

4th Nov 2005

National Grid NTS

Proposed Process for Notification of NTS Planned Maintenance

National Grid's proposed process for notifying NTS Planned Maintenance is as follows:

1. By 1st February each year, when the Draft Maintenance Programme is published, National Grid (NG) will send Planned Maintenance notifications to relevant shippers and site operators whose sites are expected to be affected by planned maintenance work being carried in the April to October maintenance period. These notifications will identify the window in which the work is planned to be carried out (e.g. for Online pipeline inspections(pigging) it will identify the fortnight in which the inspection runs will be carried out) or, where possible, will identify specific dates.
2. By 1st April when the Final Planned Maintenance Programme is published, NG will issue revised notifications to those shippers/sites where the dates of the planned maintenance have changed since the 1st February notification or where NG have more precise dates.
3. From 6 to 8 weeks before the work is due to be carried out, NG will confirm actual dates for those sites where NG had previously only notified a window. NG are currently investigating whether this period could be increased. Any increase in notice period would also increase the risk of subsequent amendments being required.
4. Where NG have to delay or postpone or cancel maintenance due to foreseeable circumstances, NG will give as much notice as possible of such change, and in any case at least 30 days notice. This notice will apply regardless of the duration of the planned maintenance. If the change is at the request of the shipper/site, the notice period may be less 30 days.

(NG cannot undertake to give notice of cancellation, where such cancellation is due to unforeseen circumstances, e.g. malfunction of plant or equipment that may only be identified on the day the work is due to commence).
5. Some parties have requested information on Online Pipeline Inspection interval dates for individual sites. NG considers that, to maintain confidentiality, the best vehicle for providing this information is via the Annual Planned Maintenance Letter that goes out each year from National Grid to all NTS Direct Connects (to shippers and site operators), requesting information on site planned maintenance by 30th November. NG can provide information on Pipeline inspection intervals along the following lines:

Online Pipeline Inspection dates for your site:

Site Name: XXXXX Power Station

Pipeline Section: Feeder Main XXX from AAA to BBB

Pipeline last Inspected: 2004

Next Inspection due by: 2014

Note: The 'due by' date is the latest date by which the pipeline inspection must be carried out. NG may choose or be required to, to carry out the inspection earlier. NG would not be able to confirm the exact year until the year before, e.g. we would provide confirmation, in the Annual Planned Maintenance Letter, in 2012 for an inspection programmed in 2013.