

Industry Briefing Note for the 2017 Network Emergency Coordinator, Network Gas Supply Emergency Exercise



Exercise Yield will take place on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th October 2017 during normal office hours.

Executive Summary

- The Gas Safety (Management) Regulations GS(M)R 1996 states there is a legal requirement for a Network Emergency Co-ordinator (NEC).
- The NEC is responsible for co-ordinating actions to prevent a supply emergency developing.
- A supply emergency is defined in GS(M)R as an emergency endangering persons and arising from a loss of pressure in a network or any part thereof.
- The NEC is responsible for declaring a Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE) and for authorising the use of emergency balancing tools to restore a supply-demand balance on the National Transmission System (NTS).
- Support to the NEC is provided by the National Grid Gas Emergency Planning Team.
- T/PM/E/1 is the industry procedure produced on behalf of the NEC used for managing a NGSE occurring on the NTS.

Exercise Purpose

The Network Emergency Co-ordinator (NEC) has established arrangements pursuant to the Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 1996 for co-ordinating the actions of duty holders, including transporters, operating on the network to prevent a supply emergency occurring. In accordance with the NEC's Safety Case obligations, these processes are tested periodically to ensure that arrangements are robust and duty holders are aware of their responsibilities.

Exercise Yield will focus on emergency communications to ensure the NEC can communicate with all industry effectively at every stage of an emergency and that industry are aware of their obligations to comply with NEC instructions, following the National Grid commercial strategy to optimise the NTS, on the lead up to an emergency declaration. The communications will provide the emergency scenario and high level strategy assumptions to ensure the industry know what has happened and what additional actions are required.

The Principal Objectives of Exercise Yield are to:

- Effective communication between gas transporters and with Regulatory and Government Departments.
- Test the upstream management procedure, web portal and emergency response communications.
- Link between localised transmission and national supply emergencies.
- Escalation and interaction across Crisis Management Teams.
- Embed recommendations from previous industry emergency exercises including Exercise X-Ray.

- Building on our understanding of electricity issues during a major gas event through expanded electricity sector play.
- Developing greater assurance around the local impact of national emergencies particularly including how the Gas Distribution Networks communicates information on sites impacted and welfare arrangements to HMG.

Industry Participants

Industry participants taking part in Exercise Yield are listed below.

- Health And Safety Executive (HSE)
- Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
 - Oil and Gas Licensing and Upstream Resilience Planning
 - BEIS Downstream Emergency Response Team
- National Grid
 - Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT)
 - Electricity National Control Centre (ENCC)
- Gas Distribution Network Operators (GDNO)
- Very Large Daily Metered Consumers (VLDMC's) NTS Directly Connected Loads
- Terminal Operators and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Importation Terminals
- Storage Facility Operators
- Interconnector Operators
- Shippers

Observers from the HSE may be in attendance at a number of participant's offices during Exercise Yield.

Exercise Reporting

Following the exercise and industry feedback, the NEC will prepare a report on Exercise Yield detailing the effectiveness of the industry response to NEC notifications and flow directions. The report will detail any recommendations for improvements to the industry emergency arrangements and will be published on the National Grid and HSE website.

Each organisation participating in Exercise Yield 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 on the National Grid Emergency Information Website.

Contact Details

Should you have any queries or require further information regarding any aspect of Exercise Yield please investigate the National Grid Emergency Information website or get in touch with the National Grid Gas Emergency Planning Team using the contact details provided below:

Email: gasops.emergencyplanning@nationalgrid.com