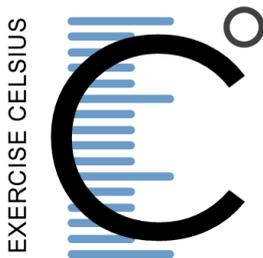


Exercise 'Celsius'

NEC Industry Exercise 2021 - Briefing Note

Event date:

Wednesday 29th and
Thursday 30th
September 2021



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

Exercise Celsius will focus on NEC communications with all industry participants at Stages 1-3 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.
- This year, response teams will respond both physically and remotely via virtual means.
- Exercise Celsius will utilise exercise demand data and simulate a series of supply losses to trigger a NGSE.
- Industry notifications shall be tested through the activation of a Gas Balancing Notification (GBN), Margins Notice (as required) and Emergency Declarations.
- Exercise Celsius will seek to test communication methods between National Grid's Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT) and all relevant gas industry participants to complete 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.

COVID-19: In light of the unpredictable circumstances surrounding the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, this year's tactical (silver) level response exercise will be conducted by means of a remote response.

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 (NGSE). 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 achieving this demonstration, the following objectives will be met:

- Test the ability of industry to respond to an NGSE against a landscape of a hybrid response between office based/on site responders and home-based support teams
- Test that the post Exercise ‘Baltic’ enhancements to process have delivered a step change in the speed and accuracy with which Gas Transporters share information and make collaborative decisions to inform the response strategy
- Test industry’s operational emergency response communication processes, such as the activation of the Gas Availability Status Report; liaison between the GSO and ESO; and publication of Emergency declarations and directions
- Test mid-project enhancements to process arising from the Review of the Impact of a Gas Supply Shortage on Electricity (RIGSSE) E3C Task Group project and utilise the scenario to further enhance understanding of interactions between gas & electricity – through broader participation of the Electricity System Operator and Electricity Distribution Network Operators
- Test industry’s ability to warn and inform the public - through participation of Corporate Affairs representatives
- Test that recommendations from previous industry emergency exercises have been delivered and are effective
- Validate emergency procedures, specifically, National Grid’s E3; the E3 documents of the Distribution Networks; and the recently amended (to version 10) E1 and NEC Safety Case
- Set a basis for the E3C Gas Task Group to assure the Gas Industry’s capability to return to normal operations post NGSE - in separate education, assurance and exercise events in 2022.

Exercise Celsius Scope

Exercise Celsius 2021 - Scope

Wednesday 29 th September	Thursday 30 th September
Commercial Day	Emergency Day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Balancing Notification (live exercise activation) • OCM Balancing trades (notional) • Scaleback off-peak exit capacity (notional) • Operating Margins (notional) • Margins Notice (live exercise activation if triggered) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1: Emergency Specification gas (Live exercise activation) • Stage 2: Flow Direction & Load Shedding (Live exercise activation) • Electricity System Impact (notional) • Stage 3: Public Appeal & Allocation and Isolation (Live exercise activation)
09:00 – c.16:30	09:00 – c.16:00

Participants

The diagram, in *Figure 1* overleaf, depicts the wide range of organisations scheduled to participate in Exercise Celsius. Observers from the HSE may request access to the response discussions of a number of participants during the exercise. The HSE will make these arrangements directly.

Commencement

The exercise will commence with the briefing of the National Grid Gas System Operator Duty Officer c.09:00 hours , Wednesday 29th September. 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, which will include a brief situation report, utilising established communication paths, stating:

“EXERCISE ‘CELSIUS’ – START EX”

The exercise will pause overnight on Wednesday (29th) and re-commence with a short re-briefing Thursday (30th) morning. The exercise will then end at the discretion of Directing Staff, in discussion with the HSE, c.16:00 hours, Thursday 30th September. A message will be issued as per the Start Ex communications stating:

‘EXERCISE ‘CELSIUS’ – END EX’

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

Exercise Notifications

A range of industry notifications will be activated during Exercise Celsius, namely: Gas Balancing Notification (GBN), Margins Notice (as required) and Emergency Declarations. These notices shall be clearly marked as ‘for exercise’. OCM Balancing trades, Capacity Scale backs and activation of Operations Margins shall be simulated without industry communication.

Reporting

Following the exercise and receipt of industry feedback, the Office of the NEC will prepare a report on Exercise Celsius 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 Celsius is requested to appoint an exercise observer who can provide observations and feedback on the exercise.

Contact

Should you have any queries or require further information regarding any aspect of Exercise Celsius, 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.emergencypplanning@nationalgrid.com

Figure 1 – Exercise Celsius – Industry Participation

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