

Exercise HYDRA

NEC Assurance Exercise 2026

Industry Briefing

Network
Emergency
Co-ordinator



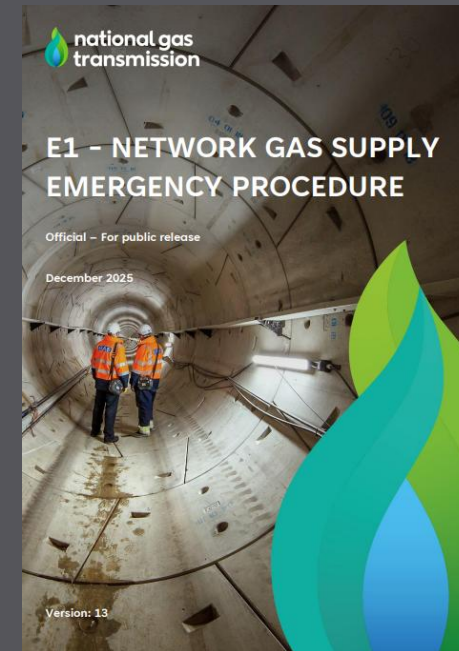
NEC ASSURANCE
EXERCISE
HYDRA



Next
Page

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

Exercise HYDRA will be a single extended day exercise. It will focus on NEC communications with all industry participants in an emergency and assure they are aware of their obligations to comply with NEC instructions.



The ‘E1 Network Gas Supply Emergency Procedure’ sets out how NGSEs are managed. Version 13 was published in December 2025. 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:



Home: takes you back to this page



Glossary: Link to abbreviations and definitions



Navigation: takes you to the next or previous page

[Introduction >](#)

[Executive Summary >](#)

[Aim and Objectives >](#)

[Exercise Scope >](#)

[Simulated Data >](#)

[Exercise Participants >](#)

[Exercise Initiation >](#)

[Exercise Reporting >](#)

[Contact >](#)

[Appendices >](#)



This year's exercise format introduces an extended one-day exercise complemented by shorter satellite exercises to focus on specific areas of response. These targeted activities will allow deeper exploration of complex issues and learning point resolution compared to the previous three-day model.

[Introduction >](#)

[Executive Summary >](#)

[Aim and Objectives >](#)

[Exercise Scope >](#)

[Simulated Data >](#)

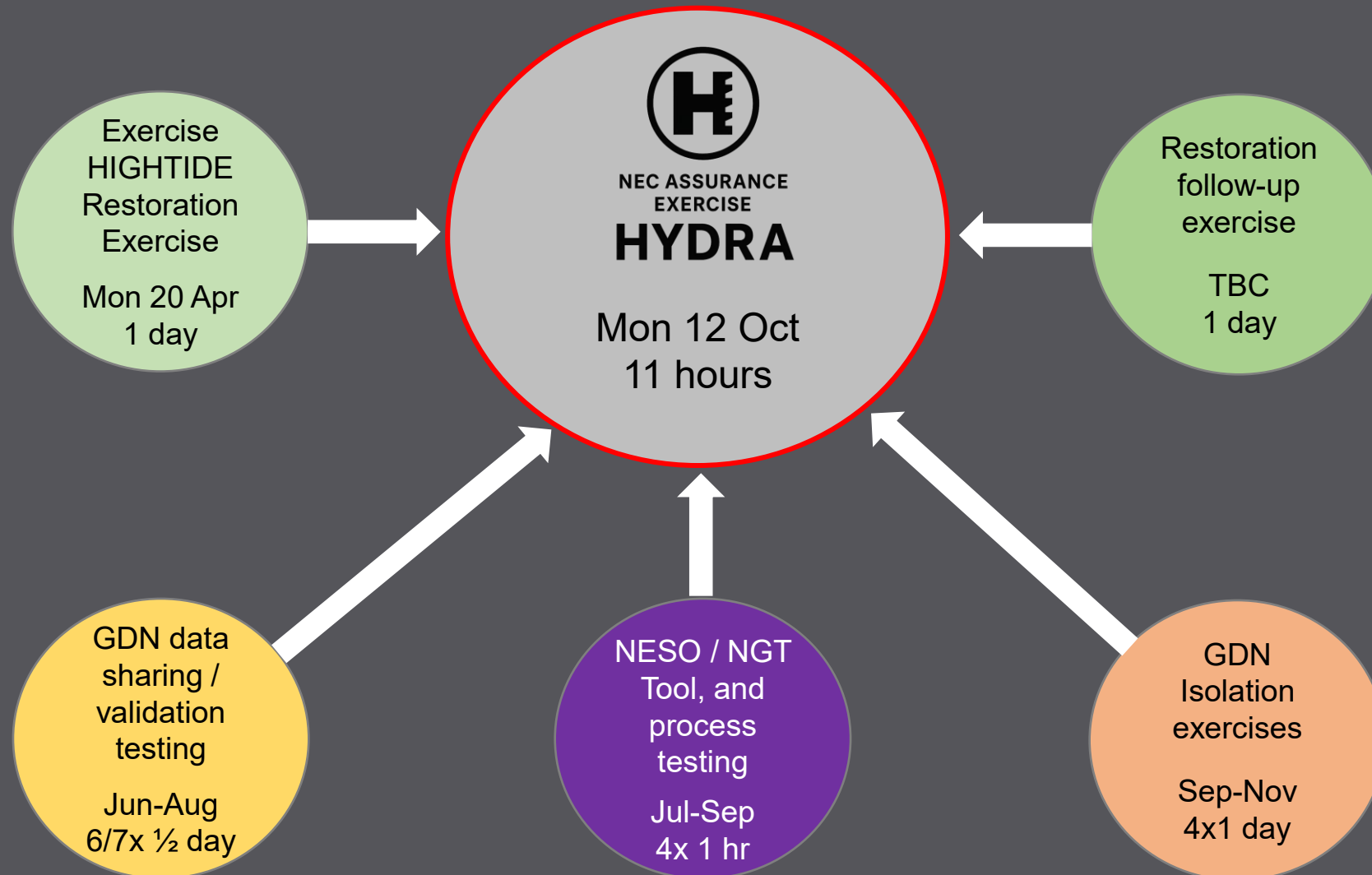
[Exercise Participants >](#)

[Exercise Initiation >](#)

[Exercise Reporting >](#)

[Contact >](#)

[Appendices >](#)

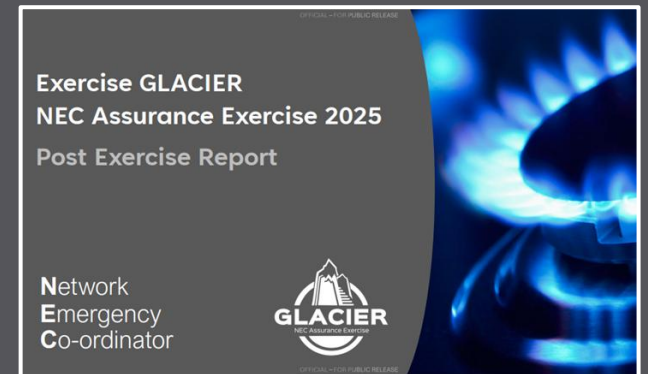


Learning Point Allocation

Each event in the table below has been designed to target the learning points from Exercise GLACIER

NGSE Stages	Event	Description	Timings	Exercise GLACIER Learning Point Assessment
Stages One & Two	NESO / NGT	Develop and test process and procedures	Jul-Sep – 4x 1hr	8
	GDN Data Sharing	Testing the sharing of information	Jun-Aug – 6/7x ½ day	4, 5
	Exercise HYDRA	11-hour collective assurance exercise	Mon 12 Oct – 11hrs	1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Stage Three	GDN Isolation	Improve interactions and develop procedures for isolation	Sep-Oct – 4x 1 day	2, 3
Stage Four	Restoration	Understand the implications of isolation actions on the ability to restore safely	Mon 20 Apr, + 1 day TBC	2 + Restoration Development

A summary of the Learning Points can be found within the Exercise GLACIER Post Exercise Report, by clicking the image on the right



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 HYDRA will simulate a supply loss to trigger an NGSE.
- Industry notifications shall be tested through the activation of a Gas Balancing Notification (GBN) and Emergency Declarations.
- Exercise HYDRA 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 HYDRA will look to test that both gas and electricity participants can appropriately respond to a gas supply shortage which has electricity system implications.
- The Office of 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.

[Introduction >](#)[Executive Summary >](#)[Aim and Objectives >](#)[Exercise Scope >](#)[Simulated Data >](#)[Exercise Participants >](#)[Exercise Initiation >](#)[Exercise Reporting >](#)[Contact >](#)[Appendices >](#)

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 a gas supply shortage, using warning notices and the establishment of communication channels, then gain an understanding of how these are received by industry (post exercise).
- The capability of the Primary Transporter to form an accurate situational awareness through industry collaboration.
- Extend the exercise duration to include a shift change, enabling validation of effective incident handover.
- 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.

[Introduction >](#)[Executive
Summary >](#)[Aim and
Objectives >](#)[Exercise
Scope >](#)[Simulated Data >](#)[Exercise
Participants >](#)[Exercise
Initiation >](#)[Exercise
Reporting >](#)[Contact >](#)[Appendices >](#)

Exercise Scope

[Introduction >](#)

[Executive
Summary >](#)

[Aim and
Objectives >](#)

[Exercise
Scope >](#)

[Simulated Data >](#)

[Exercise
Participants >](#)

[Exercise
Initiation >](#)

[Exercise
Reporting >](#)

[Contact >](#)

[Appendices >](#)

W/C 5th October Preparation

- Briefing materials sent to participants
- Working level meetings between government and key industry participants, used to brief on the pre-emergency scenario as it develops
- Key exercise stakeholder alignment meetings

Monday 12th October Emergency

- Pre-emergency actions
- Emergency actions
- Public Appeal

Simulated data

[Introduction >](#)[Executive
Summary >](#)[Aim and
Objectives >](#)[Exercise
Scope >](#)[Simulated Data >](#)[Exercise
Participants >](#)[Exercise
Initiation >](#)[Exercise
Reporting >](#)[Contact >](#)[Appendices >](#)

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 from periods of high demand with extreme weather superimposed onto the scenario.

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.

In advance of the exercise, National Gas' Exercise Control will provide an exercise briefing video which exercise participants should watch to be briefed on the response position. Exercise Control will give a national perspective of the exercise conditions and the simulated weather.

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

- Introduction >
- Executive Summary >
- Aim and Objectives >
- Exercise Scope >
- Simulated Data >
- Exercise Participants >
- Exercise Initiation >
- Exercise Reporting >
- Contact >
- Appendices >

Government and Regulators	National Gas Transmission	Terminal Operators and LNG Importation Terminals		Storage Facilities	National Transmission System – Directly Connected Sites
Department of Energy Security and Net Zero	Crisis Management Team	Terminals:		Aldborough – SSE	Gas Distribution Network Operators
North Sea Transition Authority	Network Emergency Management Team	Easington – Gassco, Langed	St Fergus SAGE – Ancala Midstream	Hatfield Moor (Beltoft) – Scottish Power	
Health and Safety Executive	Corporate Affairs Response Team	Easington – Centrica	St Fergus NSMP – PX	Hilltop – Kistos plc	
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	Silver Response Teams	Easington – Perenco, Dimlington	St Fergus – Shell	Hole House Farm – Kistos plc	
		Bacton – Shell	St Fergus – National Gas	Holford - Uniper	
Network Emergency Co-ordinator	Future Energy Networks	Bacton – National Gas	Teesside TGPP – PX	Hornsea – SSE	Wales and West Utilities
National Energy System Operator	Energy Networks Association	Bacton SEAL – PX	Teesside CATS – Kellas Midstream	Humbly Grove – Humbly Grove Energy	Interconnectors
Electricity System Distribution Network Operators	CCGT Power Stations	Bacton – Perenco	Theddlethorpe – Angus Energy	Rough - Centrica	
		Barrow – Spirit Energy	Somerset Farm – Adapt Biogas	Stublach – Storengy UK	
		LNG Terminals:			BBL – BBL Company
		Milford Haven – South Hook		Shippers	Irish Interconnector – Gas Networks Ireland
		Milford Haven - Dragon			IUK - Fluxys
		Isle of Grain – National Grid			



[Introduction >](#)

[Executive
Summary >](#)

[Aim and
Objectives >](#)

[Exercise
Scope >](#)

[Simulated Data >](#)

[Exercise
Participants >](#)

[Exercise
Initiation >](#)

[Exercise
Reporting >](#)

[Contact >](#)

[Appendices >](#)

Exercise Initiation

The exercise will commence with the briefing of the National Gas System Operations Duty Officer c.07:00 hours, on Monday 12th October 2026. 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 HYDRA – Start of Exercise”

The exercise will end at the discretion of Directing Staff, in discussion with the HSE, c.18:00 hours, on Monday 12th October 2026. A message will be issued to industry stating:

‘Exercise HYDRA – 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.

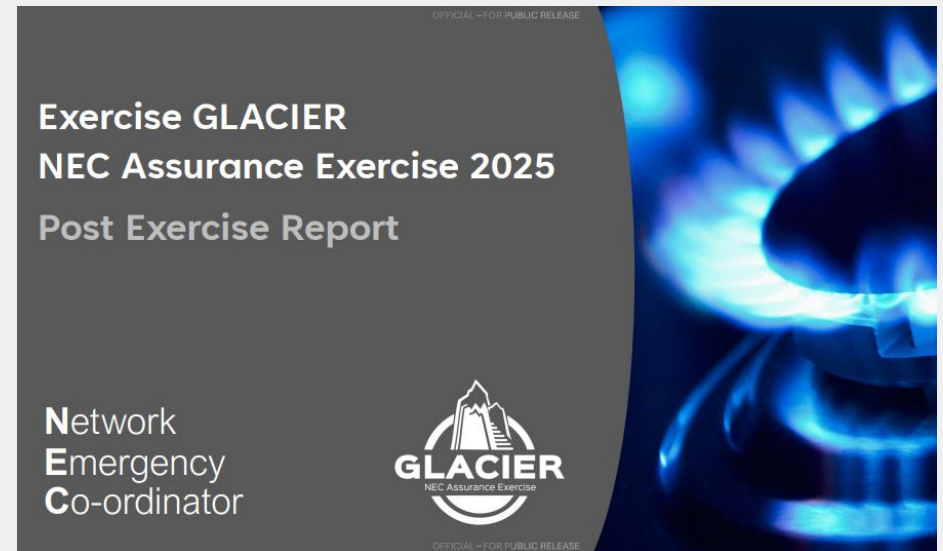


Exercise Reporting

Following the exercise and receipt of industry feedback, the Office of the NEC will prepare a report on Exercise HYDRA 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 HYDRA 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 2025 NEC Assurance Exercise GLACIER



[Introduction >](#)

[Executive Summary >](#)

[Aim and Objectives >](#)

[Exercise Scope >](#)

[Simulated Data >](#)

[Exercise Participants >](#)

[Exercise Initiation >](#)

[Exercise Reporting >](#)

[Contact >](#)

[Appendices >](#)



Contact

Should you have any queries or require further information regarding any aspect of Exercise HYDRA, 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



Appendices

[Introduction >](#)

[Executive
Summary >](#)

[Aim and
Objectives >](#)

[Exercise
Scope >](#)

[Simulated Data >](#)

[Exercise
Participants >](#)

[Exercise
Initiation >](#)

[Exercise
Reporting >](#)

[Contact >](#)

[Appendices >](#)

- 1 The NEC
- 2 Industry Working Groups
- 3 List of Abbreviations and Definitions



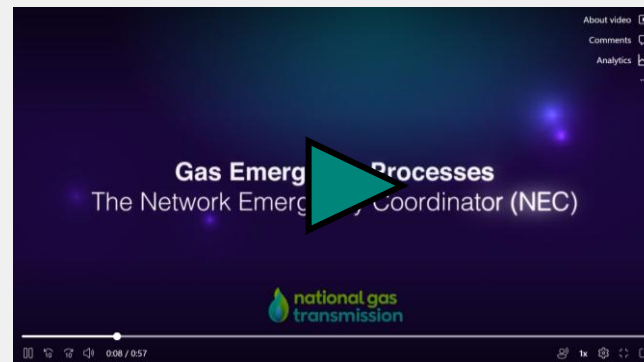
Appendix 1 – The NEC

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



**Network
Emergency
Co-ordinator**

Introduction >

Executive
Summary >

Aim and
Objectives >

Exercise
Scope >

Simulated Data >

Exercise
Participants >

Exercise
Initiation >

Exercise
Reporting >

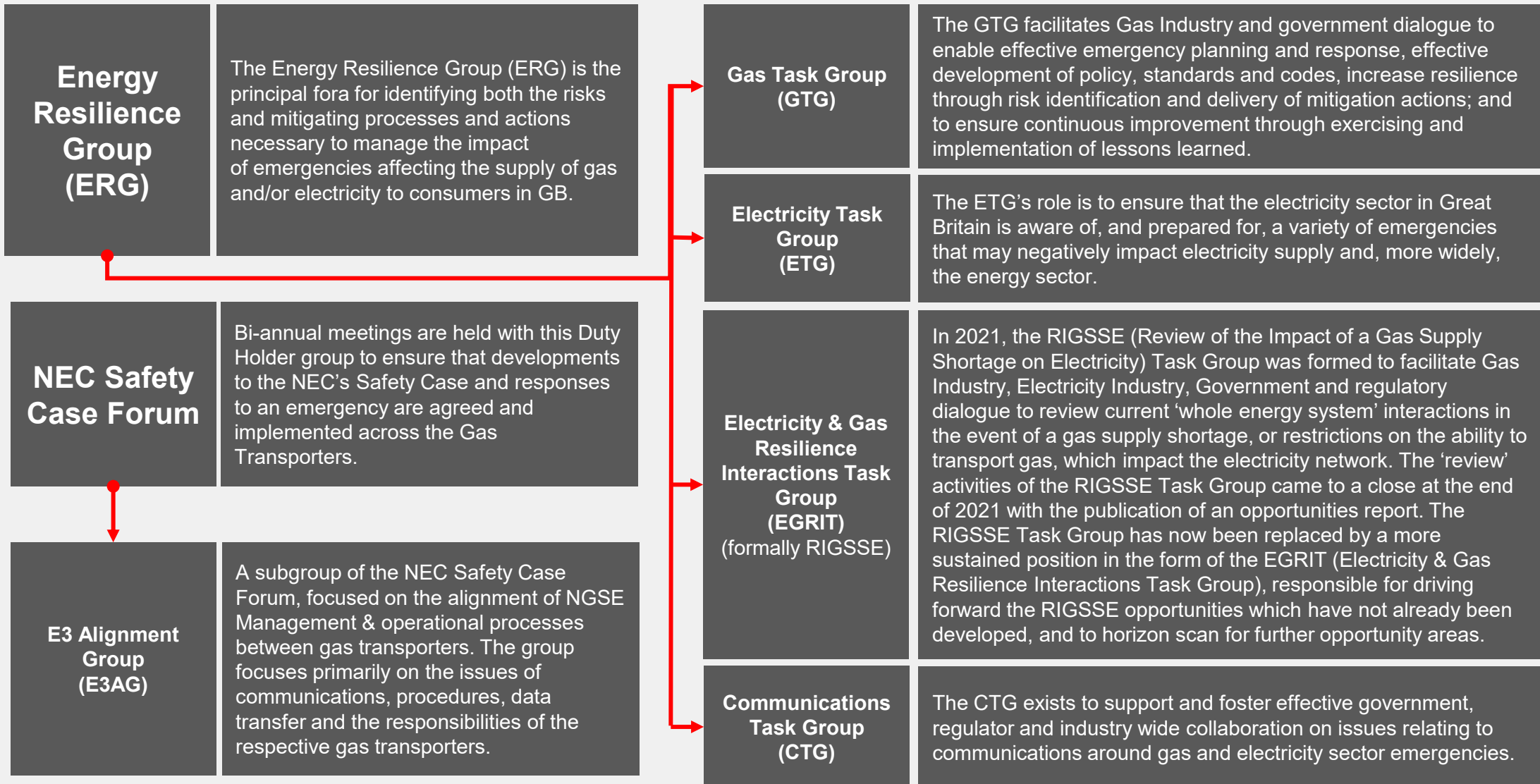
Contact >

Appendices >



Appendix 2 – Industry Working Groups

- Introduction >
- Executive Summary >
- Aim and Objectives >
- Exercise Scope >
- Simulated Data >
- Exercise Participants >
- Exercise Initiation >
- Exercise Reporting >
- Contact >
- Appendices >



Appendix 3 – List of Abbreviations and Definitions

CTG	Communications Task Group (See Appendix 2)	GTG	Gas Task Group (See Appendix 2)
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (UK Government) (DESNZ Website)	HSE	Health and Safety Executive (UK Government) (HSE Website)
DNO	Distribution Network Operator (Electricity) (ENA website – Who’s My Network Operator)	LDZ	Local Distribution Zone - within Gas Distribution Networks
ERG	Energy Resilience Group (See Appendix 2)	MCM	Million Cubic Metres (Gas unit of measurement for NTS)
EGRIT	Electricity & Gas Resilience Interactions Task Group see (See Appendix 2)	MN	Gas Margins Notice (NGT Website)
ENCC	Electricity National Control Centre (NESO)	NCC	National Control Centre (National Gas Transmission)
FEN	Future Energy Network (FEN Website)	NEC	Network Emergency Co-ordinator (NEC Web page)
NESO	National Energy System Operator (NESO Website)	NEMT	Network Emergency Management Team (National Gas Transmission)
GBN	Gas Balancing Notification (NGT Website)	NGSE	Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGT website)
GDN	Gas Distribution Network (Find My GDN Website)	NTS	National Transmission System (National Gas Transmission)
GS(M)R	Gas Safety (Management) Regulations	NSTA	North Sea Transition Authority (UK Government) (NSTA website)
GSO	Gas System Operator (National Gas Transmission)	Xoserve	Central Data Service provider (Gas Market) (Xoserve website)

Introduction >

Executive
Summary >

Aim and
Objectives >

Exercise
Scope >

Simulated Data >

Exercise
Participants >

Exercise
Initiation >

Exercise
Reporting >

Contact >

Appendices >

Appendix 3 – List of Abbreviations and Definitions

Introduction >

Executive
Summary >

Aim and
Objectives >

Exercise
Scope >

Simulated Data >

Exercise
Participants >

Exercise
Initiation >

Exercise
Reporting >

Contact >

Appendices >

CCGT	Combined Cycle Gas Turbine – Electricity Power Stations	Ofgem	Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem Website)
RIGGSE	Review of the Impact of a Gas Supply Shortage on the Electricity System	REDDGAS	Review of Electricity Demand Disconnection on the Gas Assets System – NESO Project

E1 NGSE Procedure	The procedure determines the processes which the Primary Transporter (National Gas Transmission) will follow in the management of an NGSE, whether potential or actual, as obligated by the Network Emergency Co-ordinator Safety Case.	GAS Report	Gas Available Status Report which enables the GSO to better request information, to understand gas availability from the offshore and onshore sector.
Emergency Specification Gas	GS(M)R makes provision to widen the standard gas quality specification to ‘prevent a supply emergency’.	Netman 1	The name of the form used by Gas Distribution Network operators to share the detail and breakdown of their end of day demand profiles.
Embedded generation	Generation (including that fired by gas) which is connected to electricity distribution systems.	ESEC	The Electricity Emergency Supply Code (ESEC) describes steps which the UK Government could take to deal with an electricity supply emergency (ESEC Guidance).

Network
Emergency
Co-ordinator

