

Weather Data Dissemination

Background:

Historical daily values of CWVs dating from 1928 in each LDZ are available to all UNC parties from xoserve and these values are updated when the definitions of the weather variables change, as they have done with the newly revised CWV definitions.

It is the CWV history that is relevant to gas demand modelling in general and UNC Section H NDM Demand Estimation in particular, and the seasonal normal basis is defined in CWVs terms.

Historical daily values of gas industry temperatures and windspeeds are used to compute these historical daily CWVs.

These historical daily temperatures and windspeeds, even though they are in part derived data, are the intellectual property (IP) of the relevant weather service provider to the extent that the initial data originated either from the Met Office or from another weather service provider.

The gas industry weather database of daily temperatures and windspeeds runs from 1st April 1928 to the present. The database is derived from underlying data supplied by the Met Office up to 31st March 2007 and based on underlying data supplied by the Meteo Group from 1st April 2007 to the present.

Contractual Position:

National Grid have consulted both the Met Office and Meteo Group on the possibilities for dissemination of the daily temperature windspeed data constituting the gas industry weather database.

Both parties have confirmed to us that National Grid does not have the freedom under both past and current contractual terms to release this daily data to other parties. They reasonably point out that the data could not have been created without the data supplied by themselves and therefore they have a clear IP interest in the data which they will not forego. Moreover acceding to the free release of this data would translate to a potential loss of business – something which would not be reasonable to expect from these weather service providers. Additionally, the Met Office as a government funded body has an obligation to the taxpayers who fund the organisation to obtain the best possible terms for its commercial activities (the Met Office clearly sets out on its website its principles in this respect).

Possible Way Forward:

An approach acceptable in principle to both weather service providers is for the data to be licensed on commercial terms by the relevant weather service provider to any UNC signatory wishing to take up such a service.

Such an approach would be appropriately targeted since it could be taken up by those UNC signatories (and only those) who ascribe a definite value to the data and are willing to acquire it on that basis.

In such a situation daily gas industry weather history from 1st April 1928 to 31st March 2007 would be provided under licence from the Met Office and daily gas industry weather history from 1st April 2007 onwards would be provided under licence from Meteo Group.

In order to ascertain demand, it would be helpful if parties interested in taking up this approach get in touch with the relevant weather service providers to register their interest:

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