Gas
Transmission

Transparency Improvements to the Process for Changing Gas Quality Limits in NTS Connection Agreements

Pre Mod

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Background

- GMaP “Implementing the Proposed Gas Quality Standards” project analysed the UNC market rules related to changing a gas quality parameter in NTS connection agreements. Highlighting both short term recommendations and longer-term actions.

- There are currently four ways in which a gas quality parameter can be changed within a connection agreement. However, only one of these, the ‘enabling modification’ process is used regularly.

- Changes can also be made with just the agreement in writing from the Users that hold NTS Entry Capacity at the relevant ASEP. This could potentially offer a quicker route to enabling the change but is rarely used due to a lack of industry transparency.

- The GMaP project identified a low regret recommendation to raise a UNC modification to enhance the transparency of the ‘agreement in writing from the Users that hold NTS Entry Capacity at the relevant ASEP’ process.

Why Change

- The need for gas decarbonisation in the coming years is likely to result in gas quality limit changes to connection agreements at individual System Entry Points being proposed more frequently.

- Of the four existing routes, only the lengthy ‘enabling modification’ process is used regularly. In future, the potential exists for multiple terminal operators to seek change simultaneously, essentially clogging the system and increasing the resource burden on the industry.

- Going forward it would be desirable to have more than one viable market route for changing gas quality values and vital that the UNC has the appropriate market rules to ensure those changes are made in a transparent and efficient way.

- The ‘agreement in writing from the Users that hold NTS Entry Capacity at the relevant ASEP’ process is an existing process by which gas quality limits may be amended quickly. The GMaP project has identified an opportunity to improve it by retaining its speed and efficiency and supplementing it with additional transparency.

Solution

- An industry wide engagement window stage will be added into the process. This would oblige National Grid NTS to provide:
    - Details regarding the change
    - The outputs of related network analysis indicating how deeply into the network the relevant supply source may penetrate
    - A vehicle for any User or stakeholder to object to the proposed change.

- The engagement window will provide the industry with [10 business days] from the date of publication of the proposed change and any related network analysis to present an objection.

- The gas quality change should default to the ‘enabling modification’ process in the event of any objection being raised during the engagement window.

Next Steps

- Raised for initial consideration by the Modification Panel on:

  17th June 2021

- Proposed for Self Governance
- Recommendation to issue to a Workgroup for a period of 3 months for development.

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