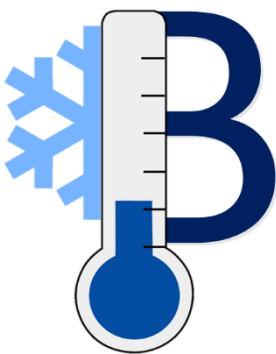


# Exercise 'BALTIC'

NEC Industry Exercise 2020 - Briefing Note

**Event date:**  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October  
2020



Exercise 'BALTIC' is the Gas Industry's annual Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE) Network Emergency Coordinator (NEC) assurance exercise.

Exercise Baltic will focus on NEC communications with all industry participants at stages 1-3 of an emergency and assure that industry participants are aware of their obligations to comply with NEC instructions.

## Executive Summary

- It is essential for the gas industry to be able to manage an emergency situation safely and effectively, the annual exercise is one of the key ways of demonstrating its preparedness.
- The NEC has a legal requirement to provide assurance that the gas industry can take action to manage and recover from a gas deficit emergency.
- This year, response teams will respond remotely via virtual means.
- Exercise Baltic will utilise live demand data and simulate a series of supply losses to trigger a NGSE.
- Industry notifications shall be tested through the activation of a Gas Balancing Notification (GBN), Margins Notice and Emergency Declarations.
- Exercise Baltic will seek to test communication methods between National Grid's Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT) and all relevant gas industry participants to complete the principle objectives set out in this briefing note.
- The NEC will request a feedback report from all participants involved upon completion of the exercise for use in producing the post exercise report.

**COVID-19:** In light of the unpredictable circumstance surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, this year's exercise will be conducted **remote from tactical (silver) level response facilities**. The Office of the NEC is therefore not requesting that participants attend their response centres for the purposes of the exercise, instead to activate their remote response arrangements regardless of the social distancing arrangements in place at the time of the exercise. It is appreciated that operational elements of the response, such as gas terminal control centres, will remain in situ but, we are not requesting participants attend a physical office location if they are able to conduct their response from home, and would be expected to do so during the peak of a pandemic or in the face of extreme severe weather.

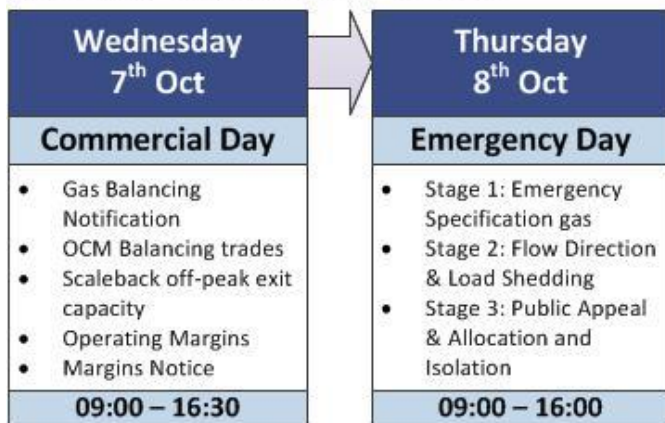
**Aim and Objectives**

The aim of this exercise is to demonstrate that the gas industry is prepared and able to meet its obligations in the event of a Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE), against a backdrop of social distancing measures being in force. This will be demonstrated by effective two way communications processes across the industry and its stakeholders; timely and accurate information being shared between participants; and effective emergency strategies being produced and implemented.

In doing so the following objectives will be met:

- Test the ability of industry to respond to an NGSE during a situation where it is unsuitable for responders to travel to a response facility
- Test emergency response communications both operationally (i.e. the activation of the Gas Availability Status Report and GSO to ESO liaison) and publicly through participation of Corporate Affairs representatives
- Practice the response link between the Distribution Network’s response teams and National Grid’s Network Emergency Management Team
- Validate emergency procedures, specifically E1, National Grid’s E3, the E3 documents of the Distribution Networks, and the NEC Safety Case
- Embed, for testing, recommendations from previous industry emergency exercises, including NEC Exercise ‘Arctic’ (2019) and the series of Critical Transportation Constraint exercises delivered between National Grid and the Distribution Networks in Q1 2020.

**Exercise Baltic 2020 - Scope**



**Participants**

The diagram, in figure 1 overleaf, depicts the wide range of organisations scheduled to participate in Exercise Baltic. Observers from the HSE may request access to the virtual response discussions of a number of participants during the exercise. The HSE will make these arrangements directly.

**Commencement**

The exercise will commence with the briefing of the National Grid Gas System Operator Duty Officer c.09:00 Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. The Duty Officer will review the scenario information and determine the requirement to mobilise. Upon the decision to mobilise a message will be issued to industry, which will include a brief situation report, utilising established communication paths, stating:

**“EXERCISE ‘BALTIC’ – START EX”**

The exercise will pause overnight on Wednesday (7<sup>th</sup>) and re-commence with a short re-briefing Thursday (8<sup>th</sup>) morning. The exercise will then end at the discretion of Directing Staff, in discussion with the HSE, c.16:00 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October. A message will be issued as per the Start Ex communications stating:

**‘EXERCISE ‘BALTIC’ – END EX’**

A ‘hot’ debriefing will take place, immediately after the end of the exercise, for the NEMT. All other participants are requested to consider holding a similar debriefing session, in isolation, in order to gather feedback and identify lessons learnt.

**Exercise Notifications**

A range of industry notifications will be activated during Exercise Baltic, namely: Emergency Declarations, Gas Balancing Notification and Margins Notice. These notices shall be clearly marked as ‘for exercise’. OCM Balancing trades, Capacity Scale backs and activation of Operations Margins shall be simulated without industry communication.

**Reporting**

Following the exercise and receipt of industry feedback, the Office of the NEC will prepare a report on Exercise Baltic detailing the effectiveness of the industry response to NEC notifications. The report will incorporate industry feedback and relay recommendations for improvements to the emergency arrangements. This will be published on National Grid’s and the HSE’s websites.

Each organisation participating in Exercise Baltic is requested to appoint an exercise observer who can provide observations and feedback on the exercise.

**Contact**

Should you have any queries or require further information regarding any aspect of Exercise Baltic, please visit the National Grid Emergency Information [website](#) or get in touch with the National Grid Gas Emergency and Incident Framework Team using the contact details provided below:

For further information please contact:

**Emergency and Incident Framework Team**

National Grid  
[gasops.emergencyplanning@nationalgrid.com](mailto:gasops.emergencyplanning@nationalgrid.com)

Figure 1 – Exercise Baltic – Industry participation

Government and Regulators	National Grid	Terminal Operators and LNG Importation Terminals		Storage Facilities	Gas Distribution Network Operators
Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)	Crisis Management Team (CMT)	<b>TERMINALS:</b>		Aldbrough – Equinor/SSE Gas Storage	Cadent
Oil and Gas Authority (OGA)	<b>Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT)</b>	Easington - Gassco, Langeded	St. Fergus - Ancala (Wood), SAGE	Hatfield Moor – Scottish Power	Northern Gas Networks (NGN)
Health and Safety Executive (HSE) <i>[Observing]</i>	Corporate Affairs Response Team (CART)	Easington - Centrica Storage, Rough	St. Fergus - NSMP (PX)	Hilltop – EDF Energy	SGN
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) <i>[Observing]</i>	Gas Transmission (GT) Silver Command	Easington - Perenco, Dimlington	St. Fergus - Shell	Hole House – EDF Energy	Wales and West Utilities (WWU)
	Electricity National Control Centre (ENCC)	Burton Point - ENI	St. Fergus - National Grid	Holford – UniPer	
		Bacton - Shell, BBL	Teesside - Antin (Wood), CATS	Hornsea – SSE Gas Storage	<b>Interconnectors</b>
		Bacton - National Grid	Teesside - PX	Humbly Grove – Humbly Grove Energy	BBL – BBL Company
		Bacton - SEAL	Barrow - Spirit Energy	Stublach - Storengy	Irish interconnector – Gas Networks Ireland (GNI)
					I(UK) – Interconnector (UK)
<b>Network Emergency Coordinator (NEC)</b>	<b>National Transmission System – Directly Connected Sites</b>	<b>LNG TERMINALS:</b>		<b>Shippers</b>	
		Milford Haven – South Hook			
		Milford Haven – Dragon			
		Isle of Grain – National Grid			