

# **Revision to National Grid connection process for Gas Transporter networks**

## **UIP/GT Briefing Note 7**

### **1. Introduction**

This briefing note details changes to National Grid's current service for the connection of other Gas Transporter (GT) networks to the National Grid system. Gas Transporters and Utility Infrastructure Providers (UIPs) have the option to carry out the final connection themselves subject to the arrangements described in National Grid's UIP/GT Briefing Note 1 implemented on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2002.

National Grid has consulted with GTs and Ofgem in changing the GT connection process to ensure alignment with other connection processes.

### **2. Current connection process**

Where a GT requests National Grid to make a connection to its network, National Grid's Service Provider currently makes a live connection to the National Grid parent main and installs a length of pipe for the GT to make a subsequent connection. In order for National Grid to ensure consistency in connection arrangements, National Grid will replace this service with a connection aligned to that provided for the connection of UIP pipes.

### **3. Revised connection process**

In order for the new connection to be installed the GT will be required to lay their infrastructure up to the required point of connection on the National Grid main. The GT will then be required to excavate on the National Grid main to enable National Grid's Service provider to complete the connection on the live parent main. The excavation must be of a suitable size for the connection. National Grid will provide a guidance note for excavation sizes.

National Grid will then arrange for its Service Provider to complete the live connection and will be responsible for this operation as the system duty holder. The GT will be responsible for the downstream purging operation as the duty holder for the GT system, although National Grid's Service Provider will retain responsibility for the integrity of the National Grid system during the purge operation.

When the connection is completed the GT will be required to complete the backfill and reinstatement works.

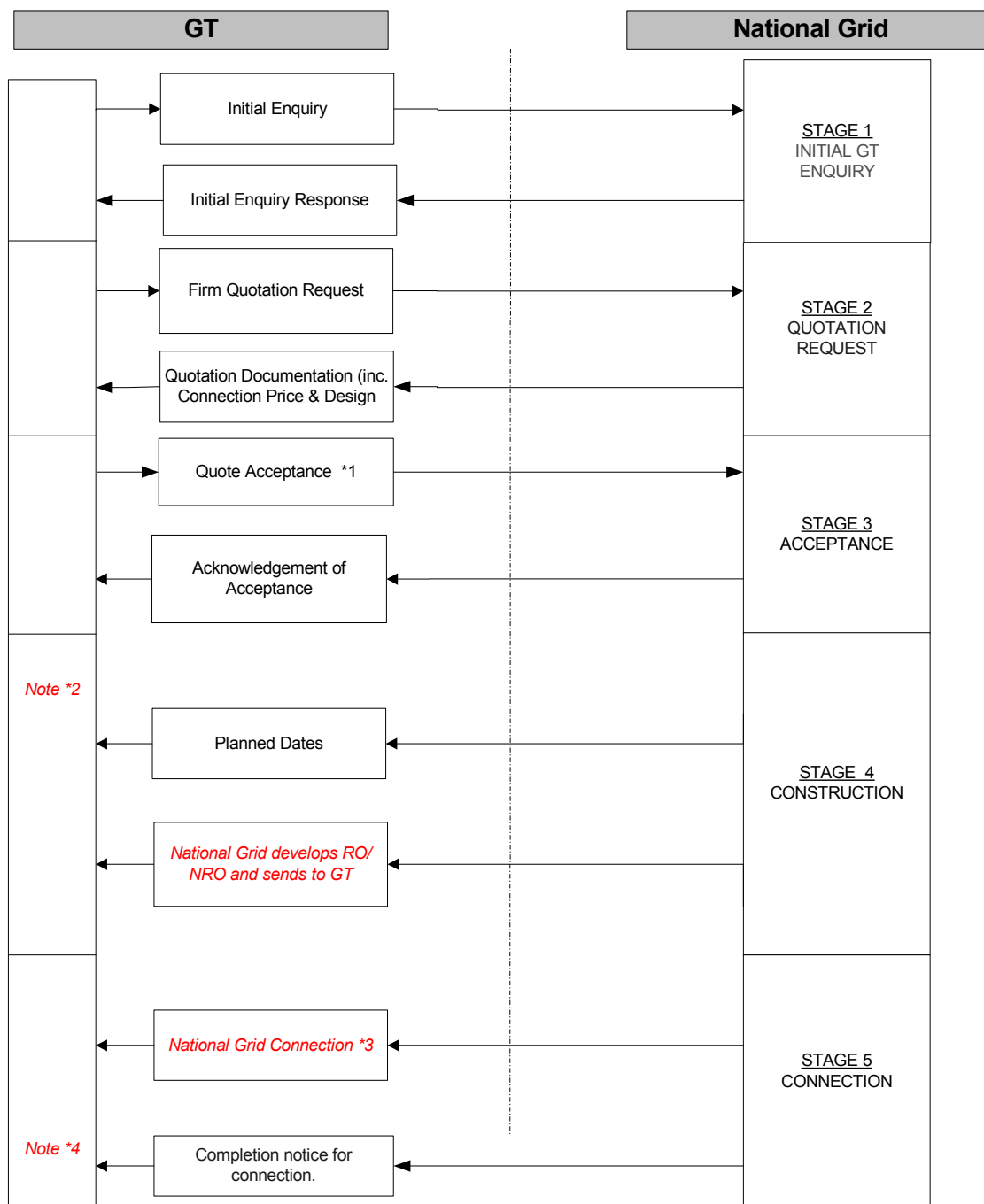
The process is detailed in Appendix 1 and 2.

### **4. Implementation**

The implementation of this process will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2004. Requests received before close of business on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2004 will be progressed under the existing arrangements. For all CSOS 6 and 6a quotations issued between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2003

and 30<sup>th</sup> January 2004 inclusive, National Grid will extend the quotation acceptance date to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

## Appendix 1 - Gas Transporter (GT) job specific changes for new GT connection process (changes shown in italics)



\*1 GT confirms the required purge rate for purging of downstream mains on the acceptance form. Direct purging will be assumed unless indirect purging is specified.

\*2 GT constructs infrastructure back to National Grid main and provides a suitable size excavation on National Grid main to complete the connection. The pipe at the point of connection must be the same size as the National Grid connection.

\*3 National Grid's Service Provider and GT team attend site. National Grid's Service Provider connects subject to Test Certificate confirmation and positive air pressure being maintained in the GT pipe. National Grid's Service Provider connects and GT provides commissioning.

\*4 GT Completes backfill and reinstatement.

## Appendix 2 – Detailed procedure

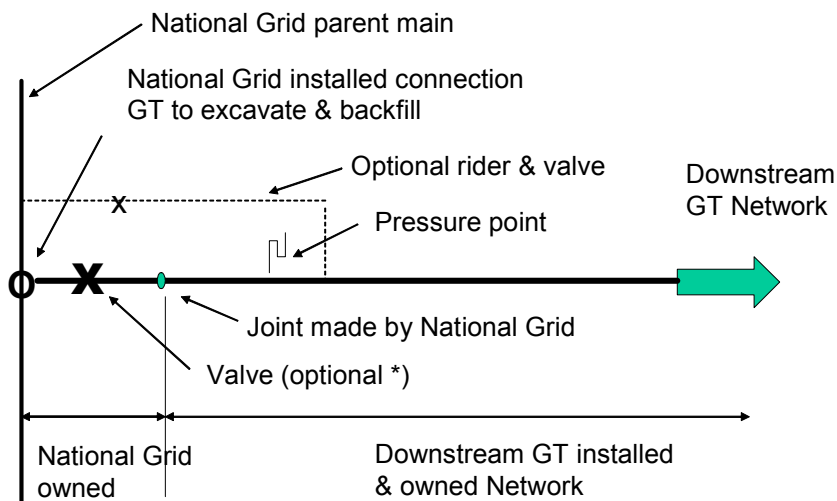
1. At quotation request stage the GT sends the current GT enquiry form CONN\_FM\_153 and indicates “No” in the field “Do you wish to complete the final connection.” Quotation documentation should continue to be sent to the published Network contacts for CSOS 6 and 6a.
2. The National Grid Network will continue to design the connection based on its current default connection sizes and a quotation will be produced by the National Grid Network for the connection and purging excluding excavation and backfill. Ownership of the pipes will be agreed in the connection quotation. National Grid will retain ownership of the pipes up to the point of connection with the GT pipe, immediately after the first point of isolation. An example is shown in Figure 1. Where a tee is inserted National Grid will retain ownership up to the joint with the GT system.
3. When the GT accepts the quotation the substantial completion date for the National Grid works will be notified in the normal manner. The GT will indicate the required purge rate for purging of downstream mains on the quotation acceptance form. The Network office will provide the purge rate to National Grid’s Connections Service Provider with the job documentation. Direct purging will be assumed unless the GT specifies otherwise.

The GT will be responsible for developing their own procedure to cover purging of the downstream system. The purge procedure should cover the depressurisation of the GT pipe following testing, installation of downstream vent points, liaison with the National Grid Service Provider Competent Person for the introduction of gas from National Grid’s Network, monitoring the purge at downstream vent points and liaison with the National Grid Service Provider Competent Person at the completion of the purge. The GT as the duty holder for the downstream system will be responsible for the competency of personnel monitoring downstream vent points, calibration of gas monitoring equipment and ensuring safety and completion of the purge on the downstream system.

4. The GT will be required to lay a pipe which terminates in the same size as the National Grid design at the point of connection. The GT may request an alternative connection size subject to the contract variation process. The GT will prepare a suitable size excavation on the National Grid main for the connection.
5. National Grid’s Service Provider will arrange for a Routine (RO) or Non Routine (NRO) procedure to be developed and authorised. Purge equipment should be designed to meet the downstream GTs requirements. A copy of the RO/NRO will be provided to the GT for implementation. Under the procedure National Grid’s Service Provider will carry out the live connection to the National Grid main, install any required purge riders, cut and connect onto the GT pipe and introduce gas at the agreed rate into the GT system. National Grid’s Service Provider will perform the Competent Person role under National Grid’s Safe Control of Operations (SCO) process and will be the overall person in charge of the operation.

6. National Grid's Service Provider and the GT will attend site on the day of connection. The GT must provide National Grid's Service Provider a copy of the test certificate for the pipe and the pipe must have positive air pressure maintained. The GT will be responsible for de pressurisation of the GT pipe and installation of downstream vent points. National Grid's Service Provider will then carry out the connection to the GT pipe and introduce purge gas at the agreed rate. The GT will carry out the on site purging. The GT's responsible person should initial the relevant GT actions on the RO or NRO paperwork. On completion the GT will carry out backfill and reinstatement and remove downstream vent pipes. National Grid's Service Provider will remove any required purge riders and test points at the point of connection.

**Figure 1 – New GT connection process**



**\*Note:** Where a tee is inserted National Grid will retain ownership up to the joint with the GT system.