

Very Large Daily Metered Consumers (VLDMCs) Directly Connected to the National Transmission System (NTS)

Participation Requirements

There are around 60 power generation and industrial and commercial sites directly connected to the National Transmission System (NTS). These are all Very Large Daily Metered Customers (VLDMCs). The National Gas Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT) will keep VLDMCs informed from the outset of an emergency.

At Stage 2 of a Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE), contacting VLDMCs and requesting they cease taking gas (“load shedding”) is a key action. This process will be tested during the Network Emergency Co-ordinator (NEC) Assurance Exercise.

Start of Exercise

VLDMCs will be alerted to the commencement of the exercise via established communication channels. The start message will be complimented by a short situation report to inform participants of the background to the scripted unfolding events. The communication will be prefixed with:

“EXERCISE NAME – START OF EXERCISE”

Stage 1

The exercise scenario will require the NEMT to request that the NEC to declares a NGSE in response to high demand and a range of supply issues. The NEMT will alert the industry to the declaration of a NGSE at Stage 1 by issuing a [NEC Declaration Form](#), via established communication channels.

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

Depending on availability at supply points, the NEMT may request the admittance of Emergency Specification Gas (ESG) on to the NTS. VLDMCs that are likely to receive ESG will be contacted.

Stage 2

As the response to the exercise scenario progresses, it is assessed that load shedding of VLDMCs will be a key part of the NEMT’s strategy to re-balance the network. The NEMT will request the NEC declare Stage 2 of an NGSE to access this option. The [NEC Declaration Form](#) will be updated to inform industry that Stage 2 has been declared. The receipt of the declaration form should alert VLDMCs that they are likely to be contacted for the purpose of load shedding.

The NEMT will be briefed on the load shedding strategy and asked to commence the process of contacting sites to cease taking gas. The team will collate the latest flow nominations and P70s to determine which sites are already offline. Offline sites will still be contacted and given the instruction not to recommence taking gas, but this will take place after prioritising the contact of sites which are already online.

To load shed a VLDMC, a member of the NEMT will call the site via the contact details stored on the NEMT’s contact database. A verbal instruction will be given to cease taking gas. The member of the NEMT will request an estimation of the time it will take to complete this action.

NEC Assurance Exercise Participation Requirements

The telephone call will be followed by a written instruction in the form of a GS(M)R Direction Notice (via email). It is the phone call with which a VLDMC must comply.

It is the site's responsibility to inform their Shipper/Agent or commercial trading desk of gas flow amendment to support the NEC instruction. For the purposes of the exercise, it is recommended that this process be conducted, though it is important to pre-fix all messages of this nature with the word 'Exercise' and confirm all recipients understand the message is for exercise purposes and no further action is required. The NEMT will also issue a notice to shippers that load shedding has commenced, though this does not replace the requirement for sites to contact their Shipper/Agent.

Stage 3

There are no specific actions which concern VLDMCs at Stage 3. The NEMT will release a method of communication which can be used for enquiries during this time.

Stage 4

If Stage 4 is declared, the NEMT will contact VLDMCs, most likely in reverse order, to advise the site that they may resume consuming gas. This phone call will be followed up by the issue of an updated GS(M)R Direction Revocation Notice (via email) revoking the original instruction.

Contact

Should you have any queries or require further information regarding any aspect of an NEC Assurance Exercise, please visit the [National Gas Website](#) or get in touch with the National Gas Energy Resilience Team using the contact details provided below:

Email: gasops.emergencyplanning@nationalgas.com