

Stage 01: Modification

0487S:

Introduction of an Advanced Meter Indicator and Advanced Meter Reader (AMR) Service Provider Identifier in advance of Project Nexus Go Live

At what stage is this document in the process?



With the continuing rollout of Advanced Metering across the Non Domestic market and the extension till 2016 of the ability to deploy Advanced Metering it is important to be able to identify the presence of Advanced Metering at customer sites. This is particularly important during Change of Supplier (CoS) events and in particular with proposals to optimise the CoS process. Currently central systems do not hold and identify Advanced Meters and associated Advanced Meter Reading (AMR) Service Providers (ASP's). This proposal looks to introduce these details within the central system and place an obligation on Shippers to populate and maintain the relevant information.



The Proposer recommends that this modification should be:

- assessed by the Workgroup



High Impact:



Medium Impact:



Low Impact:

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28 August 2014

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About this document:

This modification was presented by the proposer to the panel on 20 March 2014.



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Summary

Is this a Self-Governance Modification?

The Modification Panel determined that this modification is suitable for Self Governance as it is not likely to have a material impact on consumers and competition as the modification is only proposing to provide additional information at a change of supplier (CoS) event to the benefit of those involved.

Why Change?

Currently central systems do not identify if the in situ meter is operating in Advanced Mode and if so who the current Advanced Meter Reading Service Provider (ASP) is. This lack of information creates issue on CoS with the new Supplier unable to easily identify if the Meter is advanced and who the relevant service provider is.

Recognising that hundreds of thousands of Advanced Meter Reading installations are already in situ it is critical that we introduce a means of tracking meters operating in advanced mode as soon as reasonably practicable. However we must balance this against the currently scheduled switch over to Nexus and the short term nature of introducing a solution in pre Nexus Systems. Therefore this solution introduces a short term solution for the pre Nexus environment with a more enduring solution proposed for the post Nexus environment.

Prior to Nexus implementation (currently scheduled for October 2015) it is proposed that we introduce an Advanced Meter Reader Service Provider (ASP) Identifier (ASP ID) within central systems.

Solution

We propose that we place an obligation on Shippers, where relevant, to populate and maintain the ASP ID. The Shipper shall be responsible for updating the ASP ID as soon as reasonably practicable once it becomes aware of the existence of an ASP associated with the MPRN. The triggers that we have currently identified are as follows: -

1. Following the initial appointment and any subsequent appointment by the Supplier of an Advanced Meter Reader Service Provider (ASP)
2. Where the Supplier is aware of an Advanced Meter being in-situ and that an Advanced Meter Reader Service Provider exists who is not appointed by the Supplier e.g. if the consumer has arrangements with an Advanced Meter Reader Service Provider

For avoidance of doubt should multiple ASP's exist then it is the ASP providing services to the Supplier that takes primacy.

Relevant Objectives

Pre Nexus holding the relevant information in central systems will improve the CoS process by ensuring the new Shipper has ready access to the current AMR Service Provider Identifier. This enables the new Shipper & Supplier to efficiently make the necessary arrangements in relation to the site, therefore further relevant objective d) by securing effective competition between relevant shippers.

Implementation

No implementation timescales are proposed. However, it would be desirable if implementation was as soon as reasonably practicable to support proposed improvements in change of supplier (CoS) process.

Why Change?

Currently central systems do not identify if the in situ meter is operating in Advanced Mode and if so who the current Advanced Meter Reading Service Provider (ASP) is. This lack of information creates inefficiencies on Change of Supplier (CoS) with the new Shipper & Supplier unable to efficiently identify if the Meter is currently advanced and who the current ASP is.

Scenario

In the circumstance that Shipper B transfers a Meter Point into their portfolio from Shipper A. Shipper B has no way of identifying whether Advanced Meter equipment is present at site upon receipt of the Meter Information provided to the incoming Shipper by the Transporter on the Meter Reading Information (MRI) File as this is not held on Transporter System so this cannot be provided.

Shipper B may then contract an ASP to install an Advance Meter to their newly registered Meter Point. The ASP visits site to report that an Advanced Meter has already been installed by another ASP on behalf of Shipper A, and therefore Shipper B has incurred the costs associated with an ultimately aborted visit.

This lack of centralised information also inhibits the ability to appoint service providers in a timely and efficient manner and thus the introduction of this information will support and compliment improvements being sought through Change of Supplier process reviews and associated modifications.

Recognising that hundreds of thousands of Advanced Meter Reading installations are already in situ it is critical that we introduce a means of tracking meters operating in advanced mode as soon as reasonably practicable. However we must balance this against the currently scheduled switch over to Nexus and the short term nature of introducing a solution in pre Nexus Systems. Therefore this solution introduces a short term solution for the pre Nexus environment with a more enduring solution proposed for the post Nexus environment.

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Solution

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For avoidance of doubt should multiple ASP's exist then it is the ASP providing services to the Supplier that takes primacy.

User Pays

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

This is a User Pays modification as it proposes to change or amend central systems.

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.

It is proposed that charging would utilize the Market Sector Flag to determine the allocation of costs. Those MPRNs populated with an "I" representing non domestic sites would be used to determine the population used to determine the Shipper's relevant market share and thus the relevant share of the costs based on that market share.
As at 1st October

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

To be confirmed

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

To be confirmed

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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.	None
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

Centralising the relevant information will improve the CoS process by ensuring the new Shipper & Supplier has ready access to the ASP ID. This enables the new Shipper & Supplier to efficiently make the necessary arrangements in relation to the site and will therefore further relevant object d) securing of effective competition.

Implementation

No implementation timescales are proposed. However, it would be desirable if this modification were implemented as soon as reasonably practicable to allow as much time as possible for the benefits to be gained prior to the implementation of Project Nexus.

Legal Text

To be provided by Northern Gas Networks

Recommendation

The Proposer invites the Workgroup to AGREE that this modification should be issued to consultation.