Workgroup Terms of Reference

0588R - Review UNC arrangements relating to the connection to and operation of gas fired generation on DN Networks

Date referred from Panel: 16 June 2016

Background – Why Change?

Please refer to http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0588

Changes to the UK generation mix in the last few year have impacted power station gas usage requirements for power stations connected to the NTS as well as those which are connected to the Distribution Networks, which we term embedded.

Since Aug 2013, WWU has received 295 requests for connections for embedded generation, typically in the range 10 to 40 MW output. To date 5 have been connected.

The requirement to react to these changing needs and to improve the way we manage embedded Power Station loads has led to the review and implementation of a number of Uniform Network Code reviews / modifications since 2010 including:

UNC Review 0316 – raised July 2010

UNC Modification 0397S – raised December 2011 implemented May 2012

UNC Modification 0407 – raised July 2013 implemented December 2013

Recent experience is highlighting that further work is needed to support a number of new power station loads to ensure we deliver robust yet efficient solutions to connect them to our network. These new power stations tend to be significantly smaller than the power stations we have previous experience of working with and their requirements are to operate for shorter hours, typically 3 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the evening.

In order to optimise use of the total network a number of methods are available for accessing storage including NTS Flex. The availability of NTS flex both in the short and long term is therefore vital for these plants. For electricity trading purposes sites would like to confirm available capacity by 14:30 day ahead however there currently isn't a process for GDN OPNs to be reviewed by NTS (including requests for additional NTS Flex) by this time and this imposes additional risk for embedded generators and potentially removes generation capacity that would otherwise be available.

Topics for Discussion

- Understanding the objective – Reviewing arrangements to better enable embedded generation to maximise flexibility
- Assessment of alternative means to achieve objective
- Development of Solution (including business rules if appropriate) – reviewing options and determining way forward for each

- Assessment of potential impacts of the Request –identifying consequences of closer interaction between gas and electricity networks
- Assessment of implementation costs of any solution identified during the Request – high level view of costs of various options

Outputs

Produce a Request Workgroup Report for submission to the Modification Panel, containing the assessment and recommendations of the Workgroup including a draft modification where appropriate.

Composition of Workgroup

The Workgroup is open to any party that wishes to attend or participate.

A Workgroup meeting will be quorate provided at least two Transporter and two User representatives are present.

Meeting Arrangements

Meetings will be administered by the Joint Office and conducted in accordance with the Code Administration Code of Practice.