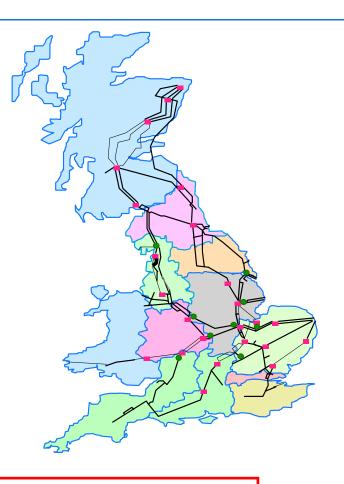


Gas System Operator (SO) Incentives

National Grid operates the high pressure Gas Transmission System in Great Britain.

The System Operation function has financial incentives that encourage us to:

- Minimise System Operation costs to consumers
- Consider our impact on the environment
- Support efficient operation of the wholesale gas market



This year's consultation covers incentives on activities involving over £100m of gas industry revenues

Electricity System Operator (SO) Incentives

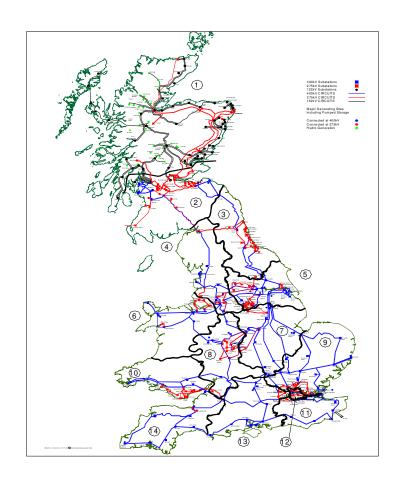
GBSO from April 2005

 Recent changes now include offshore role NETSO – National Electricity Transmission System Operator

Manage the security and quality of electricity supply in specific timescales

Balance generation and demand economically & efficiently

Incentive reinforces National Grid's licence objectives and aims to reward innovation and investment



Incentive covers approximately £600m of industry costs



Development of SO Incentives

Ofgem led development of SO proposals

National Grid first led development of Initial Proposals Fundamental review with consultation through workshops

National Grid leading on development of Initial Proposals

pre 2007

2007/2008

2008/2009

2009/2010

This consultation is your opportunity to voice your opinions on the incentive schemes from April 2010



Engagement this year

We are keen to hear the views from the widest possible range of interested parties

Presentations have been arranged at a several industry meetings, including

 Major Energy Users' Council, Small Suppliers Forum, Transmission Workstream, Demand Side Working Group, Association of Electricity Producers, Gas Ops Forum

We have offered to meet bilaterally with all parties who responded to last years initial proposals consultation

If you would like us to present at another industry meeting or would like to meet bilaterally then please contact us



Key challenges for this year

Bundled vs unbundled schemes

Longer term schemes

Gas

- Explore options for new incentives around maintenance and environmental performance
- Explore possible options to reincentivise Operating Margins
- Ensuring information on incentive performance is provided in an accessible, transparent manner

Electricity

- Develop indexation
- Handling of differential in risk profiles of the BSIS components
- Differentiating incentive periods of the BSIS components
- Implementation of Transmission Access and the SO / TO incentives
- Increased information provision



Timetable

June/July 2009 Initial industry consultation/ engagement

July/August 2009 Publication of mini consultation documents

October 2009 Publication of initial proposals

November 2009 Industry event

November 2009 Ofgem to provide initial comments

December 2009 Initial Proposals consultation period closes

Early 2010 Ofgem consultation on final proposals

April 2010 Scheme go live

National Grid can be contacted at any time to discuss SO Incentives



How do I find out more?

Register to receive e-mail notifications

soincentives@uk.ngrid.com

SO Incentives area of the National Grid website

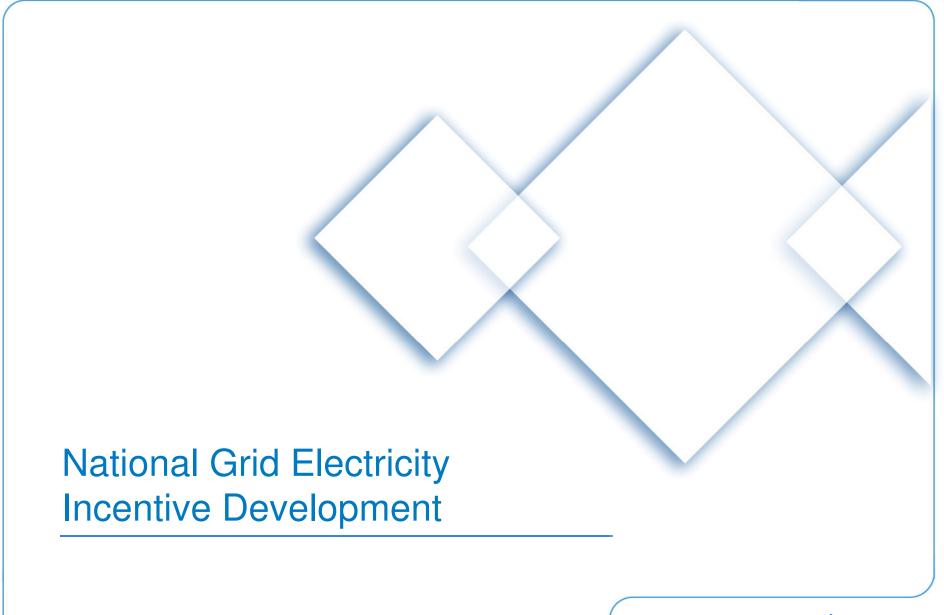
- www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/soincentives/
- www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity/soincentives/

Talk to us

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A Brief History of SO Incentives (Electricity)

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Incentive history

SO incentives developed in 1994 due to increasing operational costs

Scheme revised for NETA implementation

Aimed at controlling costs and encouraging innovation and investment

Current scheme sets target costs on an annual basis



Incentive Overview

Electricity

- Single scheme covering all 'external' balancing costs
 - Bundled scheme with all cost components included such as constraints and reserve
- One year incentive



National Grid's System Operator Role

System security

- Securing the network against faults
- Resolve Transmission Constraints

Balancing

- Forecasting Demand
- Match generation and demand in real time
 - Procure 'Reserve' and Frequency Response
 - Accept BOAs

Quality of supply

- Frequency
- Voltage
- Harmonics

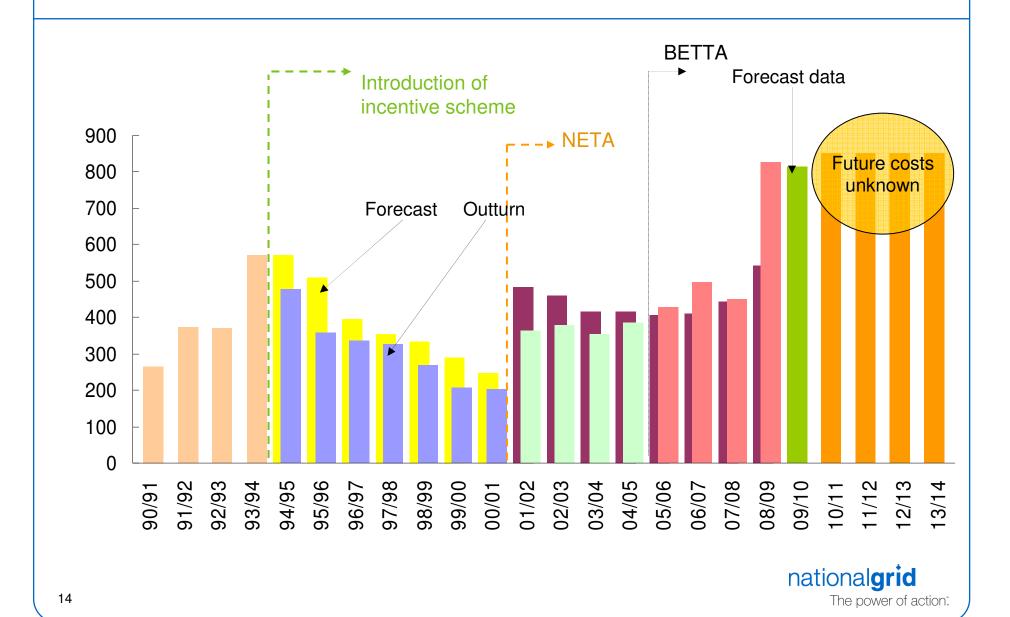




Demand



Electricity SO External Incentive Scheme



Aims for incentive development

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Key challenges for this year

Bundled vs unbundled schemes

Longer term schemes

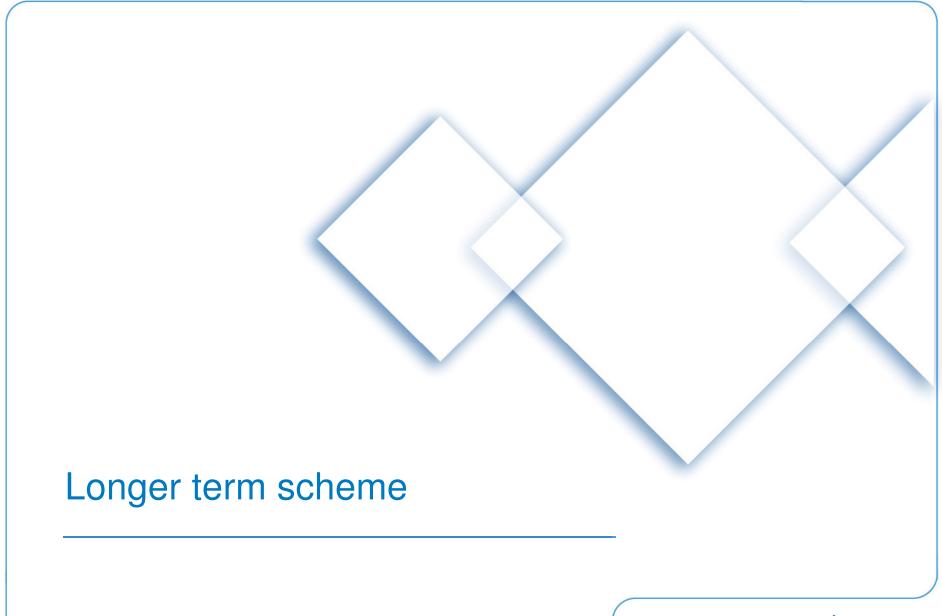
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Development of a longer term scheme

Benefits outlined in Ofgem's letter are:

- Consider actions that would have longer pay back time
- Further development of strategic operating view
- Better information transparency
- More targeted incentive
- Reduction in administration burden



Industry / consumer benefit

Aim to minimise costs to the consumer

- Greater transparency of longer term costs
- Stability of incentive
- Should reduce costs longer term



Development of a longer term scheme

Some things to consider:

- Addressing externalities
 - Power price
 - Market length
- Market changes
 - Introduction of modifications such as Transmission Access
- Can all components be unbundled
 - Constraints
 - Transmission Losses



Unbundling components

Some things to consider:

- Interaction of component costs
 - E.g. reserve and constraints
- Different risk profiles of the various components e.g. constraints and black start
- How do you allocate costs across components?
- Does unbundling provide any perverse incentives?
- What are the benefits?



Additional incentives

Development of additional incentives

- Where can the SO provide additional value to the industry?
- Are there any additional activities where the SO can be incentivised?
 - e.g. wind forecasting; information provision





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Develop fixed price BSUoS

Industry requested that we consider the development of a methodology to reduce the volatility of BSUoS costs

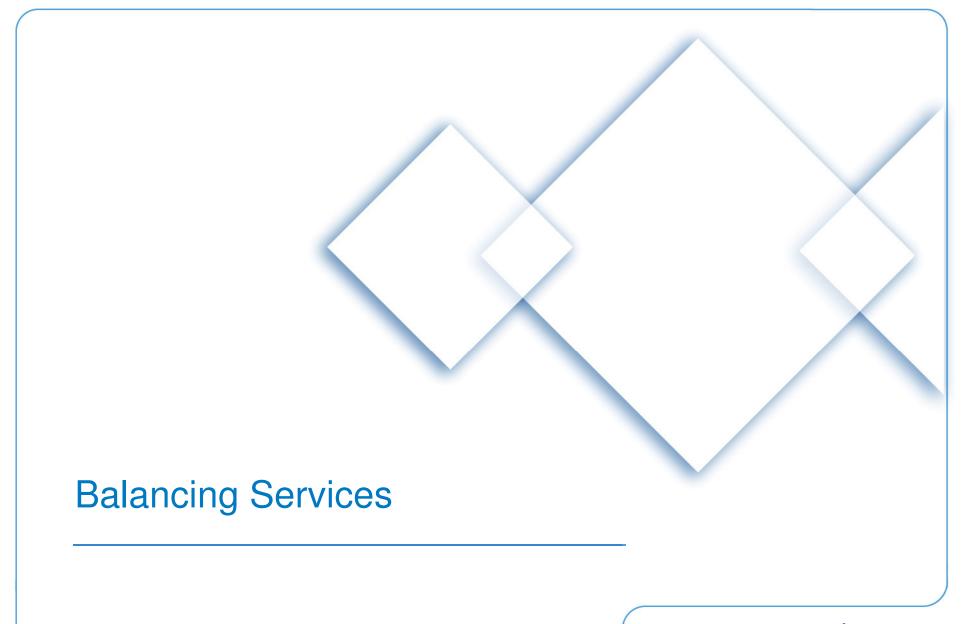
Preliminary work showed potential issues

- Presents a risk to National Grid significant under (and over) recovery
- Whether it would better meet licence objectives

Additional suggestions made by industry to overcome these issues

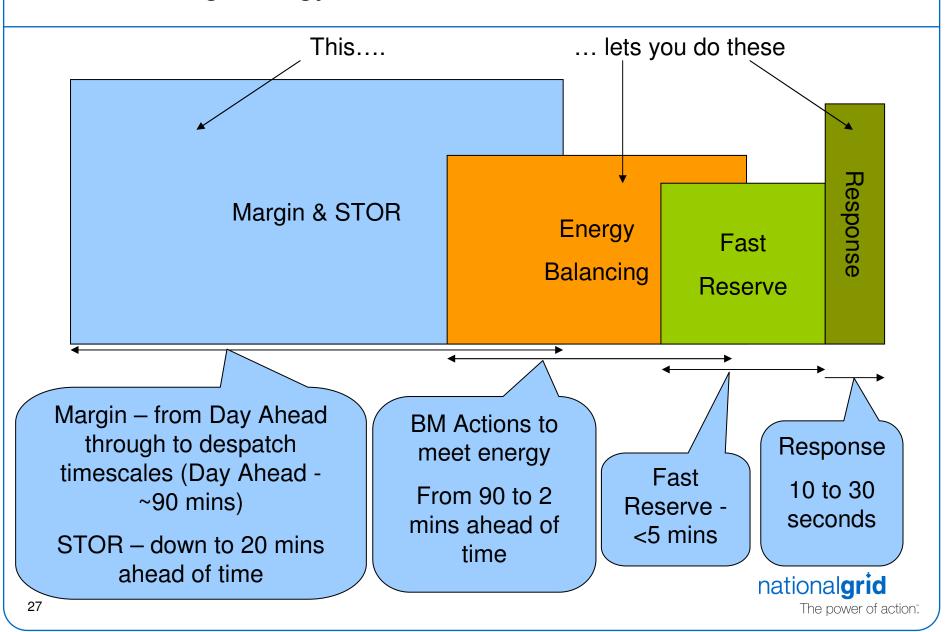
Potential alternatives such as a BSUoS price forecast incentive



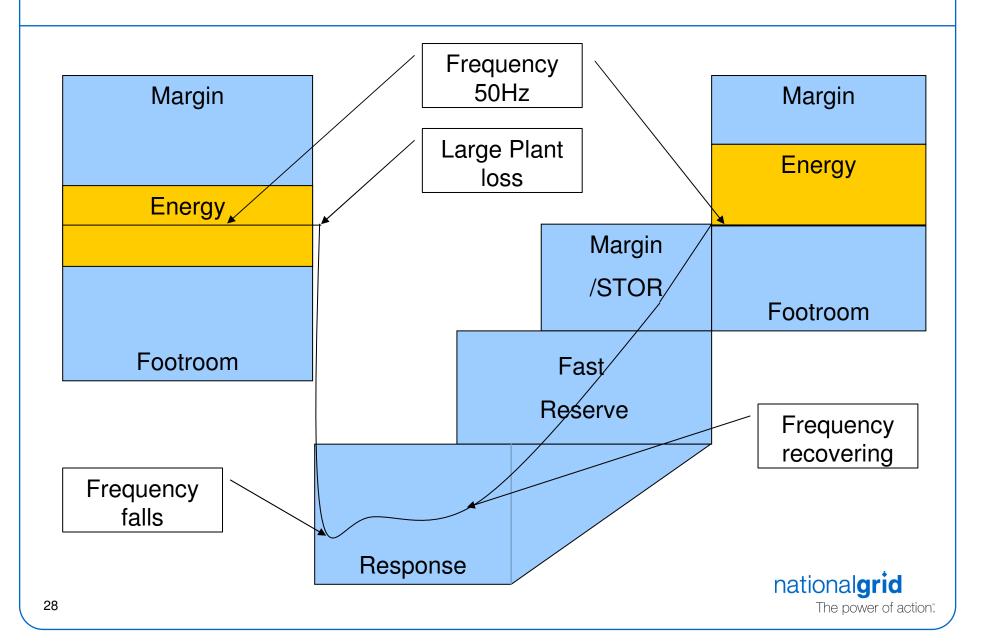


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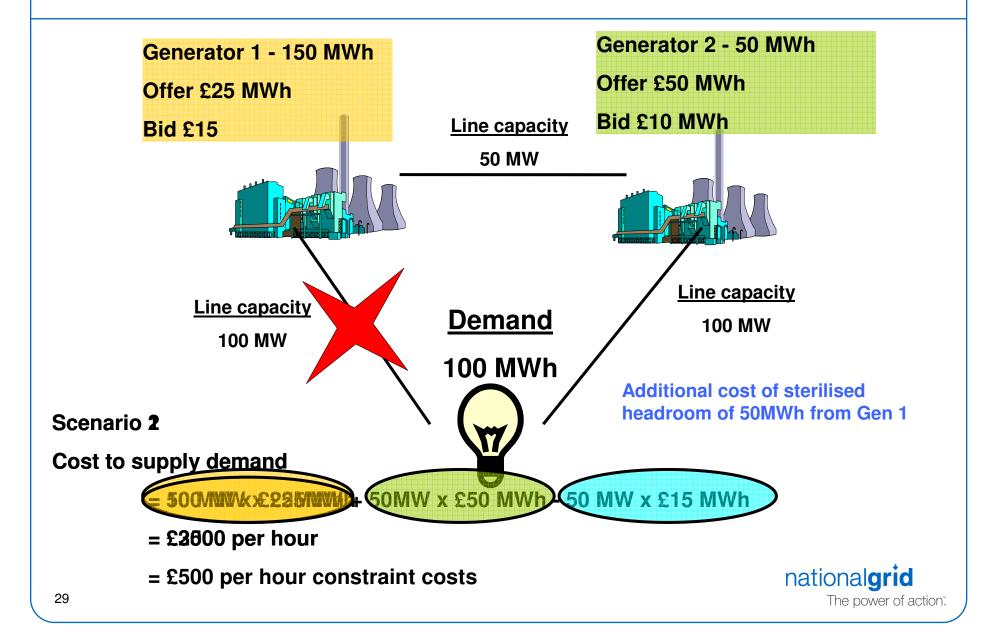
Balancing Energy – Time Line



Balancing Energy – When are services used?

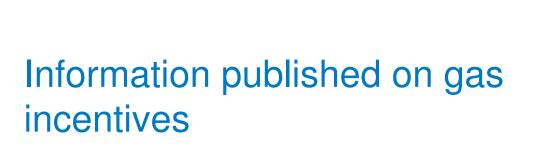


Balancing Services - System balancing





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Information on Incentive Performance

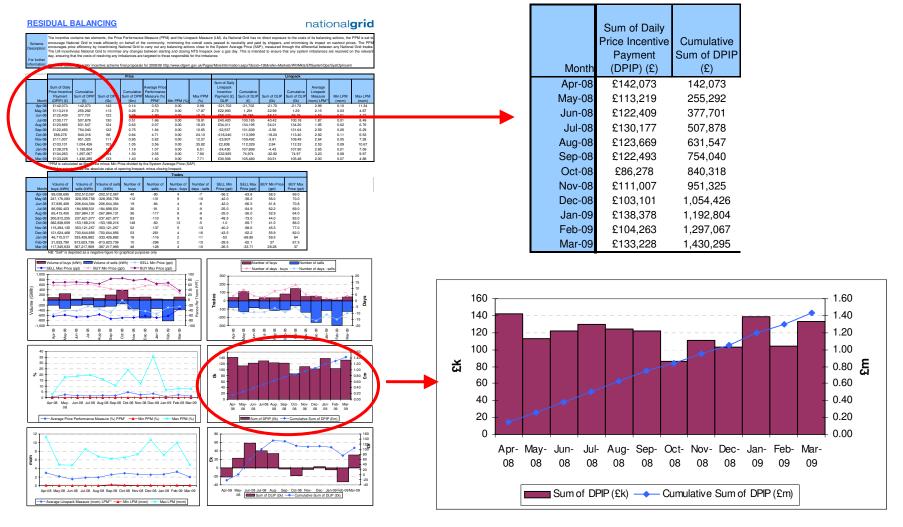
National Grid website is used to publish information on incentive performance

- Reporting against performance measures
- Financial incentive performance (where possible)
- www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/soincentives/AnalystArea/

We are looking to review this information and welcome industry views on exactly what is needed



Residual balancing





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Maintenance

Responses to last year's initial proposals suggested that an incentive around maintenance planning & co-ordination should be considered

We are seeking clarity on the behaviours the industry would like to see exhibited

Is this issue related to

- Setting of initial maintenance dates?
- Changes to planned maintenance?
- Frequency of changes?
- ◆Notice periods given?
- ◆Anything else?

We need to consider whether the UNC rules require updating to facilitate the introduction of an incentive

 e.g. Could the requirement to give 30 days notice, lead to overall inefficient outcomes for consumers



Environmental Incentives

Existing incentive to ensure the environmental costs associated with venting from NTS compressors are factored into our decision making processes.

We need to consult about the ongoing development of the existing venting incentive

We are exploring which other SO activities are potential candidates for environmental incentivisation

- Which NTS activities impact on the environment?
- What could be done to reduce the impact?
- What are the appropriate durations and mechanisms for incentives?



Residual Balancing

National Grid is incentivised to bring the system to energy balance each day but with minimum residual balancing activity from the SO (minimising the market influence of these actions)

Last year the fundamental review considered the interaction between the two components of the scheme

Changes were made to the incentive, designed to reduce the amount of times National Grid entered the market

The new scheme has been operational since April 2009

- Given the review last year and the limited data available on this year, we do not currently propose any changes
- We are inviting comments/evidence on whether there is a need for further incremental change



Operating Margins (OM)

National Grid procures Operating Margins to meet the requirements of UNC and its Safety Case to support pressures on the NTS during periods of operational stresses

Currently OM service is provided by a range of storage and LNG importation facilities

- UNC Pre-emption rights over Regulated NG LNG Storage facilities at administered prices (approx 50% of the service)
- Other facilities on commercial terms

Previous OM incentives have focussed on cost minimisation



Operating Margins (OM)

National Grid leading the OM contestability review

Seeking to attract new providers (including demand side and beach)

Incentive for 2009/10

- Given uncertainty over tendered & regulated prices it was not possible to produce a robust forecast cost target for an incentive. Gas holding costs are therefore currently cost pass through (with Ofgem scrutiny)
- Existing small utilisation scheme retained

Incentive for 2010/11

- What are the options for reintroducing an incentive from April 2010?
- We need to consider implications of ongoing contestability work



Demand Forecasting

NG is obliged to publish a demand forecast to the market and is incentivised on the accuracy of the 13:00 forecast at D-1

Annual scheme

Forecast of Total System demand

- NDM demand
- Direct connected demand
- Interconnectors
- Storage injections

We are inviting comments/evidence on whether there is a need for further development



Data Publication

NG is incentivised to maintain a standard of service in relation to the publication of some specific data items via our website

Measures are timeliness of data publication and availability of system for key data items

- Forecast flows onto the network (notified and physical)
- Within day and D-1 Demand forecast
- Predicted closing linepack

Some of last year's responses suggested removing the incentive

- We need to clarify if this information is still required
- To the same levels of availability and timeliness?



Network Flexibility

National Grid is currently working up its short, medium and long term plans for considering network flexibility

Ofgem have indicated that they will issue a consultation in July 09

Depending on the outcome of these initiatives there maybe need to consider incentives arrangements (if required)



How do I find out more?

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