

Network Emergency Coordinator Exercise 2013



Exercise Ulysses

Overview

- Required under Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 1996 to test arrangements in place to manage a Network Gas Supply Emergency
- Ulysses consisted of 2 elements to exercise across 3 days:
 - National Grid GSO internal exercise held on 17th September 2013
 - Network Emergency Co-ordinator (NEC) industry exercise held on 18th and 19th September 2013
 - Involving NEC, NEMT, Transporters, Shippers, DECC, Terminal and Storage Operators
- NEC exercise to test industry emergency arrangements are aligned to Network Gas Supply Emergency procedure T/PM/E/1 (including industry communications) and T/PM/GNCC/E/3
- Testing successful completion of recommendations from previous NEC exercises (including Titan)
- Observations and feedback gathered from exercise participants will feed into the NEC report to be published by HSE

Exercise Ulysses Overview

GSO Internal Exercise

- Formulation of pre emergency commercial strategy to prevent and mitigate the effects of a developing Gas Deficit Emergency (GDE)
- Principal objective to test commercial actions available to GNCC to avoid a Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE):
 - OPN Rules Management
 - Distribution Network Offtake Flow Swaps and pressure agreements
 - Scaling back of Off peak NTS Exit Capacity
 - OCM Title Market Balancing Actions and associated NBP scenarios
 - OCM Locational Market balancing actions
 - Buying back of Firm NTS Exit Capacity
 - Operating Margins
- Internal exercise to provide a realistic basis and build up to NEC emergency declaration
- Underpinned by NTS Network Analysis to determine mitigating actions required

Exercise Ulysses Overview

NEC Industry Exercise

- GDE initiated as result of multiple significant supply losses
- Test the effectiveness of commercial and industry response to a potential NGSE affecting the National Transmission System, covering:
 - Formulation of emergency strategy to prevent or mitigate the effects of a developing GDE
 - Emergency communication lines and procedures
 - Firm load shedding arrangements
 - DN system isolation and restoration plans
 - Market Operations' response to a Gas Deficit Emergency.
 - Interface with DECC JRT (Joint Response Team)
 - DECC Upstream interface
- Underpinned by NTS Network Analysis to determine firm load shedding quantities

Initial Feedback & Observations

- Effective test of emergency procedures for Stage 1 & 2 processes
 - Scenario extended over emergency over too many days, not allowing for Stage 3 and 4 (DN Isolation & Restoration) procedures to be fully tested
- Effective test of emergency strategy
 - Scenario developed provided for a structured challenge and review of NEMT emergency strategy and NEC declaration request
- Effective test on new DN critical pressure requirements with Network Analysis support
- Some delays experienced due to exercise scenario used and minor inconsistencies in communications & terminology
 - Improved planning and DN engagement required going forwards
- Successfully introduced new NEMT roles
 - NEC Technical Secretary and Incident Controller Secretary
- Effective implementation of recommendations from Exercise Titan

Exercise Report

- All feedback received will be responded to over the next month
- NEC and Market Operation exercise report, prepared by NEC Emergency Planning Team, to be provided to the HSE
 - Target date end of November
- If there is any further feedback on the exercise or for further information on any specific actions and recommendations please contact the Emergency Planning Team:
 - gasops.emergencyplanning@nationalgrid.com
 - Mark Amos, Emergency Planning manager, 01926 654878
- NEC Exercise 'V' expected to take place during September 2014