

## Gas Distribution Network/Interconnector Operators Participation Requirements



There are four Distribution Network (DN) operators connected to the NTS. The GNI Interconnector and I(UK) Interconnector (when importing gas into the UK) constitute the other key elements of demand and therefore the response process for DNs and these two interconnectors is similar. Establishing prompt communications with the DNs, GNI and I(UK) is an essential part of the Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT) understanding the demand picture and assuring that supplies balance demand changes. The following demand breakdown and reduction process will be tested during Exercise Zeus.

### Start Ex

DNs, GNI and I(UK) will be alerted to the commencement of Exercise Zeus via established communications channels. The start message will be complemented by a short situation report to inform participants the background to the scripted unfolding events.

### “EXERCISE ‘ZEUS’ – START EX”

At any stage of the response the NEMT may request demand information from DNs and GNI (not I(UK)) through the ‘Demand’ Team requesting the population of a NETMAN 1 and Minimal Critical Offtake Pressure form (DNs) or a Demand Breakdown request form (GNI). DNs should issue NETMAN 1s with the critical pressures tab pre-populated with assured pressures in the first instance.

The Demand Team will then assign a team member as a point of contact with each DN and GNI / I(UK). The communications protocol which follows this initial request will allow the NEMT to understand any changes to the DNs’ and GNI’s demand breakdown and to further determine the critical pressures of each LDZ offtake relevant to the live situation.

*Note: Scripted exercise data will be agreed with DNs and GNI during exercise planning to simulate demand levels required of the scenario.*

### Stage 1

The exercise scenario will require the Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT) to request the Network Emergency Coordinator (NEC) declare a Gas Deficit Emergency in response to high demand and a range of supply issues. The NEMT’s ‘Support’ Team will alert the industry to the declaration of a Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE) at Stage 1 by issuing a completed [NEC Declaration Form](#), via established communication channels.

The Support Team will monitor communication systems to assure successful delivery of the declaration message. Any errors or fail messages will be followed up to assure the correct contact details are on file.

During Stage 1, communications with DNs and GNI through the NEMT Demand Team will focus on requests for DNs and GNI to utilise tools within their LDZs to reduce the amount of gas they take from the primary system. This will include discussions around the possibility of utilising LDZ storage supplies and LDZ line pack.

The NEMT may also consider, at this Stage, the use of GS(M)R Schedule 3 part 2 specification gas (emergency specification) should it be available from the terminals. A risk assessment will be conducted by the NEMT to determine if the emergency specification gas could form part of the response strategy. A key aspect of this assessment will be to discuss the impact of admitting the gas with the DN who's offtakes the gas will reach / GNI if the gas is modelled to reach the Moffat offtake. If the DNs/GNI agree, admission of the gas will be heavily controlled and monitored utilising the same processes the GNCC implement in an operational GS(M)R Schedule 3 Part 1 breach.

## Stage 2

As the response to the exercise scenario progresses, it is assessed that load shedding will be a key part of the NEMT's strategy. This strategy is likely to include the issue of Demand Reductions which will lead to the load shedding of industrial demand within LDZs/GNI and reduced exports through I(UK). A separate exercise will be held by each DN to conduct the process of contacting and instructing each DN's top 200 sites. For Exercise Zeus, the focus will be on the Demand Team communicating the Demand Reduction Requests. Telephone calls outlining such requests are confirmed via issue of a Demand Reduction form.

DNs will communicate the progress of their separate load shedding activities via the Situation Summary report. Which is issued, ideally hourly, to the Demand Team.

## Stage 3

The response will progress to a point where the NEMT will require to request the NEC declare a Stage 3 emergency in response to demand reduction actions not having had a sufficient effect on the scenario. At this stage the Demand Team will discuss with DNs and GNI their demand profiles and communicate an allocation of gas for each LDZ. The Demand Reduction Form will be utilised to confirm this allocation in writing.

Assuming the allocation of gas will not match the high demand profiles of the LDZs, DNs will be required to produce detailed Allocation and Isolation plans. Progress should continue to be reported via the Situation Summary report.

## Stage 4

The timeframe of the exercise will almost certainly not allow the NEMT to progress as far as Stage 4, Restoration. If Stage 4 is declared, the Demand Team will contact DNs and GNI to advise them that the restoration Stage has been declared and that the NEMT is open to the receipt of Additional Gas Requirements Request forms. Each request will be considered and if suitable confirmed via the return of the form. Any active authorisations for the admittance of GS(M)R Schedule 3 Part 2 specification gas will be withdrawn.

## Reporting

DN Operators are requested to produce reports to the Emergency and Incident Framework Team, using the agreed HSE Report templates. Reports will combine records and learning points for all 3 2018 exercises, namely: Exercise Zeus, CTC validation Exercise, Emergency Contact Validation Exercise (Firm Load Shedding), to provide assurance that they can comply with NEC requirements during an emergency.