

NEC Assurance Exercise Participation Requirements



Storage Facility Operators

Participation Requirements

There are several storage facilities connected to the National Transmission System (NTS). Storage facilities operate in two modes, import or export. Contacting Storage Operators and requesting they increase/decrease or switch to import/export is an action available under a Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE). The following is the storage flow direction process which will be tested an annual Network Emergency Coordinator (NEC) Assurance Exercise.

Start of Exercise

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

“NEC ASSURANCE EXERCISE – START OF EXERCISE”

At any stage of the response the National Gas Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT) may request storage information from Storage Operators through the issue of a [Storage Information Request](#) form via the ‘Supply’ Team. Storage Operators are requested to complete and return this form within 30 minutes of receipt. The information contained will provide the NEMT key situational awareness to form their response strategy.

Stage 1

The exercise scenario will require the NEMT to request the NEC declare an NGSE to the category of a Gas Deficit Emergency in response to high demand and a range of supply issues. The NEMT will alert Storage Operators 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 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 contact details are on file.

Stage 2

As the response to the exercise scenario progresses, it is assessed that curtailment of storage withdrawal (from the NTS) will be a key part of the NEMT’s strategy to re-balance the NTS. It may also be necessary to direct Storage to withdraw (into the NTS). The NEMT will request the NEC declare Stage 2 of an NGSE in order to access this option. The [NEC Declaration Form](#) will be updated to inform industry that Stage 2 has been declared. The receipt of the updated declaration form will alert Storage Operators to prepare for the potential for the NEMT to direct them to curtail or amend their storage injection/withdrawal.

NEC Assurance Exercise Participation Requirements



The NEMT will be briefed on the requirement to curtail storage injection and increase withdrawal and asked to commence the process of contacting Storage Operators to advise them of this instruction. Storage Operators will be telephoned via the contact details stored on the NEMT's contact database. A verbal instruction will be given to cease injection and amend storage withdrawal rates. The telephone call will be followed up by a written instruction in the form of [Storage Withdrawal Curtailment Notification](#) form . It is the phone call with which a Storage Operator must comply.

Data provided in the requests should be based upon actual on-the-day rather than pre-determined exercise data.

Contact

Should you have any queries or require further information regarding any aspect of an NEC Assurance Exercise, please visit the National Gas' Emergency Information [website](#) or get in touch with the National Grid Gas Emergency and Incident Framework Team using the contact details provided below:

Email: gasops.emergencyplanning@nationalgas.com