

Very Large Daily Metered Consumers (VLDMC) Directly Connected to the National Transmission System (NTS)

Participation Requirements

There are around 60 power generation and industrial and commercial sites directly connected to the National Transmission System (NTS). These are all Very Large Daily Metered Customers (VLDMC). Contacting VLDMCs and requesting they cease taking gas is a key emergency action under Stage 2 of a Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE). The following load shedding process will be tested during a Network Emergency Coordinator (NEC) Assurance Exercise.

Start of Exercise

VLDMCs will be alerted to the commencement of the exercise via established communication channels. The start message will be complemented by a short situation report to inform participants the background to the scripted unfolding events. The communication will be prefixed with:

“NEC ASSURANCE EXERCISE – START OF EXERCISE”

Stage 1

The exercise scenario will require the National Gas Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT) to request the NEC to declare a Gas Deficit Emergency in response to high demand and a range of supply issues. The NEMT will alert the industry to the declaration of a Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE) at Stage 1 by issuing a completed NEC Declaration Form, via established communication channels.

The NEMT will monitor communication channels to assure successful delivery of the declaration message. Any errors or fail messages will be followed up to assure the correct contact details are on file.

Stage 2

As the response to the exercise scenario progresses, it is assessed that load shedding of NTS Directly Connected Sites (VLDMCs) will be a key part of the NEMT’s strategy to re-balance the Network. The NEMT will request the NEC declare Stage 2 of an NGSE to access this option. The NEC Declaration Form will be updated to inform industry that Stage 2 has been declared. The receipt of the updated declaration form will alert VLDMCs that they are likely to be contacted for the purposes of commencing load shedding.

The NEMT will be briefed on the load shedding strategy and asked to commence the process of contacting sites to cease taking gas. The team will collate the latest flow nominations and [P70s](#) to determine which sites are already offline. Offline sites will still be contacted and given the instruction not to recommence taking gas, but this will take place after prioritising the contact of sites which are already online.

To load shed a VLDMC, a member of the NEMT will call the site via the contact details stored on the NEMT’s contact database. A verbal instruction will be given to cease taking gas. The member of the NEMT will request an estimation of the time it will take to complete this action.

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The telephone call will be followed up by a written instruction in the form of a [GS\(M\)R Direction Notice](#). It is the phone call with which a VLDMC must comply.

It is the site's responsibility to inform their Shipper/Agent or commercial trading desk of gas flow amendment to support the NEC instruction. For the purposes of the exercise, it is recommended that this process be conducted, though it is important to pre-fix all messages of this nature with the words '**For Exercise**' and confirm all recipients understand the message is for exercise purposes and no further action is required. The NEMT will have issued a notice to shippers that load shedding has commenced, though this does not replace the requirement for sites to contact their Shipper/Agent.

Stage 3

There are no specific actions which concern VLDMCs at Stage 3. The NEMT will release a method of communication which can be used for enquires during this time.

Stage 4

The timeframe of the exercise will almost certainly not allow the NEMT to progress as far as Stage 4 (Restoration). If Stage 4 is declared, the NEMT will contact VLDMCs, most likely in reverse order, to advise the site that they may resume consuming gas. This phone call will be followed up by the issue of an updated [GS\(M\)R Direction Revocation Notice](#) revoking the original instruction.

Contact

Should you have any queries or require further information regarding any aspect of an NEC Assurance Exercise, please visit the National Gas' Emergency Information [website](#) or get in touch with the National Grid Gas Emergency and Incident Framework Team using the contact details provided below:

Email: gasops.emergencyplanning@nationalgas.com