

# Exercise 'ARCTIC'

## Network Emergency Coordinator – Network Gas Supply Emergency Exercise

Industry Briefing Note 2019

**Event date:**  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019



Exercise 'ARCTIC' is the Gas Industry's annual Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE) Network Emergency Coordinator (NEC) validation exercise.

Exercise Arctic will focus on NEC communications with all industry participants at every stage of an emergency and assure that industry participants are aware of their obligations to comply with NEC instructions.

### Executive Summary

- It is essential for the gas industry to be able to manage an emergency situation safely and effectively, the annual exercise is one of the key ways of demonstrating its preparedness.
- The NEC has a legal requirement to provide assurance that the gas industry can take action to manage and recover from a gas deficit emergency.
- Exercise Arctic will simulate a high demand day with a scenario set to trigger a NGSE.
- Exercise Arctic will seek to test communication methods between National Grid's Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT) and all exercise participants whilst testing the effectiveness of the emergency procedures put in place by the NEC.
- The NEMT will liaise with all relevant gas industry participants to complete all the principle objectives set out in this briefing note.
- The NEC will request a feedback report from all participants involved upon completion of the exercise for use in producing the post exercise report.

### Aim and Objectives

The aim of this exercise is to demonstrate that the gas industry is prepared and able to meet its obligations in the event of a Network Gas Supply Emergency. This will be demonstrated by effective two way communications processes across the industry and its stakeholders; timely and accurate information being shared between participants; and effective emergency strategies being produced and implemented:

In doing so the following objectives will be met:

- Test the upstream management procedure, web portal and emergency response communications
- Practice the response link between localised transmission and national supply emergencies
- Validate emergency procedures, specifically E1, National Grid's E3, the E3 documents of the Distribution Networks and the NEC Safety Case
- Embed, for testing, recommendations from previous industry emergency exercises, including Exercise 'Zeus' (2018) Restoration Exercise 'Alpha' (2019) and Communications Exercise 'Announce' (2019)

## Participants

The diagram, in figure 1 overleaf, depicts the wide range of organisations scheduled to participate in Exercise Arctic. Observers from the HSE may be in attendance at a number of participant's offices during the exercise. The HSE will make these arrangements directly. Separate participation briefing notes are available for the following participant groups via the hyperlinks below:

- [Gas Distribution Network Operators \(GDNO\) and GNI](#)
- [Very Large Daily Metered Consumers \(VLDMC's\) NTS Directly Connected Loads](#)
- [Terminal Operators and Liquefied Natural Gas \(LNG\) Importation Terminals](#)
- [Storage Facility Operators](#)
- [Shippers](#)
- [Supplementary Transporters](#)

## Commencement

The exercise will commence with the briefing of National Grid's NEMT Duty Officer c.09:00. The Duty Officer will review the scenario information and determine the requirement to mobilise. Upon the decision to mobilise a message will be issued to industry, utilising established communication paths, stating:

**“EXERCISE ‘ARCTIC’ – START EX”**

A brief situation report will be included in this message.

The exercise will pause overnight and re-commence with a short re-briefing Thursday morning. The exercise will then end at the discretion of Directing Staff, in discussion with the HSE, c.15:00.

A 'hot' debriefing will take place, immediately after the end of the exercise, for the NEMT at National Grid House, Warwick. All other participants are requested to consider holding a similar debriefing session, in isolation, in order to gather feedback and identify lessons learnt.

## Reporting

Following the exercise and industry feedback, the Office of the NEC will prepare a report on Exercise Arctic detailing the effectiveness of the industry response to NEC notifications. The report will incorporate industry feedback and relay recommendations for improvements to the emergency arrangements. This will be published on National Grid's and the HSE's websites.

Each organisation participating in Exercise Arctic is requested to appoint an exercise observer who can provide observations and feedback on the exercise. Guidelines for producing an observation report and a template are available [here](#).

## Contact

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

---

For further information please contact:

**Emergency and Incident Framework Team**  
National Grid

[gasops.emergencyplanning@nationalgrid.com](mailto:gasops.emergencyplanning@nationalgrid.com)

Figure 1 – Exercise Arctic – Industry participation

Government and Regulators	National Grid	Terminal Operators and LNG Importation Terminals		Storage Facilities	Gas Distribution Network Operators
Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)	Crisis Management Team (CMT)	<b>TERMINALS:</b>		Aldbrough – Equinor/SSE Gas Storage	Cadent
Oil and Gas Authority (OGA)	<b>Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT)</b>	Easington - Gassco, Langeded	St. Fergus - Ancala (Wood), SAGE	Hatfield Moor – Scottish Power	Northern Gas Networks (NGN)
Health and Safety Executive (HSE) <i>[Observing]</i>	Corporate Affairs Response Team (CART)	Easington - Centrica Storage, Rough	St. Fergus - NSMP (PX)	Hilltop – EDF Energy	SGN
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) <i>[Observing]</i>	Gas Transmission (GT) Silver Command	Easington - Perenco, Dimlington	St. Fergus - Shell	Hole House – EDF Energy	Wales and West Utilities (WWU)
	Electricity National Control Centre (ENCC)	Burton Point - ENI	St. Fergus - National Grid	Holford – UniPer	
		Bacton - Shell, BBL	Teesside - Antin (Wood), CATS	Hornsea – SSE Gas Storage	<b>Interconnectors</b>
		Bacton - National Grid	Teesside - PX	Humbly Grove – Humbly Grove Energy	BBL – BBL Company
		Bacton - SEAL	Barrow - Spirit Energy	Stublach - Storengy	Irish interconnector – Gas Networks Ireland (GNI)
					I(UK) – Interconnector (UK)
<b>Network Emergency Coordinator (NEC)</b>	<b>National Transmission System – Directly Connected Sites</b>	<b>LNG TERMINALS:</b>			
		Milford Haven – South Hook			
		Milford Haven – Dragon			
		Isle of Grain – National Grid		<b>Shippers</b>	