

Short Term Access to System Flexibility Allocation Methodology

nationalgrid

Introduction

This methodology has been produced in accordance with UNC TPD Section J 7.3.2 by National Grid NTS and outlines the principles by which National Grid NTS will make short term access to system flexibility available to Users, over and above the Users prevailing entitlements. In this context short term flexibility is referring to access to Within Day and Day Ahead system flexibility, specifically:

- Notice periods for all Users; and
- Increases in NTS Exit (Flexibility) Capacity for DNO Users – this refers to requests in excess of the allocated OCS entitlements for an offtake

This document is consistent with the published Exit Capacity Release Methodology Statement. It supersedes all earlier versions of the Short Term Access to System Flexibility Methodology. The System Flexibility Restriction Notice (SFRN) process which was contained within earlier versions of the methodology is no longer in effect.

Methodology

National Grid NTS may make short term flexibility available to Users, where such flexibility is requested via an Offtake Profile Notification (OPN) as per UNC TPD Section J 4.5.6

Where it is deemed feasible to do so, National Grid NTS will accept OPNs allowing;

- Gas to be made available for offtake at a lesser period of notice than is laid out in TPD J 4.5.4,
- Additional NTS Exit (Flexibility) Capacity (for DNO Users), as requested in accordance with TPD J7.3.1

National Grid NTS will undertake system capability assessments on an ongoing basis ahead of, and during, the Gas Day. It is anticipated that under normal operating conditions, short term flexibility will be available to meet the requirements of Directly Connected Users and Distribution Networks. In all instances Users and DNOs will signal their request for short term flexibility via the OPN.

There may be instances, however, where it is not possible to accommodate the requested short term flexibility. National Grid NTS will assess the prevailing operational conditions when determining whether requests can be accommodated. Factors to be taken into account will include (but are not limited to); NTS pressures, anticipated supply and demand levels, maintenance activities, linepack levels and NTS Exit Capacity bookings. If, in the reasonable opinion of National Grid NTS, accepting a Users request for short term flexibility will give rise to an Operational Balancing Requirement, then the OPN requesting such flexibility will be rejected. The term Operational Balancing Requirement covers actions at a local and national level, including physical (e.g. use of additional compression) as well as commercial actions. The User will be notified that the OPN request has not been accepted by fax notification.

In scenarios where National Grid NTS has identified that OPNs requesting short term flexibility may not be accommodated or if an OPN requesting flexibility (as described above) is rejected, a notification may be issued to all Users providing advance notice that there is an increased risk that further requests for short term flexibility may be rejected. Messages will be issued to all Users via ANS, indicating the affected NTS Exit Zones (as published on the National Grid website). These ANS messages will be issued at the discretion of National Grid NTS based on available information.

Information regarding OPNs rejected on the basis of short term flexibility requests will be made available at the Gas Operational Forums. It is anticipated that this would take the form of a presentation giving an overview of the circumstances leading to the OPN rejections and number of rejected OPNs by NTS Exit Zone.

Communications

As noted in the above methodology, where National Grid NTS has identified a potential shortfall in available short-term system flexibility, an ANS message will be issued to notify NTS Users. Furthermore, if the forecast potential shortfall is lifted, then a further ANS message will be issued to reflect this revised forecast. The ANS messages in both scenarios are given below:

1. Issue notice

Please be aware that based on information submitted to National Grid NTS, there is an increased likelihood that OPN requests for additional short term flexibility may not be accommodated in NTS Exit Zones (xxx).

2. Lift notice

Further to the message issued on DD/MM/YYYY [include the time if it is issued and lifted on the same day], please be aware that the previously identified risk associated with the release of additional short term flexibility is no longer present in NTS Exit Zones (xxx).