



# Gas Operational Forum January

Meeting Minutes

17 January 2019

**nationalgrid**

# Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: 17/01/2019

Location: Radisson Blu, Warren Street, London

Start Time: 09:30

## Attendees

Company	Name and attendance Y/N		
National Grid	Karen Thompson (KT) <b>Y</b>	Jon Davies (JD) <b>Y</b>	Martin Cahill (MC) <b>Y</b>
National Grid	Abby Hayles (AH) <b>Y</b>	Harj Kandola (HK) <b>Y</b>	Craig James (CJ) <b>Y</b>
National Grid	Mike Wassell (MW) <b>Y</b>	Josh Bates (JB) <b>Y</b>	Imran Abdulla (IA) <b>Y</b>
Xoserve	Helen Field (HF) <b>Y</b>	Steve Pownall (SP) <b>Y</b>	

## Meeting Agenda

Agenda Item	Key Points	Action Ref
Operational Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• So far this winter we have seen more spikes in demand when compared with the same period last year – this has been caused by short colder spells, reflected by less consistent CWV values</li><li>• Overall there has been a slight drop in demand this winter</li><li>• The biggest change in supply has been the increase in LNG, while there has been a slight drop off in storage and IUK</li><li>• This has resulted in a larger proportion of gas in the South East and West</li><li>• Christmas day Demand peaked at 283mcm, this was much higher than expected and mainly driven by storage behaviour</li><li>• Currently seeing the highest LNG levels for 3 years, with the highest ever daily Grain LNG average</li><li>• LNG flows have continued to increase throughout the winter, while supplies from USA and Russia have significantly increased</li><li>• This has been driven by the reduction in price differential between Asia and the UK</li><li>• National Grid will aim to identify if anyone in the industry can present on LNG at an Operational Forum in the future</li></ul>	<b>1</b>
Xoserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operational Slides are included in the full pack – these were not presented today at the forum</li><li>• Xoserve have identified the following 5 themes from customer feedback to improve: Improving Data Quality + resolving issues quickly, Getting hold of the right person on service desk, GEMINI training / e-learning, lack of invoicing guides, and difficulty in resetting passwords</li><li>• Xoserve and National Grid will work together to improve all of these areas</li></ul>	
Breakout session – survey feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This breakout session focussed on themes which had been identified from responses to National Grid surveys</li><li>• Summary of feedback from the session will be shared, with improvement actions to follow</li></ul>	<b>2</b>

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- Action NG to share link to 'I have a query' document:  
<https://www.nationalgridgas.com/uk/documents/110326-gas-i-have-query-contact-list>

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Storengy  
Presentation

- Overview from Benoit Enault of storage in the UK market
- UK has a flexible gas market where small temperature changes can proportionately have a large impact on demand
- Storage, LNG and Interconnectors provide flexible response
- UK has a lower volume of storage available per annual demand than many other European countries
- As more gas has been imported, amount of storage available has decreased – e.g. closure of Rough
- While price spikes can be an opportunity for storage operators, but if these are too big this can also present the risk of income loss – e.g. during an outage
- Business rates provide a challenge to storage companies, whilst within day flexibility is not necessarily fully utilised and Network access costs can be high for the type of operation
- Whilst linepack swing has increased over time, there is no incentive to bring gas in at the right time to minimise this swing
- The Gas Future Operability Planning (GFOP) programme will be studying how future flow behaviour could change, and it is encouraged for industry to share insight, so risks such as increasing linepack swing can be considered.  
Email: [box.gfop.nationalgrid.com](mailto:box.gfop.nationalgrid.com)  
Website: <https://www.nationalgridgas.com/insight-and-innovation/gas-future-operability-planning-gfop>

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Offtake  
'Rules'

- National Grid try to allow flexibility where possible on the network
- Further slides are available in the full pack which cover the detail of specific Offtake 'Rules' in additional detail, as well as the relevant section of the UNC
- MNEPOR is the only rule which is always 'on'
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 the 'rules' were all switched on, however they do not necessarily need to be all on at the same time
- A metering system change could affect the MNEPOR, so this should be discussed with National Grid
- Question: If OPN has been accepted and 'rules' are then switched on, does this stay accepted? Action to confirm this scenario
- 'Rules' can be switched on in one particular exit zone
- National Grid will communicate by ANS, therefore it is important to make sure that the entity is correct e.g. for a Shipper. Any communications from ANS will also be copied across to the prevailing view screen on the Operational data pages
- Action: All advised to check ANS details if this has not been assessed recently  
<https://www.s2.emergencycallsecure.com/newlogin/#>

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Preparedness  
for Winter

- 5<sup>th</sup> December saw a supply loss at St Fergus, with multiple demand increases also contributing to a large imbalance on the network. High flows from Milford, Grain and Bacton required gas to be moved from south to north to avoid terminal constraints (network is designed for

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predominantly north to south flow). 5.8mcm were traded by National Grid, but there was a limited market response

- Leading up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January there was an ongoing trend of over-delivery, resulting in 11.01mcm gained in 2 days. The day opened close to the operational efficiency limit of 370mcm. National Grid traded early with SMPs set at 48p. This was similar to previous days, however unexpectedly, the market response was much greater. The rate at which PCLP reduced meant there was a requirement to buy and sell gas on the same day. This highlighted the challenges of the difference in behaviour on standard working days and weekends/holiday
- Leading up to the 6<sup>th</sup> January there was also a trend of over-delivery. Gas was sold on all 6 days prior to this date (around 18.9mcm). PCLP at the start of the day was 395mcm, with OLP at 358mcm. Multiple sell actions were completed throughout the day, yet 0.57mcm of linepack was still gained

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Bacton Strategy

- National Grid are currently working on business plans for the next regulatory period (RIIO T2)
- Multiple costed options have been created for Bacton in the region of £200-400m, each carrying a different level of constraint/outage risk
- To get involved in these plans and share thoughts on how different options could impact on your business, please get in touch with the Operational Liaison team:  
[.box.operationaliaison@nationalgrid.com](mailto:box.operationaliaison@nationalgrid.com)

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Operational Data Working Group (Afternoon)

- First working group took place for Operational Data Enhancements
  - Groups identified which data sources were commonly used, how it was accessed, potential new sources of data and ways of displaying data, and other options possible improvements such as a user guide/more in depth data definitions
  - Topics mentioned included instantaneous demand/live linepack data, pressure information, gas quality, UIG and NGT hourly balancing trades
  - Collaboration website has been launched. This will include updates from the project, example data testing, and you can input to ensure your priorities are fed into the project. Register at the following link:  
<https://gasoperationaldatacommunity.spin-up.io/>
  - The next working group will take place in the afternoon following the February Operational Forum on the 14<sup>th</sup> February
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# Meeting Actions

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**Start Time: 09:30**

## Summary of Actions

Action Reference	Action	Responsible	Expected Closure
1	National Grid will aim to identify if anyone in the industry can present on LNG at an Operational Forum in the future	NG	Mar 19
2	Summary of feedback from the session will be shared, with improvement actions to follow	NG	Feb 19
3	Question: If OPN has been accepted and 'rules' are then switched on, does this stay accepted? Action to confirm this scenario	NG	Feb 19