

UNC Workgroup 0407 Minutes
Standardisation of notice periods for offtake rate changes for all
National Grid NTS Exit Users
Tuesday 26 February 2013
31 Homer Road, Solihull B91 3LT

Attendees

Bob Fletcher (Chair)	(BF)	Joint Office
Helen Cuin (Secretary)	(HCu)	Joint Office
Alison Chamberlain	(AC)	National Grid Distribution
Bethan Winter*	(BW)	Wales & West Utilities
Chris Shanley	(CS)	National Grid NTS
Colette Baldwin	(CB)	E.ON UK
David Corby	(DC)	National Grid NTS
David Mitchell	(DM)	Scotia Gas Networks
Eddie Blackburn	(EB)	National Grid NTS
Harvey Beck*	(HB)	Ofgem
Helga Clarke	(HC)	National Grid NTS
Julie Cox*	(FC)	Energy UK
Lewis Hodgart	(LH)	Ofgem
Rob Cameron-Higgs*	(RCH)	Wales & West Utilities

*via teleconference

Copies of all papers are available at: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0407/260213

The Workgroup Report is due to the UNC Modification Panel by 16 May 2013.

1.0 Introduction and Status Review

1.1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed.

1.2. Actions

1202: DNs to give views on any other options to be considered, eg reducing obligated capacity levels at Offtakes, and identify any consequential effects.

Update: RCH confirmed that this action could be closed as recent developments meant it had been superseded. **Closed.**

2.0 Discussion

CS provided a presentation on possible options for a revised solution following discussions with Wales & West Utilities.

BW expressed concern about what the System Flexibility Allocation Methodology ASIS would be used for going forward, as there has been some confusion in the past how this process should be applied. CS explained that a separate methodology had been considered for management of the 2 hour 5% rule but had been dismissed, as the process employed would be nearly identical to the existing process. CS also explained that the material provided should clarify exactly how the current process works.

CS provided a flow diagram to outline the current methodology and explained how a network capability assessment is performed to identify whether there are any system flexibility issues and that SFRN notices can be issued day ahead and within day to highlight that requests for system flexibility outside of the rules may not be accommodated.

CS illustrated Option 1 and how the current methodology could be amended to accommodate the 2hour 5% rule, along with the pros and cons of this option. CS explained that under the current methodology/Option 1, an assessment is undertaken day ahead and within day and reported that in the past SFRN notices had only been issued within day. He confirmed NTS would leave the rules off if no system flexibility issues had been identified but DNs would need to comply with the rule if a SFRN notice is issued, as their OPNs may not be accommodated.

Option 2a (rule on notice) would build on Option 1 by also introducing the ability for NTS to provide a day-ahead notice for the next gas day (conducted D-1 between 6pm - 10pm). Under option 2a NTS would notify the DNs that the 2 hour 5% rule had been turned on and NTS would need DNs to comply with the LDZ rule or OPNs could be rejected.

Option 2b (advanced warning notice) would also build on Option 1 and also look to introduce a day-ahead notice for the next gas day (conducted D-1 between 6pm -10pm). Rather than turn the rule on, like Option 2a, this option would flag to DNs that OPNs may not be accommodated (a kind of pre SFRN advanced warning notice). The rule would not be turned on at that stage but any OPNS requesting system flexibility outside of the rules would need to be considered on a case by case basis and may not be accommodated.

AC asked if a revised modification would also consider business rules. CS envisaged a similar rule to those in section J would need inserting to OAD section I and additional rules would be required in section J to include the advance notice in the System Flexibility Allocation Methodology.

JC enquired when it is identified that there may be a problem day ahead is the planned communication only supplied to the DNs or if the direct connects would also be notified. CS explained that as the 2 hour 5% rule only relates to the DNs it was originally proposed that it would only be sent to them but as the current methodology applies to both direct NTS connects and DNs, he did not see why it could not be issued to all parties in the region affected.

CS believed the options could be aligned within the existing process fairly easily but highlighted that some enhancements would need to be made to the network capability assessment performed by NTS. He did not envisage any problems with this being in place for the next winter period but would consult within NTS and report back.

Option 2b appeared to be the preferred option of all the Workgroup members.

RCH was keen to look at the business rules to accommodate Option 2b and consider how the modification needed refinement, CS offered to assist in this regard. RCH believed there would be value in considering the legal text and the business rules at the next Workgroup Meeting.

3.0 Any Other Business

None raised.

4.0 Diary Planning for Review Group

Further details of planned meetings are available at: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/Diary

The next meeting will take place within the business proceedings of the Offtake Arrangements Workgroup on:

Tuesday 26 March 2013, at 10:30, 31 Homer Road, Solihull, B91 3LT

Action Table

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref	Action	Owner	Status Update
1202	12/12/12	3.0	DNs provide views on any other options to be considered, eg reducing obligated capacity levels at Offtakes, and identify any consequential effects.	DNs	Closed