

# Debt Investor Update

## Half Year Results 2021/22

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# Key takeaways

## Transactions

- WPD acquisition complete
- Rhode Island sale on track
- UK Gas Transmission sales process launched

## Our businesses

- Now moved to new operating model
- >£400m pa cost efficiency programme by the end of 3 years
- Targeting
  - At least 95% of US allowed returns
  - 100bp outperformance through RIIO-T2



# Financial performance highlights<sup>1</sup>

Underlying operating profit

**£1,407m** **↑ 52%**

HY21: £924m

Underlying EPS

**22.8p** **↑ 66%**

HY21: 13.7p

Capital investment

**£2,840m** **↑ 22%**

HY21: £2,320m

Dividend growth in line with policy

**17.21p**

HY21: 17.0p

<sup>1</sup> Excluding UK Gas Transmission which is classified as a discontinued operation, comparatives have been restated accordingly

Underlying results from continuing operations, excluding exceptional items, remeasurements and timing

Capital investment includes investment in JVs (excluding equity contributions to St William property JV)

Operating profit and capital investment for continuing operations presented at constant exchange rates

# Safety and reliability

- Good **safety** performance with lost time injury frequency rate maintained at 0.11
- **Reliability** was excellent
  - 95% of customers restored within 19 hours from Hurricane Elsa and Henri in the US
  - UK managed well through summer periods of low wind generation
- **Winter outlook** 6.6% electricity capacity margin
- **UK gas network** peak cold day demand well within capacity
- **IFA1** return to full service expected December 2022



# UK Electricity Distribution - WPD

## Opportunities

- Long term highly visible growth
- Pivots the group towards electricity
- Sharing best practice

## Performance

- £315m investment in 3.5 months

## RIIO – ED2

- Taken on board stakeholder and customer feedback
- Deliver investment to support electric vehicle, home heating and more renewable generation



# UK Electricity Transmission

## Performance

- £587m investment
- Higher maintenance spend
- Continued progress on Hinkley and LPT2

## Regulation

- Successfully challenged outperformance wedge

## Policy

- Critical to have a regulatory framework that meets challenges of net zero



# UK Gas Transmission

## Majority stake sale

- Sales process launched
- Now reported as discontinued operation

## Capital investment

- £131m investment
- Higher spend on asset health

## Performance

- Targeting 100bps outperformance in T2



# New York

## Investment

- £851m, up 10%
- Delivered 171 miles of leak prone pipe replacement
- 2GW New York Energy Solutions project brings renewable energy into the State

## Regulation

- Target 95% of allowed returns

## KEDNY / KEDLI rate settlement

- 8.8% RoE / \$3.3bn capex allowance

## Niagara - Mohawk rate cases

- 9.0% RoE / \$3.3bn capex allowance



# New England

## Investment

- £700m
- Higher levels in MA - lifting of COVID restrictions
- Delivered 85 miles of leak prone pipe replacement

## Regulation

- MA gas new rate case with I-X formula
- 9.7% RoE
- Additional operating expenses of \$65m
- Around \$3.5bn capex



# NG Ventures

## Performance

- Investment of £282m focused on delivery of interconnectors
- North Sea Link commissioned early
- Viking Link remains on track for completion in 2024
- Onshore US renewables business completed Prairie Wolf 200MW solar project



# Cost efficiency programme

Cost efficiency target

**>£400m p.a.**  
across the group  
by end of 3 years

Growing regulated asset base >20% while holding controllable costs flat



>£300m from New York and New England businesses



c.£100m from UK Electricity Transmission and NG Ventures



# Interest, tax and earnings

## Finance costs

**£475m**

**£73m higher** than HY21<sup>3</sup>

- First time inclusion of WPD debt
- Funding of bridge loan facility

## Underlying effective tax rate<sup>1</sup>

**19.0%**

Underlying tax charge: **£177m**

- 330 bps higher than prior year

## Underlying earnings<sup>2</sup>

**£812m**

HY21: **£482m**

- 22.8 p/share
- EPS up 66% on the prior year

1. Excluding joint ventures and associates

2. Underlying results attributable to equity shareholders

3. At constant currency

Underlying results for continuing operations, excluding timing, exceptional items and remeasurements

# Cash flow, net debt and ratings

## Cash generated

**£2bn**

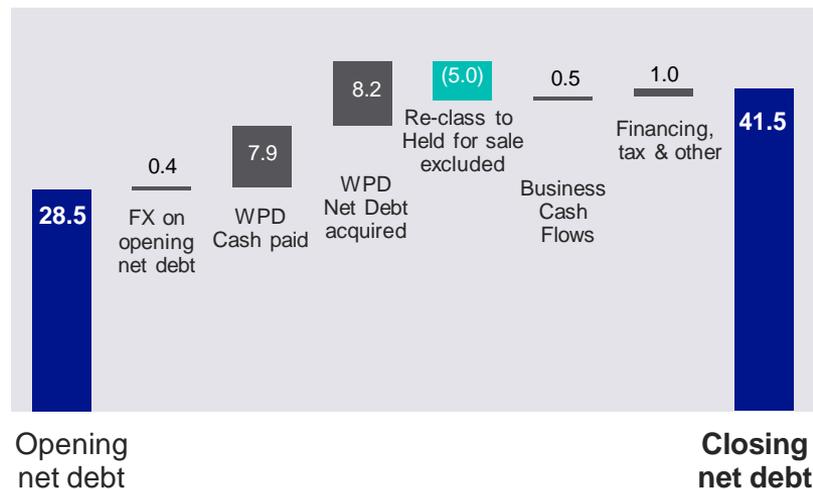
**27% higher**  
compared to prior year

## Net debt increase

**£12.9bn**

**44% higher**  
compared to prior year

## Net debt (£bn)

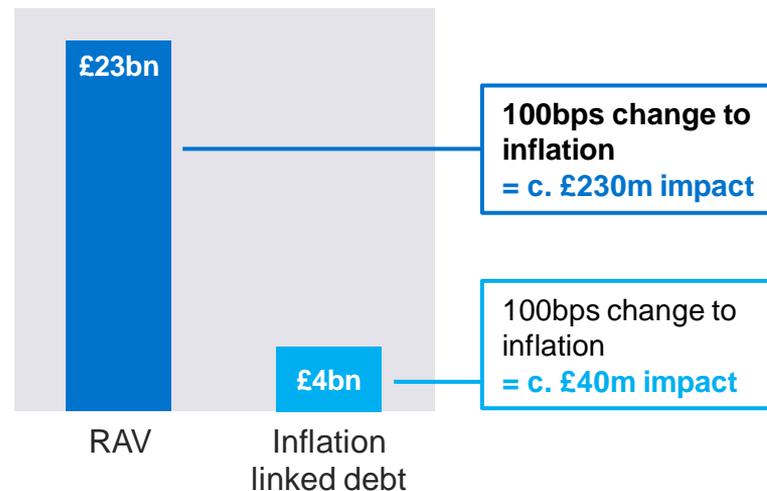


- Net debt increase following WPD acquisition
- For full year, net debt is expected to remain consistent with the level as at 30 September

# Impact of inflation

- Moderately higher inflation is a positive over the long-term
- Protection of real returns
- Inflation protection
  - UK revenues and Real Price Effects adjustment for labour and materials
  - Massachusetts and FERC annual increases
  - New York rate plans include forward looking price estimates

Example:  
UK – Impact of higher inflation



# Impact of interest rates

## UK

- Annual update to UK cost of debt allowances
- Revenue allowances over time offset higher interest costs

## US

- Fixed rate and long-term debt with pass through of costs



# Debt Funding

London, 18 November 2021



# Green Financing

- **Green Financing Framework updated in July 2021**
  - aligned with the ICMA Green Bond Principles published in June 2021 and the LMA Green Loan Principles published in February 2021
  - aligned as closely as possible with the EU Taxonomy Regulation and the EU Taxonomy Delegated Acts on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
  - SPO by ISS-ESG
- NG plc issued a €850m 8yr green bond in August 2021
  - Proceeds to be allocated to projects in NG Ventures and New England
  - Majority of allocation expected to be for **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency** categories
  - Green Financing Report expected summer 2022 as part of the Responsible Business Report



# Debt Funding

2020/21 so far

- c. £2.0bn of senior long-term debt raised across 7 bonds
  - Majority through public bonds for NGET in CAD, and NG plc in EUR. Remainder through a series of EMTN private placements across AUD, EUR and GBP for NGET, and ECA facility drawdowns.

Second half of 2020/21

- We expect to issue another c.£2bn split across the group over the remainder of the year
  - £6.0bn of general liquidity facilities have remained undrawn.
  - The UK Electricity System Operator also maintains £550m of committed facilities
  - WPD has £1bn of committed facilities, of which £300m was drawn at 30 Sept 2021



# First half year achievements

- FY22 EPS expected to be significantly ahead of 5-7% growth range
- WPD acquisition completed early
- Now moved to new operating model
- >£400m cost efficiency programme
- Strong start to RIIO-T2
- Balance sheet remains strong
- Full refresh of new rates across New York and New England
- Interconnector construction programme nearing completion



# Q&A

