



# NTS Specification for Mercury

Transmission Workgroup

April 2023



# Background

- We received an enquiry from an upstream operator if we would accept mercury levels above the maximum Gas Ten Year Statement (GTYS) guidance limit of 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, possibly up to 20 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- Mercury is not directly stated in GS(M)R but is covered indirectly in that the gas we transport “shall not contain solid or liquid material which may interfere with the integrity or operation of pipes or any gas appliance”.
- Mercury content has historically not been a concern for natural gas and we do not currently measure or monitor mercury content at NTS entry points.
- A short survey was carried out with industry. We asked whether mercury content in natural gas presents any risks to customers’ operations downstream of the NTS and, if so, at what concentration.
- Survey results indicated a mixed response, confusion around current limit, and concerns around safety and equipment at the current level.

# Progress Update

## Actions Taken:

- One off sampling at key points on the NTS:

Points sampled	Locations	Result	GTYS limit
23	6 Entry terminals – Easington/Bacton/St. Fergus/Teesside/Lupton/ Newton Noyes	<0.1 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	10 µg/m <sup>3</sup>

- Engagement with HSE
- Engagement with Environment Agency
- In parallel we have been working with Operators regarding monitoring of mercury levels and removal of mercury if there is any reason that limits may be of concern and assessing their own sampling.

# Next steps

- Further engagement planned...

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
HSE	Follow up Survey	Survey closes	Survey Results		Update		GTYS publish update	

- Decision on future limits will be dependent on further engagement & survey results.

If you have further questions or comments, please contact Kirsty Appleby [Kirsty.Appleby@nationalgas.com](mailto:Kirsty.Appleby@nationalgas.com)

Thank you

