

## Thoughts on monitoring “Flexibility”

Within Modification Proposal 0116, the measure of stress placed upon the transmission system adopted was to compare the average flow rate over peak hours to that of the whole 24 hour period.

Though the development of this regime it had been asserted that there was currently no necessity to ration this flexibility. The appeal against Ofgem’s decision to implement the full regime confirmed this approach but commended the adoption of a monitoring regime to more accurately assess the true capability of the transmission system to cope with such variation.

The major plank of the case against the necessity for rationing at the current time is the non-coincidence of demand upon this “flexibility” and that the capability of the system was not specific to an individual exit point or “node”, but was available within the system on a regional or “zonal” basis with some degree of mobility to adjacent zones.

### What is being measured?

As mentioned above, the existing proposal sought to compare peak to whole day flows (16 hrs cf 24 hrs) to indicate within day variation of gas flow. It is further suggested that a more realistic measure of the variation, and the system’s ability to absorb the variance, would be to monitor changes in line-pack. Although there is already some visibility of linepack through system information published, to put this into the context of monitoring “flexibility” on a zonal basis it would be necessary to align this granularity to zones and to publish more frequently.

On the basis that the zonal structure proposed by National Grid is representative of the connectivity and interaction of the system itself, this seems a reasonable basis for publication of information for monitoring.

### Proposal for information publication

It is proposed that information is collected and published at [D+1] and at an aggregated level, with the identified (17) Exit Zones as the lowest level but also with Area and National figures being published contemporaneously to demonstrate any coincidence in demand placed upon the system.

- i) Flexibility (as defined in Mod 0116)
  - Average aggregate flows between 06.00 and 22.00 (16 hrs)
  - Average aggregate flows between 06.00 and 06.00 (24 hrs)
- ii) Variation in Line-pack
  - Opening line-pack position for the day
  - Predicted Closing line-pack position
  - Updated line-pack position at each [6] hour point through the day (12.00, 18.00, 24.00)
  - Actual line-pack closing position

Although this does comprise additional data publication, it is assumed that no additional data collection will be required as this information would be

routinely available to the control room on a more frequent basis than is required for this purpose.