UNC Panel Day Paper – Xoserve inputting reads on Supply Points at D-7

Purpose of the paper

During the UNC Modification Panel meeting held on 12th October to discuss Modification 0634 (Urgent): "Revised estimation process for DM sites with D-7 zero consumptions" there was a concern raised regarding Xoserve providing estimated Meter Readings for Daily Metered (DM) Supply Points where the actual readings were not being recorded on UK Link systems. This occurred where the D-7 estimate reading was deemed to be inaccurate. Panel members understood Xoserve were in some circumstances providing an estimated Meter Reading which has been determined in a manner that was not contemplated by the UNC.

At this meeting Panel members asked for additional information on this issue.

Background

Following Project Nexus implementation the industry has faced issues with DM Meter Readings not being accepted into the UK Link system. The industry has been engaged, via the Xoserve DM Issue Resolution Project, as the inability to load actual DM readings has been linked to the volatility of Unidentified Gas (UIG). This engagement is being led by Xoserve through 'one to one' meetings with Shipper Users to pro-actively identify solutions to resolve this concern.

During one to one discussions participants have worked collaboratively to identify and assign actions to parties in order to get DM readings accepted. As a result of discussions, and with the assistance of a particular Shipper to test the approach, we have inserted 'actual' consumptions into two pilot Supply Meter Points prior to Exit Closeout at D-5. These consumptions were obtained from the DMSP to CDSP file read file (the DLC file), albeit this reading failed to load due to specific issues with respect to the data held on UK Link systems.

In both cases where we have inserted actual consumption, these relate to two separate Twin Stream Supply Meter Points which were subject to data and migration related issues at 'Go-Live' of Nexus.

The insertion of actual consumptions has the advantage of informing future D-7 positions, rather than repeated use of an inaccurate consumption D-7 value.

UNC TPD Section M states that the Transporter is responsible for obtaining Meter Readings from Class 1 Supply Meters, and that Shipper Users are responsible for obtaining and submitting Meter Readings from Class 2, 3 and 4 Supply Meters. By using consumptions that are taken from Meter Reading files provided from Transporters and in the case of Class 2 if necessary from Shippers, that have been prevented from loading due to other data conditions these obligations are facilitated.

Proposed Solution

As a result of this positive outcome, Xoserve approached Shipper Users to enquire whether they felt that insertion of a period of actual consumptions obtained by Xoserve from the reading files would be a service that they would wish to consider. One Shipper replied in favour of this approach. However, no other shippers have responded. To date, other than the two pilot Twin-stream Supply Meter Points, none of these consumptions have been loaded.

Xoserve's Business Process Manager, Fiona Cottam attended the Performance Assurance Committee (PAC) on the 10th October where this solution was discussed. The Committee requested that the measure should not be implemented, and for Xoserve to await further discussions arising from the 0634 workgroup.

Perceived benefits of adopting this approach
The consumptions inserted are derived from actual reads taken by the DMSP.

The consumptions inserted (volume and Energy) are derived from actual reads taken by the DMSP and agreed with the appropriate stakeholders. This is then inserted into UK Link as a consumption to feed Gemini, the reads are not amended to different estimated readings or an actual Meter Reading, these remain untouched. This is to ensure that we do not misrepresent this as an actual reading, and so as not to impact the Better Estimate processes when actual reads flow or the Reconciliation process when a Check Read is received.

Outcome
The UNC does stipulate how estimated Meter Readings should be derived, but by loading a consumption derived from a reading obtained it is hoped that this does not materially contradict this principle. We recognise that this solution option should be communicated more widely than in one to one Shipper discussions. Views are explicitly requested on this matter. We also appreciate that should the principle be taken forward, then modification of the UNC would be necessary.

Further discussions will be possible during development of Modification 0634, should a workgroup be incorporated into the urgent timetable* and within PAC.

*Ofgem decision