

Stage 01: Modification

0506A:

Gas Performance Assurance Framework and Governance Arrangements

At what stage is this document in the process?

- 01 Modification
- 02 Workgroup Report
- 03 Draft Modification Report
- 04 Final Modification Report

This modification proposal seeks to introduce a Gas Performance Assurance Framework to be used to facilitate assurance and incentivisation of settlement accuracy post-implementation of Project Nexus.

This modification proposal only applies to energy and supply points within LDZs, it does not apply to the National Transmission System and supply points connected to it.



The Proposer recommends that this modification should be assessed by a Workgroup



High Impact:
Shippers



Medium Impact:
Transporters (excluding NTS) and Transporter Agency



Low Impact:
None

0506A

Modification

02 January 2015

Version 1.0

Page 1 of 10

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Contents

1	Summary	3
2	Why Change?	5
3	Solution	6
4	Relevant Objectives	8
5	Implementation	9
6	Legal Text	9
7	Recommendation	9
8	Appendix	10

About this document:

This document is a proposal, which will be presented by the Proposer to the Panel on 15th January 2015 and consider whether the modification should be referred to the Performance Assurance workgroup.



Any questions?

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0506A

Modification

02 January 2015

Version 1.0

Page 2 of 10

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1 Summary

Is this a Self-Governance Modification?

This modification will have a material impact on commercial activities connected with the shipping and transportation of gas and is, therefore, considered not to meet the Self-Governance criteria (bb) detailed below.

Self-Governance criteria

The modification:

(i) is unlikely to have a material effect on:

(aa) existing or future gas consumers; and

(bb) competition in the shipping, transportation or supply of gas conveyed through pipes or any commercial activities connected with the shipping, transportation or supply of gas conveyed through pipes; and

(cc) the operation of one or more pipe-line system(s); and

(dd) matters relating to sustainable development, safety or security of supply, or the management of market or network emergencies; and

(ee) the uniform network code governance procedures or the network code modification procedures; and

(ii) is unlikely to discriminate between different classes of parties to the uniform network code/relevant gas transporters, gas shippers or DN operators.

Why Change?

To coincide with the planned replacement of the main UKLINK systems, improved gas allocation and reconciliation processes (together referred to as “settlement”) will be introduced through the Project Nexus suite of modifications. Whilst Project Nexus enhancements are expected to offer benefits, the new settlement arrangements introduce an element of risk, for example, through the late reconciliation of allocated energy which can lead to cashflow problems for shippers and inaccuracies in unallocated gas. There is also a risk that the energy will never be reconciled before the line in the sand date is reached.

Given the value of energy that is delivered in Great Britain each day, any individual Shipper settlement performance that is below the required standard will create a negative commercial impact to all other Shippers. The volume of un-reconciled energy after any period is dependent upon industry participant performance – including quality of asset data and available meter readings. Data quality is driven by the requirements placed on industry parties, and also on those parties meeting those requirements. A framework is, therefore, needed to establish performance requirements in an optimal manner and provide assurance that gas settlement has accurate allocation, reconciliation, control, self-monitoring and governance post-Project Nexus implementation, so that no unfair commercial advantage can be derived from settlement by any Party.

Solution

A Performance Assurance Framework (PAF) is to be introduced into the gas market arrangements. The Performance Assurance Framework is limited to Transporter and shipper activity that impacts energy once it has entered the Local Distribution Zone., i.e., from and including the upstream meter into the LDZ through to the downstream meters delivering to consumers. Gas transported through the National Transmission

0506A

Modification

02 January 2015

Version 1.0

Page 3 of 10

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System (NTS) and supply points connected to the NTS are excluded from the arrangements created by this Guidelines document.

This framework encompasses a new UNCC Sub Committee, an administration role (Performance Assurance Framework Administrator), and supporting business rules (set out in a UNC Related Document – see Appendix 1).

This modification proposal creates the platform on which other performance assurance modifications can be implemented e.g. Modifications 0483 and 0520.

The proposed solution includes assigning the Performance Assurance Framework Administrator role to the Transporter Agency (currently Xoserve) for a period of [3] years.

A review is to be conducted after [2] years (from modification implementation date), by the Sub-Committee. This review, to be completed within six months, will consider the effectiveness of the Performance Assurance Framework introduced by this modification proposal. It will then be for parties to bring forward a relevant Modification Proposal to:

- Extend the transitional terms to become enduring, or
- Seek an alternative solution.

Relevant Objectives

This modification proposal is expected to have a positive effect on Relevant Objectives (a), and (d) and (f) as it is expected to lead to more accurate and timely gas settlement. In addition, the creation of the UNCC Committee and UNC Related Document will facilitate the implementation of other modifications related to the Performance Assurance Framework.

Implementation

No implementation timescales are proposed. However, this proposal should be implemented as soon as possible after Ofgem approval.

This modification is expected to be one of a series of modifications to create a Performance Assurance Regime. Each modification can be developed independently and implemented at different times. For the avoidance of doubt it is intended that this modification can be implemented without any modification on risk assessment being approved. It is expected that this modification will be a platform for existing modifications and those in the future relating to performance assurance.

2 Why Change?

To coincide with the planned replacement of the main UKLINK systems, improved gas allocation and reconciliation processes (together referred to as “settlement”) will be introduced through the Project Nexus suite of modifications. Whilst Project Nexus enhancements are expected to offer benefits, the new settlement arrangements introduce an element of risk, for example, through the late reconciliation of allocated energy which can lead to cashflow problems for shippers and inaccuracies in unallocated gas. There is also a risk that the energy will never be reconciled before the line in the sand date is reached. Essentially to be most efficient, data quality, quantity, frequency, etc., must be optimal from all parties or transporter or shipper activity could expose other parties to settlement risk either deliberately or accidentally through their performance. The Industry needs to identify what performance bands are optimal and incentivise parties to perform within those bands. Modifications will need to be raised to provide the performance levels and incentives regimes and these mods need to sit on an administration platform.

The Performance Assurance Workgroup (PAW) was established by the UNC Modification Panel on 20 December 2012 to consider the development of a framework that can help to ensure the risks are understood, and to provide assurance that the actions of some parties are not inappropriately passing costs to others.

Given the value of energy that is delivered in Great Britain each day, individual Shipper settlement performance that is below the required standard will create a negative commercial impact to all other Shippers. The Proposer believes that it is imperative that the amount of energy paid for by Shippers should be representative of their customers’ usage at the point of time for which the charges relate and that incentives should be in place on all parties to ensure that reconciliation and allocation amounts are closely matched to allow this to happen. Equal to that under the Project Nexus arrangements there is an opportunity to ensure that there are controls put in place to improve asset data and the provision of meter readings and narrow any scope for Shippers inappropriately passing costs onto other Parties through the settlement process.

The Proposer also believes that introducing a PAF could bring benefits to consumers through the change of supplier process by ensuring that targets for switching times are met and erroneous transfers are minimised, and help facilitate the realisation of benefits expected both from Project Nexus changes and the roll out of smart metering. In addition, if accuracy of settlement and reduction of error can be improved through the introduction of PAF then it should improve market attractiveness and possibly encourage new entrants into the market by reducing risk and giving absolute clarity about industry expectations of new entrants.

3 Solution

The Performance Assurance Framework is limited to energy once it has entered the Local Distribution Zone. Gas transported through the National Transmission System (NTS) and supply points connected to the NTS are excluded from the arrangements created by this guidelines document.

The proposed solution is to create a Performance Assurance Framework within the UNC. This Performance Assurance Framework comprises:

- A UNCC Sub-Committee (the Performance Assurance Committee). Note, a UNC modification is not required to create this and so this Sub-Committee does not need to form part of the legal text)
- An administrator role (the Performance Assurance Framework Administrator) to provide settlement performance information to the Sub-Committee
- Business rules setting out the roles and responsibilities of the Sub Committee and Performance Assurance Framework Administrator. These are documented in a UNC Related Document (Guidelines for the Energy Settlement Performance Assurance Regime) included as Appendix 1

This modification proposal creates the platform on which other performance assurance modifications can be implemented, e.g., Modifications 0483 and 0520.

The proposed solution includes assigning the Performance Assurance Framework Administrator role to the Transporter Agency (Xoserve) for a period of [3] years.

A review is to be conducted after two years (from modification implementation date), by the Sub-Committee. This review, to be completed within six months, will consider the effectiveness of the Performance Assurance Framework introduced by this modification proposal. It will then be for parties to bring forward a relevant modification proposal to:

- Extend the transitional terms to become enduring, or
- Seek an alternative solution.

The role of the UNCC Sub-Committee and of the Performance Assurance Framework Administrator are set out in the UNC Related Document “Guidelines document for the Energy Settlement Performance Assurance Regime” shown in Appendix 1.

User Pays

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

This modification proposal creates additional services in the UNC to be provided by the Transporter Agency and to be defined in Appendix 1 of the Agency Charging Statement

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.

As Users are the beneficiaries of the services created by this modification proposal 100% of costs are to be recovered from Users.

The charging basis for Users is:

Total AQ for all LDZs for the relevant billing period for each Shipper (as at the end of the relevant billing period (30th September)) as a percentage of the total AQ for all LDZs for the relevant billing period for all Shippers (as at the end of the relevant billing period (30th September))

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

Tbc

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

Tbc

0506A

Modification

02 January 2015

Version 1.0

Page 7 of 10

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4 Relevant Objectives

Impact of the modification on the Relevant Objectives:	
Relevant Objective	Identified impact
a) Efficient and economic operation of the pipe-line system.	Positive
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.	Positive
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

This modification proposal should have a positive effect on Relevant Objectives (a), (d) and (f). It is intended that the Performance Assurance Framework will allow for the monitoring of Shipper performance in elements related to settlement accuracy and facilitate an incentive regime to improve performance and reduce settlement risk.

This is expected to lead to more accurate and up to date information being held on Xoserve's system and, therefore, improve accuracy of settlement and information in relation to system utilisation and capacity needs. This should further Relevant Objective (a), in particular if more up to date and accurate data allows the Transporters to understand system requirements in areas of constrained capacity.

If accuracy of settlement and reduction of error can be improved and the PAF meets its objective of ensuring that no unfair commercial advantage can be derived from settlement market attractiveness should also improve and this may encourage new entrants to the market. This should therefore further Relevant Objective (d).

The creation of the UNCC Committee and UNC Related Document will facilitate the implementation of other modifications related to the Performance Assurance Framework, this Modification Proposal also furthers Relevant Objective (f).

0506A

Modification

02 January 2015

Version 1.0

Page 8 of 10

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5 Implementation

No implementation timescales are proposed. However, this Proposal should be implemented as soon as possible after Ofgem approval.

This modification is expected to be one of a series of modifications around Performance Assurance, which should be able to be developed independently and implemented at different times. For the avoidance of doubt it is intended that this modification can be implemented without any modification on risk assessment being approved.

Note: the UNCC can create the Performance Assurance Framework Sub-Committee at any point in time, this may be prior to the modification implementation.

6 Legal Text

Legal text to be provided by the Gas Transporters.

7 Recommendation

The Proposer invites the Panel to:

- Determine that this modification should not be subject to self governance; and
- Progress to Workgroup for assessment.

8 Appendix

Appendix 1 - Guidelines for the Energy Settlement Performance Assurance Regime.

0506A

Modification

02 January 2015

Version 1.0

Page 10 of 10

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