

Gas Operational Forum Questions & Answers

13h January 2010 - Radisson Grafton

Is the process to issuing a within day GBA (Gas Balancing Alert) mechanistic?

We have to have had a 25mcm supply shock and have a reasonable expectation that there is going to be an end of day deficit.

Would you still have issued a within day GBA on Thursday 7th January if you had known the duration of the supply loss?

If the nominations had reflected the actual profile, that would have played a part in the decision making process. However at the time the decision was made the best information available to National Grid was that there would be no return in supplies from Norway on that gas day, leading to a significant end of day deficit.

If you had been permitted to withdraw the GBA during the day would you have done so?

The Network Code does not allow us to do this at the moment. This may be something that the industry wants to debate further in the coming months.

If a storage facility reaches below the two day stock level and they are taken out the GBA trigger level, can the facility still put gas on the system?

Yes, as long as the overall safety monitor level has not been breached.

Was last year's regime better?

We intend to run a simulation to see what would have happened to the GBA trigger level and whether safety monitor levels would have had an impact if the safety monitor had stayed with the previous regime. This will be presented at a future Ops Forum.

What did trading that late in the day achieve? Balancing that late when market is preparing for the next day?

Timing of trades is something we are interested in receiving more feedback on. The particular trade was posted when the market was very long, in an attempt to reduce the closing linepack.

Are you issuing a within day GBA to say there is a supply shortfall or to OTC (Over The Counter Trade)?

A GBA allows over the counter trades to be posted. The criteria for whether a GBA will be issued do not take this into account.