

Quarterly Gas System Operator Incentive Report

Q3 2014-2015 (October 2014 to December 2014)

Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Gas System Operator Incentive Report is to provide information in respect of the performance measures that National Grid Gas is incentivised against during the relevant quarter in operating the gas transmission system.

1.2 Nature of the Information Contained in this Report

This publication contains performance measure information associated with the Gas System Operator Incentives, and is based on the latest information at the time of publication. As future quarters are published, the information on this report will be updated to reflect the latest information available at that time. Changes to preliminary data that occur after the publication of the relevant quarter's report will thus be visible in the graphs and tables of future reports.

1.3 Structure of the Report

This report contains a summary of the below incentives on the first sheet, and then covers the individual incentives in more detail:-

Constraint Management
Shrinkage
Residual Balancing
Demand Forecasting - Day Ahead and D-2 to D-5
Maintenance
Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Compressors

[1.4 Supporting Information](#)

The above link downloads a PDF document that summarises the Gas System Operator Incentive Schemes applicable from April 2013.

[1.5 Consultation Documents and Responses](#)

The above link opens a page on the National Grid website that contains any current System Operator Incentive Consultation Documents and any responses that have been received from interested parties.

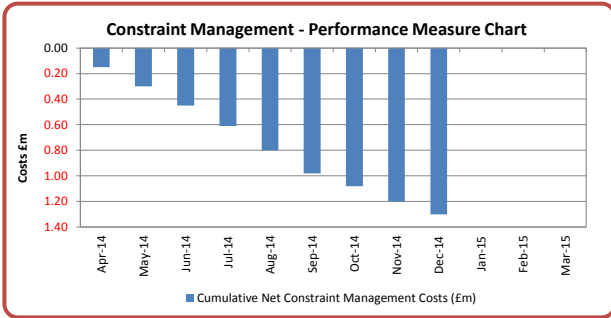
[1.6 Ofgem Final Proposals](#)

The above link opens the Ofgem Final proposals document for all Gas System Operator Incentives applicable from April 2013

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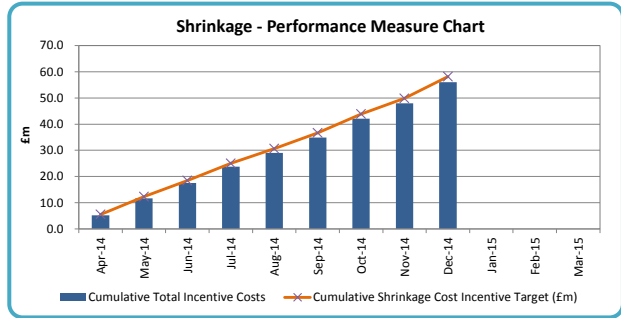
Constraint Management



Commentary

The chart shows the monthly cumulative Constraint Management operational performance measure. The end of Q3 performance for 2014/15 is a revenue of £1.3m

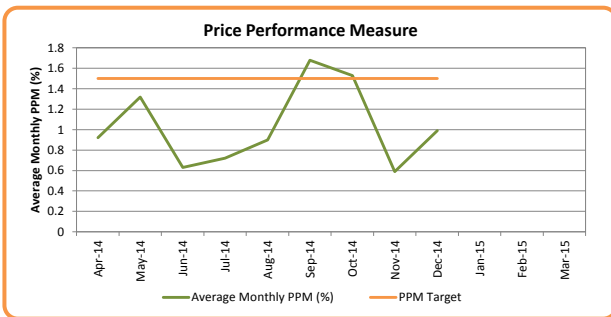
Shrinkage



Commentary

The end of Dec 14 position NTS Shrinkage incentive costs are £56.0m compared to a target of £58.1m

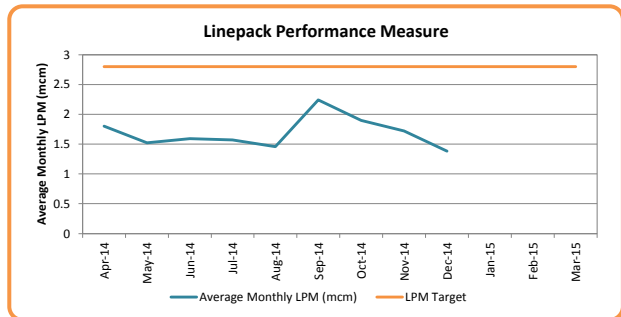
Residual Balancing - Price



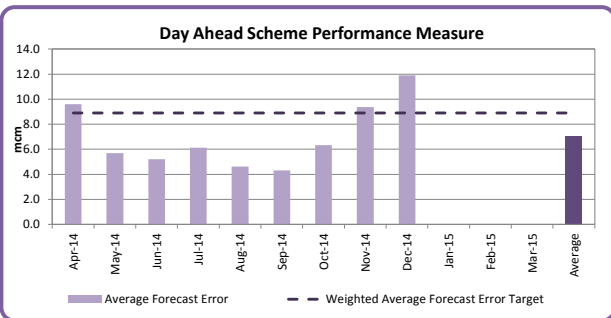
Commentary

Over Q3 2014/15, the average price performance measure (1.04%) and linepack measure (1.67mcm) were both better than the respective targets (1.5% and 2.8mcm).

Residual Balancing - Linepack



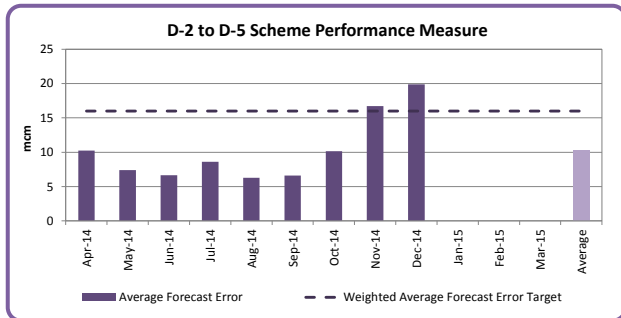
Demand Forecasting - Day Ahead



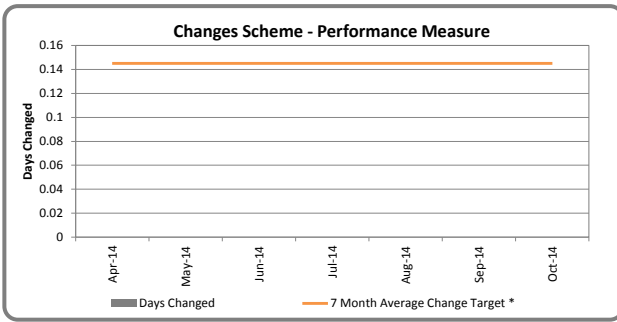
Commentary

The weighted average forecast error for both incentives is below their respective target for this quarter.

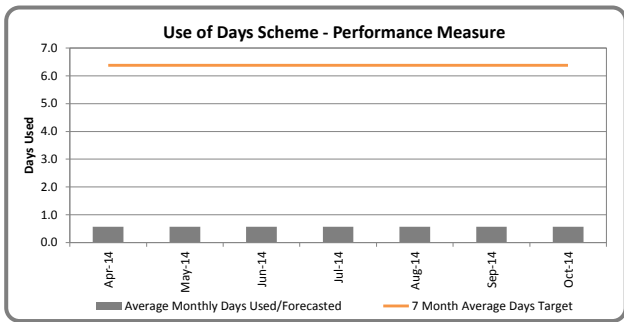
Demand Forecasting - D2 to D5



Maintenance - Changes to Maintenance Plan



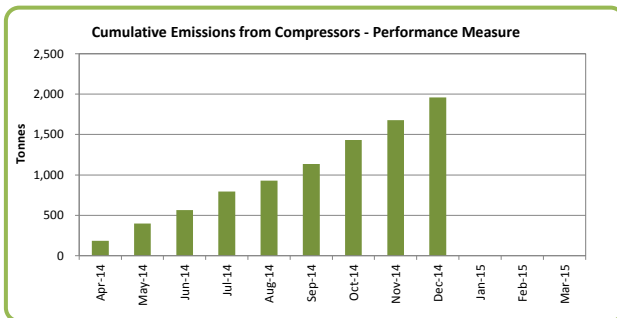
Maintenance - Days of Maintenance Used



Commentary

Maintenance day changes are currently zero against a full year target of 1.015. Our full year forecast is £0.051m profit as a result of improved data flow and planning processes. Maintenance days called to date are 4 against a target of 44.65 giving a forecast profit for days used of £0.813m. This is due to the improved use of bundling with customer outages and the re-evaluation of maintenance practices.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Compressors



Commentary

In general during the winter period we expect to see higher levels of emissions than during the summer period.

Constraint Management

Q3 2014-2015 (October 2014 to December 2014)

Scheme Purpose

The purpose of this scheme is to incentivise an efficient overall cost of System Operator Constraint Management actions through efficient system operation and the optimisation of strategies. National Grid Gas is obliged to release obligated levels of capacity significantly in excess of peak demand at both entry and exit points on the network. In the instances where we believe we cannot accommodate Shipper's flow requirements associated with booked capacity, we undertake constraint management actions.

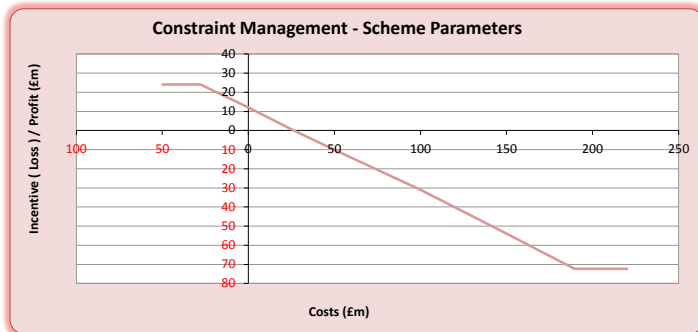
Scheme Description

Performance Measure:- Entry and Exit operational constraint management cost.

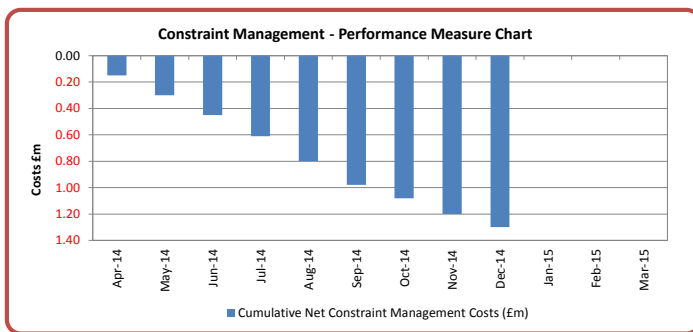
From 01 April 2013, National Grid Gas is subject to a new Constraint Management Incentive which has been set for 8 years and encompasses both Entry and Exit Capacity Constraint Management actions.

Incentive performance is driven by the difference between the net constraint management costs over a year and a target value for such costs.

For 2014/15 the target cost comprises of £26.5m for entry and exit operational constraint management, with National Grid Gas accruing 44.36% of the revenue or loss (the sharing factor).



Performance



Supporting Data

	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Cumulative Net Constraint Management Costs (£m)	0.15	0.30	0.45	0.61	0.80	0.98	1.08	1.20	1.30			

Commentary

The chart shows the monthly cumulative Constraint Management operational performance measure. The end of Q3 performance for 2014/15 is a revenue of £1.3m

Shrinkage

Q3 2014-2015 (October 2014 to December 2014)

Scheme Purpose

The purpose of this scheme is to incentivise an efficient overall cost of shrinkage through efficient system operation and energy procurement.
 NTS Shrinkage covers the gas and electrical energy which is used in operating NTS compressors, and the gas that cannot be accounted for and billed in the measurement and allocation process.

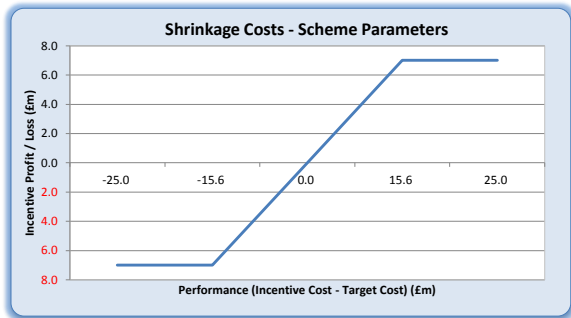
Scheme Description

Performance Measure - Shrinkage Costs (£m).

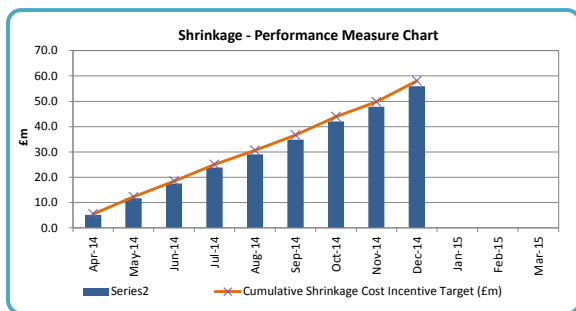
The form of the Shrinkage Incentive is a bundled cost minimisation incentive across all components of shrinkage, with a target principally derived from an energy procurement cost benchmark.

This "Energy Procurement Target" is derived from a volume forecast and variance. This is multiplied by gas and electricity reference prices to derive a cost target.

This incentive has been set for 8 years beginning on 01 April 2013. If total spend against the incentive is below the target, National Grid Gas receives a payment equivalent to 45% of the underspend, with a cap of £7m. Conversely, if total spend against the incentive is in excess of the target, National Grid Gas incurs a penalty of 45% of the overspend, collared at £7m.

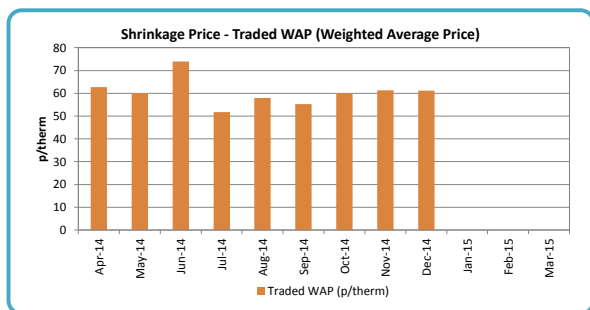
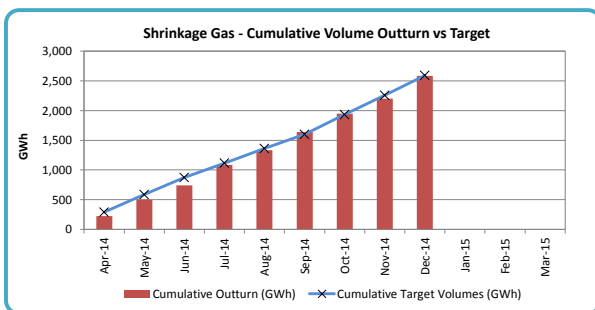


Performance



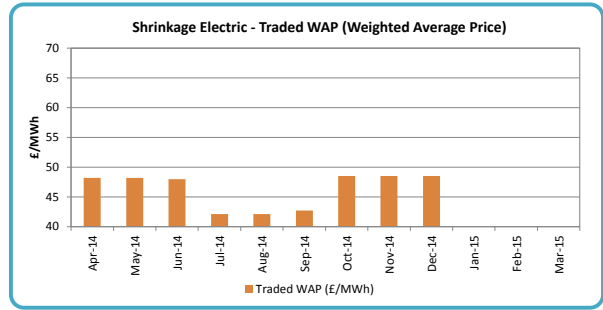
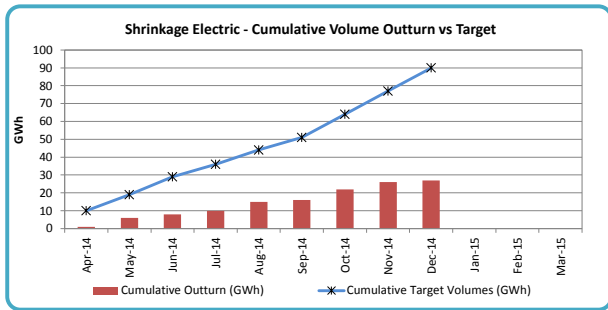
Supporting Data (Overall - Gas and Elec)

	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Total Incentive Costs (£m)	5.2	6.4	5.8	6.2	5.3	5.9	7.2	5.8	8.1			
Cumulative Total Incentive Costs (£m)	5.2	11.7	17.5	23.8	29.0	34.9	42.1	47.9	56.0			
Shrinkage Cost Incentive Target (£m)	5.5	6.8	6.2	6.6	5.5	6.2	7.2	5.9	8.2			
Cumulative Shrinkage Cost Incentive Target (£m)	5.5	12.3	18.5	25.0	30.6	36.7	43.9	49.8	58.1			



Supporting Data (Gas)

	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Outturn - Shrinkage Gas (GWh)	224	273	242	345	252	307	308	253	380			
Cumulative Outturn (GWh)	224	496	738	1083	1335	1642	1950	2203	2583			
Incentivised Cost of Gas (£m)	5.1	5.3	5.7	16.1	5.4	3.9	5.4	14.8	6.9			
Target Volumes (GWh)	288	297	288	244	244	236	336	325	336			
Cumulative Target Volumes (GWh)	288	585	872	1117	1361	1598	1933	2258	2594			
Traded WAP (p/therm)	62.7	60.1	73.9	51.8	57.9	55.2	60.0	61.3	61.2			



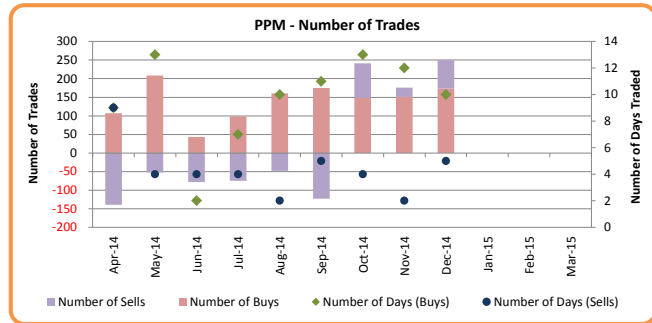
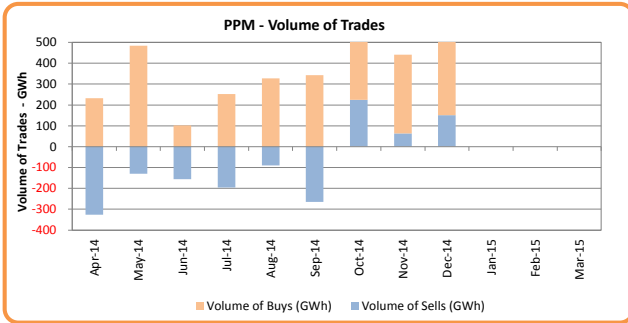
Supporting Data (Electricity)

	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Outturn - Shrinkage Electricity (GWh)	1	5	2	2	5	1	6	4	2			
Cumulative Outturn (GWh)	1	6	8	10	15	16	22	26	27			
Incentivised Cost of Electricity (£m)	0.2	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.3	0.5	0.2	1.0	0.6			
Target Volumes (GWh)	9.6	9.9	9.6	7.4	7.4	7.2	13.1	12.7	13.1			
Cumulative Target Volumes (GWh)	10	19	29	36	44	51	64	77	90			
Traded WAP (£/MWh)	48.2	48.2	48.0	42.1	42.1	42.7	48.5	48.5	48.5			

Commentary

The end of Dec 14 position NTS Shrinkage incentive costs are £56.0m compared to a target of £58.1m

Trades



	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Volume of Buys (GWh)	233.2	483.9	102.5	252.5	326.8	342.3	357.8	377.2	370.9			
Volume of Sells (GWh)	-325.5	-129.9	-155.9	-195.5	-89.2	-264.9	224.8	63.5	151.8			
Number of Buys	107	209	43	98	160	175	148.0	151.0	173.0			
Number of Sells	-139	-52	-78	-75	-48	-123	93.0	25.0	77.0			
Number of Days (Buys)	9	13	2	7	10	11	13.0	12.0	10.0			
Number of Days (Sells)	9	4	4	4	2	5	4.0	2.0	5.0			
Sell Min Price (p/therm)	47.5	41.3	33.5	34.5	35	43.25	35.0	51.0	49.5			
Sell Max Price (p/therm)	52.0	46.0	39.4	41.4	45.9	49.2	51.0	53.8	56.2			
Buy Min Price (p/therm)	48.8	43.9	43.85	35.75	38.95	47.5	49.7	50.5	53.0			
Buy Max Price (p/therm)	52.2	49	44	40.46	47	54	56.0	59.0	58.6			

Commentary

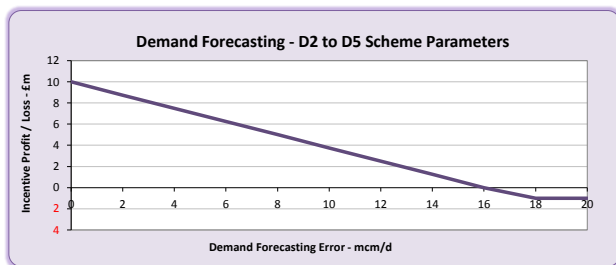
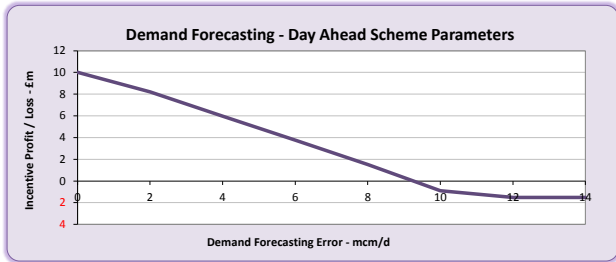
Over Q3 2014/15, the average price performance measure (1.04%) and linepack measure (1.67mcm) were both better than the respective targets (1.5% and 2.8mcm).

Demand Forecasting

Q3 2014-2015 (October 2014 to December 2014)

Scheme Purpose

The purpose of this scheme is to incentivise improvements in the accuracy of the Demand Forecasts issued by National Grid Gas. There are now 2 separate incentives under Demand Forecasting, with an additional scheme measuring the accuracy of the forecasts issued at 2, 3, 4 and 5 days ahead supplementing the existing day ahead scheme.



Scheme Description

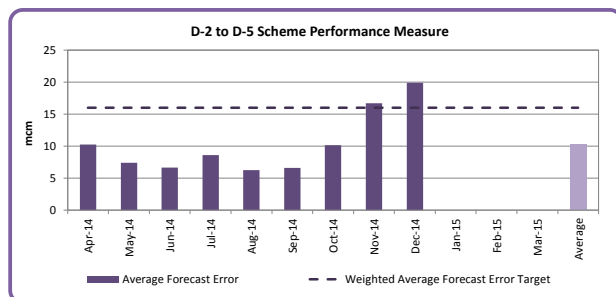
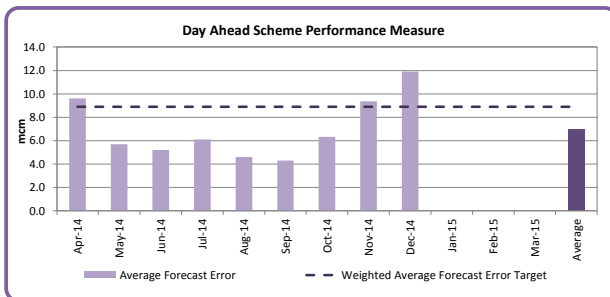
Performance Measure:- Demand Forecasting Error (mcm/d)

In respect of the Day Ahead scheme, in 2014/15, National Grid Gas has an incentive target of an annual average absolute forecast error of 8.5 mcm with an adjustment for the level of short cycle storage injection capability (to take account of the unpredictability of demand from short cycle storage sites, the target is adjusted in proportion to the additional injection capability at these sites). This adjustment revises the day ahead target absolute error of 8.5 mcm by up an additional 1 mcm. The Day Ahead target for demand forecasting error for 2014/15 is currently 8.9 mcm, this is subject to change when new storage sites are active. The incentive payment is capped at £10m and collared at -£1.5m.

In respect of the D-2 to D-5 scheme, in 2014/15 National Grid Gas has an incentive target of an annual average absolute forecast error of 16 mcm. There is no adjustment for the level of short cycle storage injection capability for this incentive. The incentive payment is capped at £10m, and collared at -£1m.

The Day Ahead incentive has been set for 8 years, commencing 01 April 2013, and the D-2 to D-5 scheme has been set for 2 years commencing 01 April 2013.

Performance



Supporting Data

		Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Average
Day Ahead Scheme	Average Forecast Error	9.6	5.7	5.2	6.12	4.61	4.31	6.33	9.37	11.9				7.02
	Weighted Average Forecast Error Target	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
D-2 to D-5 Scheme	Average Forecast Error	10.23	7.39	6.65	8.6	6.26	6.58	10.14	16.69	19.9				10.27
	Weighted Average Forecast Error Target	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16

Commentary

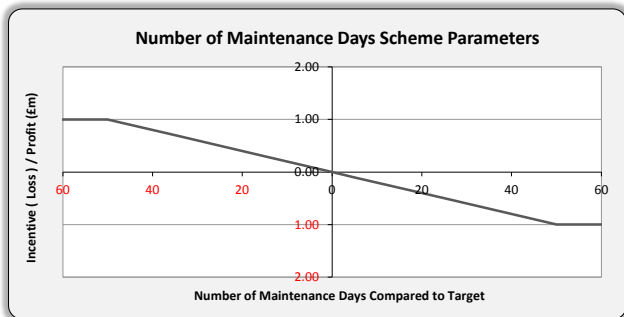
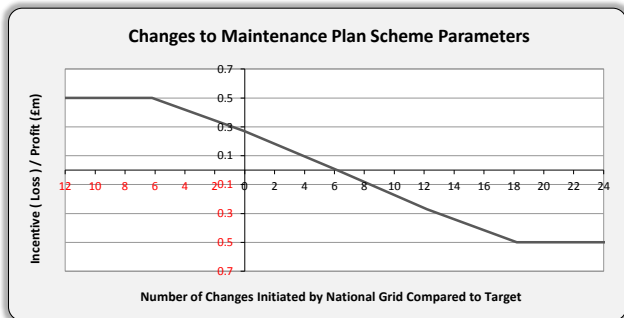
The weighted average forecast error for both incentives is below their respective target for this quarter.

Maintenance

Q3 2014-2015 (October 2014 to December 2014)

Scheme Purpose

The purpose of this scheme is to incentivise the efficient planning and execution of network maintenance impacting customers at direct exit connections from the NTS. To enable customers to make any necessary arrangements, National Grid Gas is required to provide advance notice of its intention to call maintenance days in the form of a maintenance plan. This incentive is made up of 2 schemes incentivising the minimisation of changes initiated by National Grid Gas to the plan and minimisation of the use of maintenance days to perform the required maintenance.



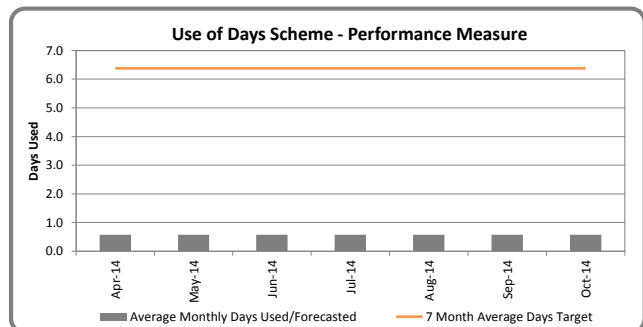
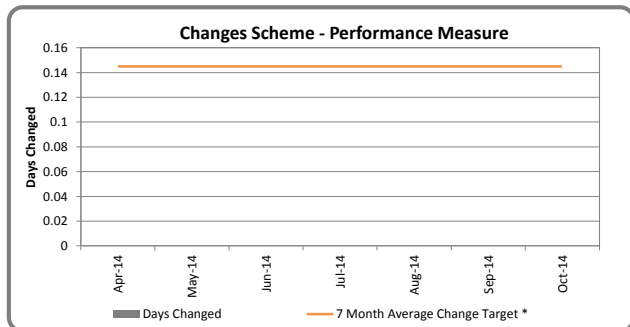
Scheme Description

Performance Measure - Number of Maintenance Days and Changes Initiated by National Grid Gas to the Maintenance Plan.

In respect of the Changes Scheme, in 2014/15 the target number of Maintenance Days subject to change initiated by National Grid Gas is equal to 14.5% of the Maintenance Days workload throughout the year. If the actual number of days changed is equal to the target, then incentive revenue is zero. If the actual number of days changed is less than the target then a payment of £50,000 per change below target is accrued up to a scheme cap of £0.5m. If the actual number of days changed exceeds the target then a penalty of £50,000 per change in excess of the target is accrued to a scheme collar of -£0.5m.

The Use of Days scheme incentivises National Grid Gas to minimise the number of Maintenance Days it uses to undertake in-line inspections and valve operations. In 2014/15 National Grid Gas has an annual incentive target (in days) comprised of the sum of benchmark durations. If the actual number of Maintenance Days used for these activities is equal to the target, then incentive revenue is zero. If the actual number of Maintenance Days used is less than the target then National Grid Gas receives a payment of £20,000 per day below the target up to a scheme cap of £1m. If the actual number of Maintenance Days used exceeds the target then National Grid Gas accrues a penalty of £20,000 per day in excess of the target up to a scheme collar of -£1m.

Performance



Supporting Data

		Maintenance Period												
		Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Total
Changes Scheme	Days Changed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
	7 Month Average Change Target *	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1						1.0
Use of Days Scheme	Average Monthly Days Used/Forecasted	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6						4
	7 Month Average Days Target	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4						44.7

* Target number of days changed is 14.5% of the total maintenance Days in the plan.

Commentary

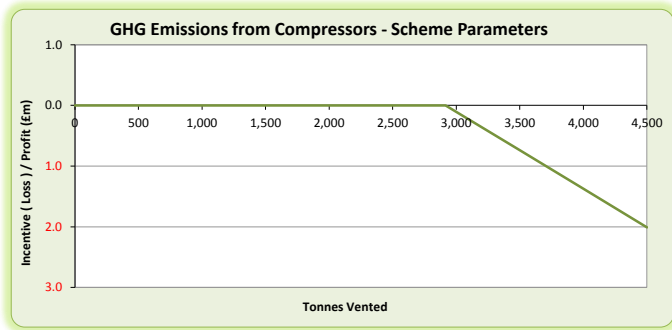
Maintenance day changes are currently zero against a full year target of 1.015. Our full year forecast is £0.051m profit as a result of improved data flow and planning processes. Maintenance days called to date are 4 against a target of 44.65 giving a forecast profit for days used of £0.813m. This is due to the improved use of bundling with customer outages and the re-evaluation of maintenance practices.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Compressors

Q3 2014-2015 (October 2014 to December 2014)

Scheme Purpose

The purpose of this scheme is to encourage National Grid Gas to consider the environment when venting from NTS Compressors. Compressors are utilised to increase pressures in parts of the NTS and to move gas from the sources of supply to areas of demand. The need to operate an individual compressor on any given day will depend on a number of circumstances including the sources of demand and supply, the prevailing network conditions and the need to accommodate maintenance and construction plans.



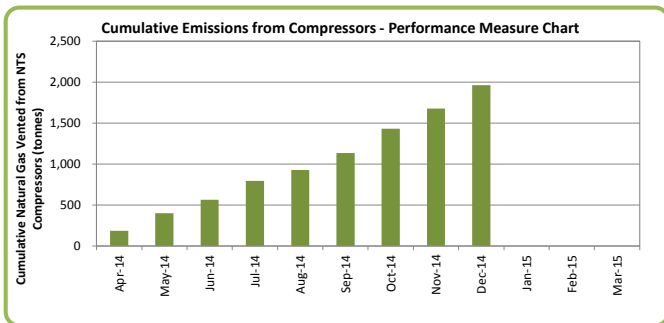
Scheme Description

Performance measure - tonnes of Greenhouse Gases vented from NTS Compressors.

This scheme incentivises National Grid Gas to make the trade-off between choosing to depressurise compressor units (venting the gas within them) or to keep units on standby - which incurs costs associated with ancillary electrical equipment such as vent fans or oil pumps.

This incentive has been set for 3 years commencing from 01 April 2013. For every tonne vented above the target (2,829 tonnes of Greenhouse Gas Ventted), National Grid Gas is subject to a penalty of approximately £1,364, equivalent to £100,000 for every 73 tonnes vented above the target. As a "downside only" scheme, National Grid Gas does not receive any payment for target outperformance.

Performance



Supporting Data

	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Natural Gas Ventted from NTS Compressors	185.97	212.21	167.12	230.29	133.3	204.26	297.26	245.89	284.61			
Cumulative Natural Gas Ventted from NTS Compressors	185.97	398.18	565.30	795.59	928.89	1133.15	1430.41	1676.30	1960.91			

Commentary

In general during the winter period we expect to see higher levels of emissions than during the summer period.