Q: Why are National Grid only forecasting pressures at Terminal entry points?

Q: Are there plans to increase the number of locations or the frequency at which pressures are forecast?

Q: Can I receive a more localised and/or frequent pressure forecast?

Q: Why are the pressure forecasts not published directly onto Prevailing View (MIPI)?

Q: What confidence do you have in the accuracy of your pressure forecasts?

Q: Can National Grid guarantee these forecast pressures?

Q: How accurate are your pressure forecasts?

Q: Do the forecast pressures align with 'NTS Daily Calculated Physical Linepack Minimum' data that is also published?

Q: When will the forecasts be published, and will they be regularly updated?

Q: Can you reduce the size of the range for the pressure forecast?

Q: Can you provide a daily profile of the pressure forecasts?

Q: What process is used to determine the pressures that will be published?

Q: Can I supply feedback on the forecasting process?

Q: Why are National Grid only forecasting pressures at Terminal entry points?

A: Pressures at Terminal entry points are less sensitive to the daily configuration changes made by the Gas National Control Centre to facilitate the flow of gas around the network. This allows us to forecast narrower ranges with greater accuracy than would be feasible at other locations on the network.

Q: Are there plans to increase the number of locations or the frequency at which pressures are forecast?

A: This process is an initial proof of concept utilising existing resource capabilities; with data points that we have high confidence in being able give meaningful data for. Expanding the forecast to a greater number of embedded points and maintaining the same level of accuracy will require investment into our systems and process. This is something we would welcome exploring with the industry should the initial data prove valuable.

Q: Can I receive a more localised and/or frequent pressure forecast?

A: Whilst we are not currently able to offer such a personalised service we would welcome any industry feedback on this aspect to allow us to accurately gauge the appetite and requirements of our customers with a view to expanding our pressure forecasts in the future.

Q: Why are the pressure forecasts not published directly onto Prevailing View (MIPI)?

A: Based on feedback, the availability of data on MIPI is the highest priority. This is the quickest, lowest cost and least impactful means of increasing our levels of information provision. It also affords us flexibility in quickly adapting and improving the new product going forward.

Q: What confidence do you have in the accuracy of your pressure forecasts?

A: There are many changeable aspects that can have an impact on the accuracy of our forecast and a large enough range to cover these events would significantly reduce the value of the data. We plan to introduce a confidence factor for each of our forecast pressures. This will be determined by the percentage of time we expect actual pressure to fall within the forecast range. For example, if we expected actual pressure to fall outside the forecast range for 12 hours in the week, this would result in a confidence fact of 93% ((168-12)/168x100).

Q: Can National Grid guarantee these forecast pressures?

A: Whilst we make every effort to ensure our forecasts are accurate and meaningful, they are also highly dependent on network supplies and demands, asset availability and optimal operational strategy. Any changes in these aspects post publication can have a large impact on the accuracy of the forecast. As National Grid operates the network in a safe, efficient, economic and equitable manner it may not be possible to meet our pressure forecasts whilst at the same time minimising overall cost of operation to the industry. This operating philosophy is further detailed in our System Management Principles Statement.

Q: How accurate are your pressure forecasts?

A: Each week we will publish a comparison of the actual minimum, maximum and average pressures that were observed at the forecast points to ensure transparency to the industry. We anticipate that accuracy will improve as we continue to adapt our forecasting process.

Q: Do the forecast pressures align with 'NTS Daily Calculated Physical Linepack Minimum' data that is also published?

A: Linepack is a calculation of total gas (or stock) within the NTS and therefore is analogous to average pressure in the system; however, due the way the network is operated and particularly the utilisation of compressor stations, localised pressures do not always relate directly to the linepack position.

Q: When will the forecasts be published, and will they be regularly updated?

A: Forecasts will be published weekly and no later than Friday to give an indication of the likely pressures for the following week; for every week of the year. The forecasts represent our best view of pressure at that point in time and will not be updated until the following weeks' forecast.

Q: Can you reduce the size of the range for the pressure forecast?

A: We we continually look to refine and adapt our approach to forecasting pressure, but as this is a weekly forecast there will always be the requirement to provide a range of pressure.

Q: Can you provide a daily profile of the pressure forecasts?

A: Unfortunately, the data required to accurately predict within day pressure profiles is not available until day ahead when we have access to the expected supply and demand profiles. This hampers our ability to give more specific data at the week ahead position. Again, if this is something deemed valuable by our customers it is something we would welcome exploring with the industry.

Q: What process is used to determine the pressures that will be published?

A: Each week we forecast network demand to establish both low and high demand scenarios. In practise, we would expect the actual demand to be between these threshold levels. We then create a network model for both scenarios using likely supply patterns and a predicted operating strategy to give us an initial indication of what a low and high pressure will be at a specific location. These pressures are then modified using a combination of historic data and operational insight to further improve accuracy.

Q: Can I supply feedback on the forecasting process?

A: We are continually looking to improve the services that we offer to our customers and would welcome feedback on this and any other services that we offer. Please contact our operational liaison team at Box.OperationalLiaison@nationalgrid.com.