

Review Group Report
Review Proposal Reference Number 0140
Review of Information Provision on National Grids Information Exchange
Version 1.0

This Review Group Report is presented for the UNC Modification Panel's consideration. The consensus of attendees at the Review Group was that data presentation on the National Grid Gas website should be amended to better reflect current requirements of Users in respect of information not covered by the Daily Summary Report. The Group also reached agreement on the definition and presentation of each individual data item.

To reflect these changes, the Review Group recommends that the Network Code Operations Reporting Manual (NCORM) be amended to incorporate a data dictionary approach. A version of the revised NCORM reflecting current data provision, has been prepared for submission to the Uniform Network Code Committee (UNCC) for approval.

As the website and NCORM can be amended by the UNCC, no UNC Modification Proposal was considered necessary to make these agreed changes. The Group acknowledged that where consensus was not achieved, it would be open to any User to make a proposal for the inclusion of any data item not agreed by the Group, either in the form of a modification to NCORM or a UNC Modification Proposal.

In addition to work on the current data items, the Review Group discussed, but was unable to recommend, the inclusion of further data items, such as pressures on the NTS and other operating parameters.

1 Review Proposal

National Grid NTS raised Review Proposal 0140, for which the Terms of Reference are in Appendix 1.

2 Review Process

In accordance with the Modification Rules, at its meeting on 19 April 2007, the Modification Panel determined that this Review Proposal should be referred to a Review Group for progression. This Review Group Report was subsequently compiled by the Joint Office of Gas Transporters, and approved by Review Group attendees.

3 Areas Reviewed

The Review Group discussions focussed on the following areas:

a) Review of Current Data Items

i) Presentation

The Review Group agreed that the current presentation of data items would benefit from change. This included the following characteristics:

- Data items are primarily presented in fixed format pdf documents, although in most cases a csv option exists for downloading the same data.
- Essentially the same data is presented in several reports, some of which are read frequently, others infrequently.
- There is no straightforward way of associating data in one report with data in another.
- Data in the monthly reports, but not in the daily reports, is not always available immediately after it is loaded – sometimes not for several weeks.

- For most of the daily and monthly reports, there is no Application Programme Interface (API) provided.
- Some of the data items have been rendered obsolete by changes in the UNC.

To overcome these issues, the following principles were agreed:

- All data items will be produced/published at the earliest possible time/date (subject to National Grid NTS internal agreement).
- Users will be able to download their selection of data items over the date range of their choosing.
- APIs will be supported.
- The information will use standardised units, e.g. mcm, kWh.
- Simply derived data, e.g. percentage differences between forecast and actual demand, will not be published if the raw data, on which the calculation was based, is readily available.
- Data history will generally be made available for a period of two years.
- Specific data items, that required to be supported by an extended history, will be accommodated in a different way, or made available on request.
- If a data item has previous history, e.g. a previous Day's estimate, this will still be accessible behind current data.
- Where interim data values were produced, the history will be made available behind the item.
- In future, when changes are implemented on the National Grid Gas website, NCORM will be promptly updated submitted for approval by the UNCC and the UK Link Committee will be informed.

ii) Data Items to be Included

(1) Demand

It was agreed that the National Demand Forecast in mcm for 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 Day ahead will continue to be available. At the Day Ahead stage, and on the Day, the Forecasts (in mcm) will be given for the NTS and each LDZ. The 90% confidence limits on these data items will also continue to be available.

As soon as they are determined after the Day, demand in mcm will continue to be available for the NTS as a whole and each LDZ. It will be left to the user to calculate LDZ total and non LDZ demand.

Allocated demands for each LDZ will be available, after the Day, in kWh for DM Supply Points and NDM Supply Points. National Grid NTS agreed to consider a further break-down into Large and Small LDZ Supply Points. This would be a change from current reporting which does not sub-divide the NDM portion.

National Grid NTS also agreed to consider provision of within day hourly demand aggregated for all storage (split into two categories, storage/interconnectors, and consumption) at the same time as predicted linepack is published.

As consideration of these items is continuing, it was agreed that the UNC Transmission Workstream will be asked to monitor progress on this request.

Historic demands and SNDs dating back to October 2001 will continue to be available as will CWV, SND, Cold and Warm for the current Gas Year (all in mcm).

The Review Group noted that following the approval of Modification Proposal 097A and 0121, demands in kWh are available in respect of each NTS Offtake and interconnectors.

As the demand data by postcode is published by the Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform, it was agreed that this data will not be published separately but a link be provided to access this data.

(2) Supply

Delivery Flow Nominations (DFNs) in mcm will continue to be available on an aggregated basis i.e. North and South.

Actual volume in mcm will continue to be available on the same aggregated basis. The Review Group noted that this data might not be as useful now as when it was first provided because Entry Point specific data is now available as a consequence of implementing Modification Proposal 0006.

The total volume and energy “commercially” delivered into the NTS will continue to be available, plus the associated Calorific Value.

The total physical and forecast volume in mcm delivered into the NTS will continue to be available.

At the suggestion of the Review Group, National Grid NTS is considering making available the physical net energy, in kWh, delivered into the NTS at each bi-directional point.

As consideration of this is continuing, it was agreed that the UNC Transmission Workstream will be asked to monitor progress on this request.

(3) Prices

In addition to the data published on the Daily Summary Report, it was agreed that hour by hour SAP, SMP_{buy} and SMP_{sell} , currently available after the Day, will continue to be available in p/kWh. However, at the suggestion of the Review Group, National Grid NTS is considering making available this information within Day.

As consideration of this is continuing, it was agreed that the UNC Transmission Workstream will be asked to monitor progress on this request.

(4) Interruption

The Review Group took into account developments since Transco's Network Code was first published and those associated with Proposals that have been approved by Ofgem. These were:

- National Grid NTS no longer directly uses interruption for system balancing (although Users might assist system balancing through OCM offers).
- The concept of Network Sensitive Load will not exist from April 2011.
- The maximum number of days will be specific to each contract agreed by the DN, or potentially by National Grid NTS, from April 2011.

The probability of interruption by LDZ and by areas of the NTS will continue to be available.

Until April 2011, the Days of qualifying interruption will continue to be available in terms of numbers of Days and numbers of sites.

Transporter Interruption for constraint purposes, in terms of numbers of sites and kWh, will continue to be available both for the NTS and LDZs.

Transporter Interruption for testing purposes, in terms of numbers of sites and kWh, will continue to be available both for the NTS and LDZs.

(5) Balancing

The Review Group concluded that much of the Balancing data was derived from demand and supply data. Therefore, if this could be simply derived by users from these elements, there was no need to show the balance explicitly.

Nomination balancing data in kWh showing total input and output nominations each hour and daily nomination data in kWh showing Users' total nominations, plus nominations associated with shrinkage and storage will continue to be available.

The Review Group agreed it would be more useful to identify National Grid NTS' individual balancing actions in kWh rather than the current six hour summary by type/location.

(6) Storage

In addition to the data published on the Daily Summary Report, it was agreed that the storage monitor and stock information by storage type, currently available as a spreadsheet, will be retained.

(7) Shrinkage

The Review Group agreed that the shrinkage quantity, in kWh, for each LDZ, was no longer required as it could be readily derived from LDZ demand and the Shrinkage Factor, which only varies annually.

It was agreed that the NTS data will continue to be provided, including, Shrinkage Factor, Shrinkage Quantity and procurement/disposal details.

(8) Capacity

The Review Group agreed that all existing information will continue to be published but that thought should be given as to how best the large quantity of data should be presented. A breakdown of capacity sold by auction type will continue to be provided and National Grid NTS will consider placing these items in a single report.

As consideration of this is continuing, it was agreed that the UNC Transmission Workstream will be asked to monitor progress on this request.

(9) Linepack

The Review Group considered why the hourly update of linepack, had been withdrawn and whether it should be reinstated. It was agreed that this data item will not be reinstated, but this will be reconsidered when the SO Incentive Review has been completed.

It was recommended that the UNC Transmission be asked to take on this role.

It was agreed that all existing data items will continue to be provided.

(10) Miscellaneous/Other

No agreement was sought on the data items relating to costs and Average Weekly System Throughput as these are being reviewed by Review Group 0162 "Review of information provision to Shippers in respect of forecasting the future path of transportation charges".

It was agreed that all existing data items will continue to be provided.

iii) Documentation

The Review Group agreed on a revised NCORM, which will be issued separately for UNCC approval. This includes:

- A general summary of the gas data area, with relevant screen prints.
- Instructions on how to download the data required.
- A data dictionary that includes details of each data item.

The version of NCORM to be submitted to the UNCC will represent the current data available. A revised version of NCORM will subsequently be submitted that reflects the changes agreed in this report.

For these, and all subsequent changes, National Grid NTS agreed to revise NCORM promptly and, in addition to formal approval by the UNCC, the UK Link Committee will be informed. This recognises that UK Link members are often responsible for making changes to related systems within their own organisations.

4 New Data Items

The Review Group did not reach agreement that the additional data items, suggested by BGT, such as entry and exit pressures, would be included.

The Review Group considered two alternative suggestions – that the data should be available within Day and after the Day. Whilst it was recognised that restricting its availability to after the Day would reduce the likelihood of consequent gaming consensus was still not achieved on after the Day availability. For this reason the Review Group has not prepared a Modification Proposal. However, National Grid NTS agreed to consider what would be involved in displaying pressures at each Entry and Exit Point on an hourly basis and would report this to the Transmission Workstream.

Whilst consensus was not achieved on this, it was recognised that Ofgem is involved in this type of monitoring activity. Ofgem is therefore invited to consider further, how it may report its findings and activities of this nature to the industry.

5 Implementation

The Review Group was advised by National Grid NTS that the bulk of the changes set out above would, in the event of acceptance by the Modification Panel, be implemented on Q4 2008.

A revised NCORM, in data dictionary form, has been issued separately for the UNCC's consideration. If this is approved, a further version will be produced prior to the implementation of the agreed system changes.

6 Recommendations

The Modification Panel is invited to accept this report and the recommendations that:

1. No further work is required in respect of the Review Proposal.
2. National Grid NTS will report the changes it has been asked to consider to the Transmission Workstream and the topic list will reflect this. A list of items for further consideration is included as Appendix 2 below.
3. The UNC Committee be asked to approve a new version of NCORM which has been issued separately.
4. All future changes will be approved by the UNCC but the UK Link Committee will be advised.

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference

Purpose

A Uniform Network Code Review Group is required to:

1. Establish what information is currently being published within the Gas/Operational data area of the National Grid's Information Exchange;
2. Assess the relevance of the data within the reports;
3. Confirm whether the information is being utilised or superseded by other data items;
4. Review the Network Code Operations Reporting Manual (NCORM);
5. Consider National Grid NTS's approach to data presentation within the Gas/Operational data area within the Information Exchange website; and
6. Provide feedback to National Grid NTS where changes would facilitate the achievement of the relevant objectives.
7. Establish what additional data items may be included on the website.

Background

The Gas/Operational data area within National Grid's Information Exchange website is devoted to the provision of Operational and Market information to all industry stakeholders. The primary objectives of this site are to:

1. Reduce market uncertainty;
2. Reinforce equal access to information for all participants;
3. Increase information transparency; and
4. Facilitate efficiency in the capacity and energy markets.

National Grid NTS provides information that is published on a 'within day' and 'after the day' basis, available as portable document format (PDF) reports with comma separated variable (CSV) download capability.

Since the development of the Gas/Operational data area within Information Exchange, there has been a number of Transco and UNC Modifications which have changed the gas regime and instigated the release of additional information.

The NCORM is very prescriptive - not only about the data items that are published but also the layout and format of the reports.

In recognition that the Industry is signalling that there may be further requests relating to both the amount of data and the frequency of data provision, National Grid NTS has been reviewing whether the information provision should be provided as data rather than in formatted reports to enable End Users to export and manipulate data to best suit their needs.

Scope and Deliverables

The Review Group is asked to consider:

1. Carrying out a data exercise on information provided within the Gas/Operational data area of National Grid's Information Exchange website to assess the relevance of the data contained in the reports and to confirm whether the data is being utilised or may have been superseded by other data items/reports.

2. Identifying data items for potential inclusion on National Grid's Information Exchange, Gas/Operational data area. An assessment of the benefits and how the changes facilitate the relevant objectives should be completed.
3. Reviewing the NCORM to confirm whether the current structure and format of the manual is appropriate or whether a more flexible format can be adopted to be more efficient, such as a data item matrix or dictionary.
4. National Grid's approach to data presentation on the Information Exchange website, Gas/Operational data area, including the presentational format of that data, and to provide feedback to National Grid where changes would facilitate the relevant objectives.

Limits

The Review Group will consider:

1. Potential changes to the Uniform Network Code
2. Potential changes to NCORM, which is a Code Document
3. Other potential changes which are not part of a Transporter obligation.

Changes to either of these will be recommended prior to the completion of the Review Group meetings where a distinct requirement has been identified and developed by the Group.

Reports of progress will be made to the Modification Panel, the Transmission Operations Forum and Ofgem's Demand Side Working Group.

The Review Group will not concern itself with:

1. Review of information published via alternative systems, e.g. Gemini;
2. Information published as a result of Modifications Proposals implemented or to be implemented since June 2006.

Composition

Name	Organisation
John Bradley (Chair)	Joint Office
Lorna Dupont (Secretary)	Joint Office
Alexandra Campbell	E.ON UK
Amrik Bal	Shell
Chris Logue	National Grid NTS
Chris Wright	British Gas Trading
Christiane Sykes	Statoil
Claire Rozyn	Ofgem
Eddie Proffitt	Major Energy Users Council
Joel Martin	Scotia Gas Networks
Louise McGoldrick	National Grid NTS
Paul Gallagher	National Grid NTS
Paul Savage	energywatch
Rekha Patel	WatersWye
Roger Golding	Scotia Gas Networks
Stefan Leedham	EDF Energy
Steve Rose	RWE Npower
Stuart Waudby	Centrica Storage
Tim Davis	Joint Office

A Review Group meeting will be quorate providing at least 2 Transporter and 2 User representatives are present.

The Review Group may invite specialists to attend as necessary.

Information Sources

- Uniform Network Code – Section V
- National Grid website
- National Grid Gas plc, Gas Transporter Licence in respect of the NTS.
- Network Code Operations Reporting Manual

Timetable

- Frequency of meetings – at least monthly. The frequency of meetings will be subject to review and potential change by the Review Group.

Meetings will be administered by the Joint Office and conducted in accordance with the Chairman's Guidelines

Appendix 2 Items for UNC Transmission Workstream

The following actions accepted by National Grid NTS were not completed by Review Group 0140 and the UNC Transmission Workstream is requested to monitor progress of these:

1. Consider provision of LDZ offtake data and Supply Point demand data broken down into three categories ie DM, Large Supply Point NDM and Small Supply Point NDM.
2. Consider provision of within day hourly demand aggregated for all storage (split into two categories, storage/interconnectors, and consumption) at the same time as predicted linepack is published.
3. Consider provision of the physical net energy, in kWh, delivered into the NTS at each bi-directional point
4. Consider provision of hour by hour SAP , SMP_{buy} and SMP_{sell} prices on a within-Day basis.
5. Consider provision of the data behind the capacity sold vs flow graphs at each ASEP presented to each Operational Forum on a daily basis.
6. Consider what might be involved in the publishing of pressure information (at exit and entry) on an hourly basis.