this assessment the starting position is the exchange of 23 million meters over the next 5 years. Currently, meter asset notifications (RGMA ONJOB records) are operating at a 94% success rate, leaving 6% rejections, requiring re-work and re-submission. This figure suggests that 1,380,000 meter asset notifications would reject at their first attempt. If it was not possible to successfully re-submit the asset notification before any subsequent action is recorded on UK Link system e.g. the submission and acceptance of a meter reading, a change of supplier event, then a consumption adjustment would be required. However, it cannot be assumed that the meter asset notification rejection rate will remain at 6%, it may go up or down and it cannot be assessed how many subsequent actions (meter read or change of supplier event) may occur before the asset can be updated.

It is not possible to determine a future figure for consumption adjustments that would require processing if modification 0434 were not implemented. But it can be reasonably assumed that with the introduction of individual meter point reconciliation

and the volume of future meter exchanges, the need for the swift rectification of incorrect asset or read information (and any associated reconciliation) will be an advantage to each and all shipper organisations.

Retrospective Adjustment cost benefit assessment

This is an information gathering exercise for Modification 0434 Retrospective Adjustment.

Industry participants are requested to provide responses to any of:

Xoserve at commercial.enquiries@xoserve.com

Ofgem at smartermarkets@ofgem.gov.uk

Responses are required by 1st March 2013

In order to support the Project Nexus Retrospective Adjustment modification - <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/00434> this document has been prepared to enable industry participants to provide information in a common format to enable this to be aggregated for inclusion in the modification report.

The business requirements documents prepared at the Project Nexus UNC workgroup can be found at: <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/nexus/brd>

Industry participants may have further areas of cost and benefits not covered in this document and these can be provided during the development of the modification report.

The table below outlines the potential benefit areas for the industry requirements of Retrospective Adjustment, discussed at the Project Nexus UNC workgroup. Respondents are welcome to provide information on any other benefit areas they can identify.

Currently, asset update files are rejected where there is later activity on UK Link systems e.g. a read or asset exchange, prior to the date of the asset update in the relevant file. To submit the asset update the data has to be adjusted (the date of works changed to one after the latest activity on UK Link systems) to enable the asset update to be accepted. If required, a query is submitted to rectify any transportation and energy charging matters.

The Retrospective Business Requirements Document outlines the following principles:

- All data updates are recorded correctly, for the correct effective date, where possible and subject to validation.
- Only the current Shipper can update data, with the exception of meter reads whereby only the Shipper who submitted the read can replace it.
- Financial adjustments following a replacement transfer read are automatically processed for both the previous and current Shipper
- Financial adjustments following an asset or Meter/Supply Point update during the current Shippers period of ownership are automatically processed
- Financial adjustments following an asset update or Meter/Supply Point update during the previous Shippers period of ownership are only processed following a request and if the update has been submitted by the current Shipper and processed

Questions to consider:

1. What resources (internal and external) do you have supporting your current query process with regards to historic asset and read updates
2. To what extent does this disrupt any other aspect of your business e.g. relationship with the consumer
3. PN UNC has described a scenario whereby in the future it becomes known that an attribute of a meter is incorrect and several thousand of these meter records require updating. The ability to do this via file submissions without the need to manipulate the data to enable it to be accepted is required. If this process were not available, to what extent would this disrupt your business?
4. Would this functionality lead to a degradation of timely asset updates as Shippers know that the position can always be corrected at any point in time? Would this impact consumers in any way?

The following table consolidates the views expressed through PN UNC workgroup discussions. The table should be seen as a guide and not an exhaustive list of benefit areas, respondents are welcome to provide addition cost and benefit information.

Retrospective Adjustment functionality	Impact	Shipper opportunity	One-off benefit	Annual benefit
Allows retrospective updates relating to the asset for the correct effective date e.g. prior to any current meter readings.	Files containing asset updates to be applied to the supply point register will be accepted (subject to validation). Adjustment activities are automated.			
Allows previous reads to be replaced	Adjustment activities are automated. Validation on the read would apply.			
Allows updates to Supply & Meter Point data	Adjustment activities are automated. Validation on the update would apply.			
Allows retrospective fix to meter installations	Adjustment activities are automated. Validation on the update would apply.			

Cost areas

Industry participants are requested to provide an assessment of the costs of implementing the Project Nexus Gas Retrospective Adjustment functionality.

Usage

Shippers are invited to provide an assessment of the current issues:

How many asset update records require manual intervention to enable them to be accepted into UK Link?	
How many queries are submitted to rectify consumption as a result of late asset updates into UK Link?	

Tim Davis
Chair, UNC Panel
Joint Office of Gas Transporters

22nd April 2013

Regarding UNC Modification 00434 (Project Nexus Retrospective Updates)

The Industrial and Commercial Shippers and Suppliers (ICoSS) group represents all the major non-domestic industrial and commercial (I&C) suppliers in the GB energy market, supplying 70% of the gas needs of the non-domestic sector; a number of our members also supply electricity to their customers⁴.

I am writing with regard to UNC Modification 00434 (Project Nexus – retrospective updates) to express the views of ICoSS members concerning the benefits to the industry that the modification will bring. UNC Modification 00434, replacing the current intensive manual process to correct industry data errors with an automated process, represents a clear benefit to the market and should be seen as integral to the success of Project Nexus.

There are several clear advantages in implementing an automated process to correct historical industry data as part of Project Nexus:

- As part of the Smart Metering rollout programme, an unprecedented number of new meter installations are required to occur up to 2019 – over 20 million successful installations are required. It is not feasible to expect the industry to maintain a current view of all data items in the central systems when completing such an accelerated meter replacement programme. Far greater use of the retrospective correction process will occur and it will need to be scaled appropriately.
- It is the express intention of Ofgem to significantly shorten the process of switching customers, possibly moving to a next day process. As the customer experience should not be impaired by the need by the outgoing supplier to update industry data, greater reliance will be placed on retrospective corrections.
- The current manual process is extremely resource intensive. Irrespective of the greatly increased demands that will be placed on the current process by the market changes referenced above, there is a current requirement to simplify and automate the process as much as possible to save costs to the industry.
- Project Nexus provides the ideal opportunity to minimize the cost of implementing such a process as it will mean that it will cost a fraction of the £5m estimated by Xoserve for a standalone implementation. The most significant changes to the current industry framework since the advent of full competition is being driven by the cost efficiencies that Project Nexus provides. Implementing an automated process as part of Project Nexus not only results in significant savings for Xoserve, it also drives efficiencies in Shipper system development.

It would be mistaken to believe that automation of such a process would represent a risk to customers or the wider industry; manual processes currently allow for retrospective correction of industry data at the request of Shippers, this change simply streamlines that process. Considering the significant efforts being undertaken to improve the quality of industry data and the unique situation of the market, to rely on current processes will result in significant inefficiencies, data inaccuracy and cost to the market.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this in any further detail.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Evans

⁴ Current Membership: Corona Energy, ENI, First Utility (associate), Gazprom Energy, GDF Suez Energy UK, Statoil UK, Total Gas & Power, Wingas UK

Modification 0434 Project Nexus – Retrospective Adjustment
- Cost Benefit Assessment

Thank you for your invitation to participate in the Cost Benefit Assessment for the above Modification Proposal. National Grid NTS is committed to supporting the industry with its aims of improving the efficiency and competitiveness of the Non-Daily Metered market via Gas Settlement Reform and of progressing the replacement of the UK-Link suite of IS systems.

As requested in your covering letter for the Cost Benefit Assessment of 13th February 2013, this response will summarise National Grid NTS' views on benefits, costs and concerns related to Modification Proposal 00434.

1 Benefits

1.1 National Grid NTS expects that it will not receive any material benefit from this Modification and but do recognise the view that benefits associated with this Modification Proposal will be realised in the Shipper and Gas Distribution Network communities.

1.2 From engaging in industry debate, National Grid NTS understands that the proposed changes have the potential to deliver a range of benefits to Shippers in respect of;

- Providing more timely adjustment of charges relating to revised meter readings or meter asset information.
- The avoidance of risk associated with potential error in large numbers of meter exchanges anticipated to facilitate the introduction of smart metering, and the associated adjustment timescales.

1.3 National Grid NTS understands that the value of benefits realised is dependent on the Shippers' behaviour and initiative. We note that no indication has been provided by the Shipper community, so far, as to the level of risk associated with the anticipated increase in meter exchanges to facilitate smart metering.

2 Costs

2.1 National Grid NTS has concerns regarding the estimated costs provided to the industry which are under consideration in this Cost Benefit Assessment, including a lack of clarity regarding the level of Gemini system intervention, and uncertainty with how this will be funded.

2.2 The aspiration of the modification as written is for no limits or system constraints on the daily volume of reads or asset information that could be submitted. Xoserve estimated costs have not detailed the assumed level of potential volumes. National Grid NTS is concerned that a more accurate view of anticipated usage by the Shippers is required to provide accurate system design costs.

2.3 Without such information there is an acute risk that any system functionality built would either under estimate the customers' requirement leading to

customer frustration and dissatisfaction or to claims of “gold-plating”. Neither situation is desirable and both would lead to the creation of avoidable costs.

3.0 Concerns

- 3.1 National Grid NTS remains committed to supporting the industry in the economic and efficient delivery of Retrospective Adjustment. We therefore believe that the following additional areas of concern should be fully considered during this Cost Benefit Assessment.
- 3.2 In order to ensure this Cost Benefit Assessment is completed with the appropriate level of rigor, full and detailed accounts of all costs associated with the implementation of Retrospective Adjustment should be provided to the industry.
- 3.3 The timely provision of an explicit statement from Ofgem on the funding of Retrospective Adjustment is required to provide clarity and transparency to the industry during its consideration of this Modification Proposal.
- 3.4 National Grid NTS is concerned that full account must be taken of the potential impact of Ofgem’s Funding, Governance and Ownership (FGO) review of Xoserve. The FGO review may well result in a root and branch restructuring of arrangements for Xoserve. A decision on the revised FGO arrangements is not expected until Q3 2013. This review has significant potential to cause delay and confusion in the delivery and funding of the changes required to implement Retrospective Adjustment.
- 3.5 National Grid NTS wishes to highlight that current planning intends to implement Retrospective Adjustment in conjunction with the new system modifications introduced in the delivery of Gas Settlement Reform functionality.
- 3.6 A number of risks to the delivery of Gas Settlement Reform have been highlighted in National Grid NTS’ Cost Benefit Assessment for Modification 0432. Therefore all the risks associated to 0432 also stand for 00434.

National Grid NTS is happy for all parts of this response to be put in the public domain.

We look forward to receiving Xoserve’s Consultation Report summarising the points raised in this and the other industry participants’ responses. Please let me know if you require any further information to enable preparation of the Retrospective Adjustment Cost Benefit Consultation report.