

Exercise GLACIER 2025

NEC Assurance Exercise

Industry Briefing

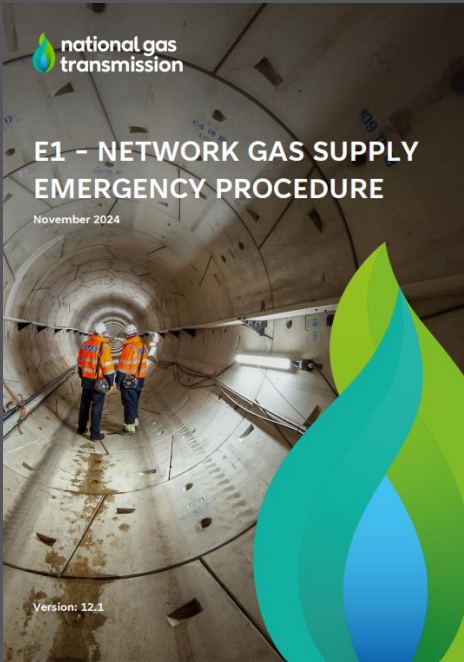
Network
Emergency
Co-ordinator



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Exercise GLACIER is the Gas Industry’s annual Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE) Network Emergency Co-ordinator (NEC) assurance exercise.

Exercise GLACIER will focus on NEC communications with all industry participants through all stages of an emergency, both in the lead up and during an NGSE, and assure that industry participants are aware of their obligations to comply with NEC instructions.



The ‘E1 Network Gas Supply Emergency Procedure’ sets out how NGSEs are managed. Version 12.1 was published in November 2024. Click the image on the left to access this important document

Click the image on the right to watch a short video which explains the NGSE Response Framework



This is an interactive document. The buttons below feature on the left bottom corner of each page for your convenience. Use them as follows:



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Glossary: Link to abbreviations and definitions



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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 methods to demonstrate 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.
- Exercise GLACIER will simulate a series of supply losses to trigger an NGSE.
- Industry notifications shall be tested through the activation of a Gas Balancing Notification (GBN) and Emergency Declarations.
- Exercise GLACIER will seek to test communication methods between National Gas’ Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT) and all relevant gas industry participants to complete the principal objectives set out in this briefing note.
- Exercise GLACIER will look to test that both gas and electricity participants can appropriately respond to a gas supply shortage which has electricity system implications.
- The NEC will request a feedback report from all participants involved upon completion of the exercise to inform the compilation of the post exercise report.

Monday 13th October
Pre-Emergency

Tuesday 14th October
Emergency

Tuesday 21st October
Isolation

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 communication 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 management of an emerging gas supply shortage, using warning notices and the establishment of proactive communication channels, then gain an understanding of how these are received by industry (post exercise)
- Test the development and delivery of the pre-emergency strategy, through:
 - the simulated activation of all viable commercial and physical tools.
 - the capability of the Primary Transporter to form an accurate situational awareness through industry collaboration.
- Practice and enhance processes and tools associated with the interactions between gas and electricity organisations during times of whole energy system stress, supported by active participation from the National Energy System Operator and Electricity Distribution Network Operators.
- Test industry's ability to warn and inform the public through participation of Corporate Affairs' representatives from the Energy Networks Association, Gas Transporters, the National Energy System Operator and Electricity Network Operators.
- Test that recommendations from previous industry emergency exercises have been delivered and are effective.
- Validate emergency procedures, specifically, National Gas' E3; the E3 documents of the Distribution Networks; the E1 Network Gas Supply Emergency Procedure and NEC Safety Case.

Exercise Scope

Monday 13th October Pre-Emergency

- Gas Transporter Collaboration
- Gas Balancing Notification
(live issue marked for exercise)
- Gas Availability Status (GAS) Report
(live population marked for exercise)
- Scale-back Off-peak Exit Capacity (consideration of live data by GSO but no further communications issued)
- Activation of Operating Margins Contracts
(testing of contract activation process for Exercise)

Tuesday 14th October Emergency

- Declaration of an NGSE
(live issue of Emergency declaration marked for exercise)
- Stage 1: Determine Use of Available Gas
(exhaust available Stage 1 actions)
- Stage 2: Entry Point Flow Directions
(live issue of directions to maximise flows marked for exercise)
- Stage 2: Load Shedding Directions*
(live issue of directions to cease taking gas marked for exercise)
- Public Appeal
(notional issue)

Tuesday 21st October Isolation

- Public Appeal
(notional issue)
- Stage 3: Allocation and Isolation
(live issue of allocation and isolation directions marked for exercise)

Note: The scope listed here is the expected activity live responders are likely to generate against the exercise scenario. The actual response may differ dependant on live strategy considerations and NEC approvals.

* Load shedding exercises for the LDZs takes place separately to the delivery of the NEC Industry Exercise. Load shedding directions issued for Exercise GLACIER shall be regarding Interconnectors and National Transmission System connected customers. LDZ load shedding shall form part of the response strategy, but delivery of load shedding directions shall be notional

Simulated data

In this exercise, simulated data will be used in the scenario in order to ensure processes to manage a Network Gas Supply Emergency are fully tested. This will include using data and weather from periods of high demand.

Whilst this introduces mock conditions and reliance on a pre-determined data set, it ensures we can reliably advance through the NGSE stages during a guaranteed period of high demand and without having to introduce any unrealistic incidents to create a supply constraint.

Every morning of the exercise, National Gas’ Exercise Control will hold a short webinar which exercise participants should attend to be briefed on the latest response position. Exercise Control will give a national perspective of the exercise conditions and the simulated weather pattern.

All participants should respond to exercise communications as if the scenario were a real event, taking care to utilise the exercise protocols to denote that communications are related to the exercise, not real life, see ‘Exercise Initiation’ for more detail on these protocols.

Exercise Participation

Government and Regulators	National Gas Transmission	Terminal Operators and LNG Importation Terminals		Storage Facilities	National Transmission System – Directly Connected Sites
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero	Crisis Management Team (CMT)	Terminals:		Aldborough – Equinor / SSE Gas Storage	Gas Distribution Network Operators
North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA)	Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT)	Easington – Gassco, Langed	St. Fergus – Ancala (Wood), SAGE	Hatfield Moor – Scottish Power	
Health and Safety Executive (HSE) [Observing]		Easington – Centrica Storage, Rough	St. Fergus – NSMP (PX)	Hilltop – EDF Energy	
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem)		Corporate Affairs Response Team (CART)	Easington – Perenco, Dimlington	St. Fergus – Shell	
	National Transmission System (NTS) Silver Command	Burton Point - ENI	Teeside – Antin (Wood), CATS	Holford - UniPer	Wales and West Utilities (WWU)
		Bacton - Shell	Teeside - PX	Hornsea – SSE Gas Storage	
		Bacton – National Gas	Barrow – Spirit Energy	Humbly Grove – Humbly Grove Energy	
		Bacton - SEAL	Somerset Farm	Stublach - Storengy	
		Bacton - Perenco	Angus Energy		
		LNG Terminals:			
		Milford Haven – South Hook		Shippers	
		Milford Haven – Dragon			
		Isle of Grain – National Grid			

Exercise Initiation

The exercise will commence with the briefing of the National Gas System Operations Duty Officer c.09:00 hours, on Monday 13th October 2025. 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 GLACIER – Start of Exercise”

The exercise will pause c.16:00 hours, on Monday 13th October 2025, and re-commence with a short re-briefing c.09:00 hours Tuesday 14th October 2025. This process will repeat on Tuesday 21st October 2025.

The exercise will end at the discretion of Directing Staff, in discussion with the HSE, c.16:00 hours, on Tuesday 21st October 2025. A message will be issued to industry stating:

‘Exercise GLACIER – End of Exercise’

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

Exercise Reporting

Following the exercise and receipt of industry feedback, the Office of the NEC will prepare a report on Exercise GLACIER 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 Gas’ and the HSE’s websites.

Each organisation participating in Exercise GLACIER is requested to appoint an exercise observer who can provide observations and feedback on the exercise. National Gas will publish an online feedback form at the end of the exercise, in order to gather industry feedback and lessons learnt. A guide to ‘exercise reporting’ is available in the ‘Industry Exercise Participant Requirements’ section on the [‘NGSE Pages’](#) on the National Gas website

Click the image on the right to review the Post Exercise Report for the 2024 NEC Industry Exercise FAHRENHEIT



Contact

Should you have any queries or require further information regarding any aspect of Exercise GLACIER, please visit the National Gas emergency information website, where the 'Industry Exercise Participant Requirements' tab features guides bespoke to groups of specific users namely: Directly Connected Sites; Shippers; Storage Operators; Supplementary Transporters; and Terminals.

www.nationalgas.com/our-businesses/emergencies

You can also get in touch with the National Gas Energy Emergency Team using the contact details provided below:

gasops.emergencyplanning@nationalgas.com



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Appendices

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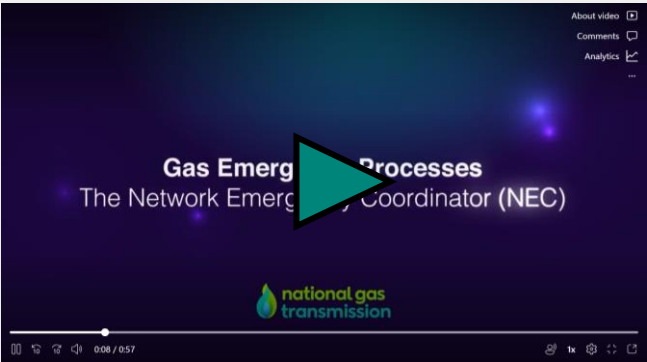
Appendix 1 – The NEC

The **Network Emergency Co-ordinator (NEC)** is an independent industry role, established under the Gas Safety (Management) Regulations (GS(M)R), whose duty is to co-ordinate the actions across affected points of the gas network to prevent or minimise the consequences of a Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE). This is defined as “an emergency endangering persons arising from a loss of pressure in a network, or part thereof”.

The role of the NEC is currently undertaken by National Gas Transmission and is independent from any commercial interests of any organisation within the Gas Industry.

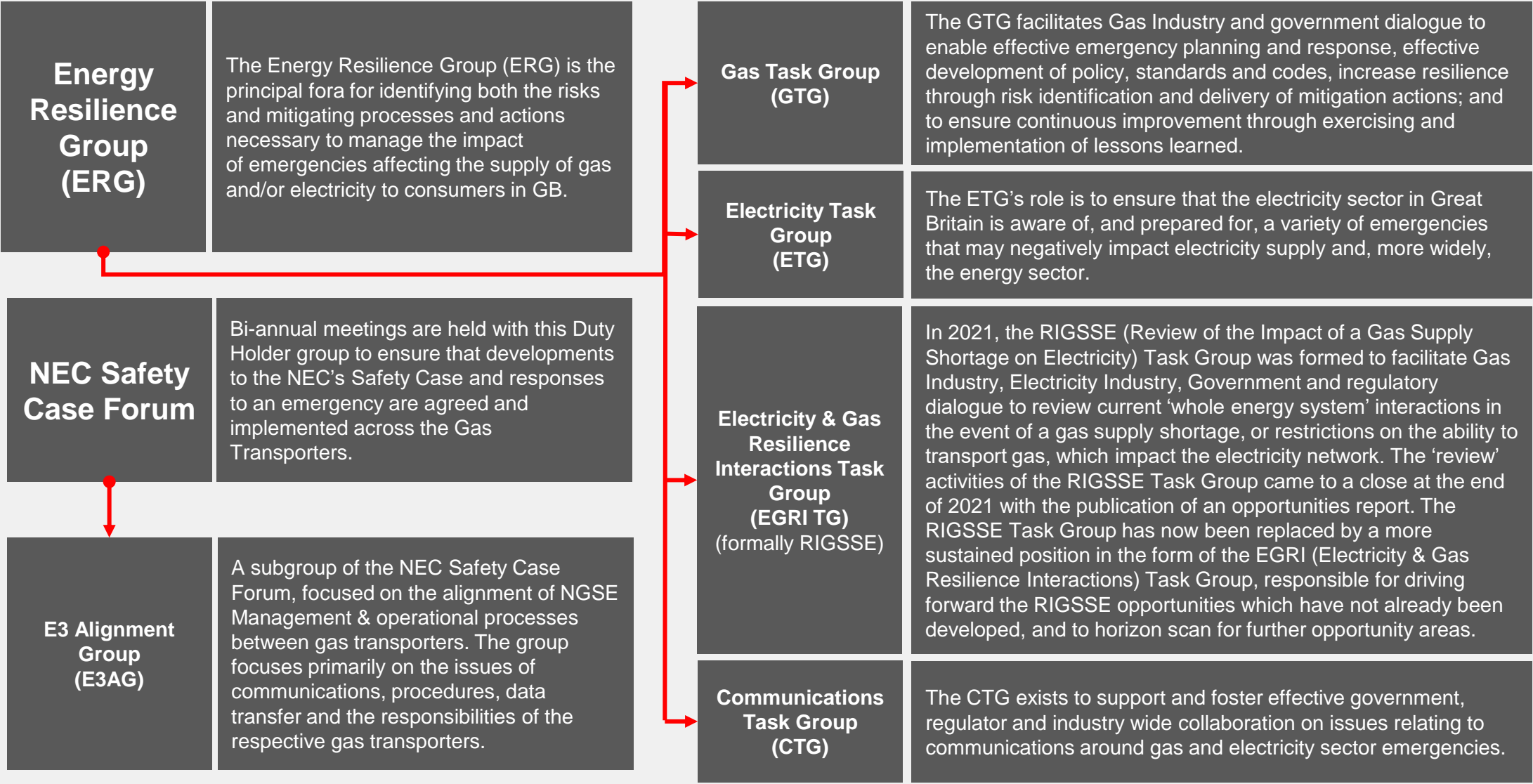
Industry participants such as Transporters and Shippers have a legal duty to cooperate with the NEC, who has the powers to direct the defined duty holders.

Click the image on the right to watch a short video which explains the role of the NEC



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Appendix 2 – Industry Working Groups



Appendix 3 – List of Abbreviations and Definitions

CTG	Communications Task Group (see App 2 – Industry Working Groups)	GSO	Gas System Operator (National Gas)
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (UK Government)	GTG	Gas Task Group (see App 2 – Industry Working Groups)
DNO	Distribution Network Operator (Electricity) (See ENA website – Who’s My Network Operator)	HSE	Health and Safety Executive (UK Government)
ERG	Energy Resilience Group, formerly the E3C (App 2 – Industry Working Groups)	LDZ	Local Distribution Zone within Gas Distribution Networks
EGRI	Electricity & Gas Resilience Interactions Task Group see (App 2 – Industry Working Groups)	MCM	Million Cubic Metres (Gas unit of measurement for NTS)
ENA	Energy Networks Association (See ENA website)	MN	Gas Margins Notice (See NG Website)
NESO	National Energy System Operator	NEC	Network Emergency Co-ordinator (see App 1 - The NEC)
GBN	Gas Balancing Notification (See NG Website)	NEMT	Network Emergency Management Team (National Gas - GSO)
GDN	Gas Distribution Network (See ENA website – Who’s My Network Operator)	NGSE	Network Gas Supply Emergency (See NG website)
GS(M)R	Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 1996	NTS	National Transmission System (National Gas)
GNCC	Gas National Control Centre (National Gas)	NSTA	North Sea Transition Authority (UK Government) (See NSTA website)

Emergency Specification gas	GS(M)R makes provision to widen the standard gas quality specification to ‘prevent a supply emergency’	GAS Report	Gas Available Status Report which enables the GSO to better request information, via the NSTA GAS Portal, to understand gas availability from the offshore and onshore sector
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