



Distribution Constraint Management Principles Statement

DISTRIBUTION CONSTRAINT MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES STATEMENT

Version Control & Modification History

Version number	Date of Issue	Details
V1.0	May 2005	First version
V2.0	March 2006	<p>Part B – System management Tools updated to include diurnal storage and NTS inlet pressures</p> <p>Part D – Management Services – Paragraph relating to Line Pack removed and updated to include Diurnal Storage resources</p> <p>Minor housekeeping such as references to Transco updated and Network Code updated to Uniform Network Code</p>
V3.0	March 2007	Part B – System management Tools updated to include Assured NTS inlet pressures.
V4.0	February 2008	Extended Assured Offtake Pressures in Glossary
V5.0	February 2016	Minor amendments to format and text. Change to Gas Day definition in Glossary following Mod 0461
V6.0	March 2016	<p>'System management' references replaced with Constraint Management</p> <p>Part A – Special Condition E1 changed to Special Condition 1A</p> <p>Part B – License Duties – Removal of paragraph relating to an externally audited statement</p> <p>Part B – Criteria – Removal of paragraph relating to gas trading systems</p> <p>Glossary – DN Incentive Schemes – Definition amended</p>

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PART A: INTRODUCTION**1. Purpose of document**

This document sets out the Constraint Management Principles Statement ("the Statement") which Northern Gas Networks (NGN) is required to establish in accordance with Standard Special Condition D5: "Licensee's procurement and use of constraint management services" of its Gas Transporters Licence ("the Licence") ("the Special Condition") and granted pursuant to section 7 of the Gas Act 1986 (as amended) ("the Act"). The purpose of the Statement is to describe the basis on which NGN will employ constraint management services for its Distribution system. National Grid produces a similar document for its National Transmission System. The Licence places an obligation on the licensee to operate the system in an efficient, economic and co-ordinated manner.

The Statement has been developed to accompany NGN DN incentive schemes and should be read in conjunction with its Distribution Procurement Guidelines.

For the avoidance of doubt the Guidelines refer to the DN's system balancing role and do not include energy balancing activities.

NGN recognises that its DN incentive schemes create commercial incentives that need to be considered in conjunction with its other obligations and therefore this document is designed to indicate the broad framework against which NGN will make constraint management decisions.

The document covers NGN distribution system and references to pipeline and network should be construed accordingly. NGN distribution system covers the following Local Distribution Zones (LDZ), as defined in Special Condition 1A of its licence:

- Northern
- North East

2. NGN Performance

In relation to responding to the DN incentive schemes and performing functions described in this document, NGN will seek at all times to follow the guidelines contained within and shall seek to act in good faith and in a reasonable and prudent manner in its dealings save to the extent that:

- there is any standard of performance already provided for by any statute, regulation or Licence condition to which NGN is subject; or
- the continued exercise of the discretions or functions described herein could cause NGN, in its reasonable opinion, to come into conflict with any provision of statute, the Licence or other regulation.

The Licence imposes on NGN an obligation to operate the system in an efficient, economic and co-ordinated manner. Ofgem has indicated that it would expect the obligation to be satisfied where NGN is responding to the DN incentive schemes. However Ofgem has indicated that NGN behaviour should be appropriately constrained by the economic, efficient and coordinated obligation, for example, when its commercial incentives are not biting - such as when revenues relating to one or more incentive schemes are, or are expected to be, either greater than the incentive cap or lower than the incentive collar.

3. Change Process

The Guidelines have been developed by NGN and the form of the Guidelines has been approved by the Authority. It may only be modified in accordance with the processes set out in the Standard Special Condition. NGN will monitor the operation and application of the Guidelines and it is NGN intention that it will meet with Users on a periodic basis to review the operation of the Guidelines and, where appropriate, to consider modifications to the Guidelines.

In the event that any of the relevant provisions in the UNC are modified it may become necessary for NGN to seek an amendment to the Guidelines in order that it remains consistent with the UNC. Prior to any such amendment the UNC shall take precedence over the Guidelines.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Guidelines do not form part of the UNC.

PART B: GENERAL PRINCIPLES**1. Licence Duties**

In establishing the Statement the Licence requires NGN to set out the principles and criteria by which it will determine, at different times and in different circumstances, which constraint management services it will use to assist it in the operation of the distribution pipe-line system to which the licence relates, and for what purpose, and when it would resort to measures not involving the use of constraint management services in the operation of the distribution pipe-line system. Furthermore in establishing the Statement NGN must do so in a manner consistent with its statutory obligations to develop and maintain an efficient and economic pipeline system for the conveyance of gas and avoid undue preference or undue discrimination in the connection of premises to the system or the conveyance of gas through the system.

NGN other principal regulatory obligation when carrying out the constraint management actions is to take all reasonable steps to do so in accordance with the Statement.

Whilst the DN incentive schemes might be considered to be a primary driver for NGN to become more dynamic and responsive to developments in the market place, NGN is obligated, subject to the exclusions defined herein, to adhere to the Statement.

2. Criteria

The Statement cannot set out the particular constraint management measures to be employed by Northern Gas Networks in every possible operational situation.

The criteria applied in respect of deployment of constraint management services will take account of the DN Incentives; the obligation to be economic, efficient and co-ordinated; risk management considerations; and the aims included in Part F of this document.

The Special Condition recognises that in certain circumstances it may be necessary to depart from the Statement but that such departures need to be considered before deciding whether the Statement needs amendment. The reasons for departing from the detail of the Statement may include:

- where circumstances exist where not to do so would prejudice the interests of safety;
- where operational information indicates insufficient time is available to employ particular measures in accordance with the detailed processes defined herein if required effects are to be achieved;
- where the Statement has been shown to be inappropriate; or
- where Northern Gas Networks considers it to be more economic, efficient or co-ordinated to do so.

3. Constraint Management Tools

The Constraint management tools used by NGN are designed to ensure the economic, efficient and coordinated delivery of gas to networks and supply points connected to the Distribution system in accordance with the Gas Safety Management Regulations under demand conditions as stipulated by its Licence within the commercial framework prescribed by Uniform Network Code. It does this through the management of system capacity and provision of linepack on the Distribution system facilitated by:

- provision of pipe-line capacity or use of storage within the Distribution system
- procurement of flow capability products e.g. NTS (Flat) Offtake Capacity and NTS (Flexibility) Offtake Capacity from the National Transmission System
- submission of revised offtake profile notices to NTS to amend flows into the Distribution system
- provision of diurnal storage
- obtaining an assured NTS inlet pressure at each offtake from National Grid

NGN use of such tools will be influenced by the financial implications of its incentive arrangements, the necessity to achieve timely gas flow rate changes on the system and its broader obligations.

NGN shall have discretion in respect of which constraint management services envisaged within the Distribution Procurement Guidelines it may deploy.

Whilst not required as part of the requirements of this document NGN may also utilise interruption in accordance with the terms of the Uniform Network Code for the purposes of constraint management. The Uniform Network Code allows for interruption to be used for:

- constraint management purposes, i.e. to address a Transportation Constraint ;
- emergencies; or
- testing.

4. Timing of Actions

NGN will determine whether measures will be employed close to the time of gas flow taking account of programmed system inputs, forecast outputs and/or projected key pressures for each Gas Day and as a result of information received for the Gas Day from all sources including LOPs (with connected facility operators) and User Nominations. By taking account of the information received from these sources NGN will make operational decisions and apply the decision-making processes set out in this document.

NGN may also take actions well ahead of the Gas Day. This may be to reduce the size or cost of actions, or to improve the estimated risk profile against the DN Incentive Schemes given the expectation of possible prompt constraint management action requirement being necessary close to, or during, the Gas Day. NGN may use any other information, or its own assessments, to assess whether such actions would be appropriate.

5. Information Provision

Where NGN deployment of constraint management services has a primary impact upon Users' exposures, for instance on Users charges, NGN will, as soon as reasonably practicable after such deployment, indicate to Users the impact of such deployment on charges.

In respect of constraint management services where such deployment only has a secondary effect on Users, NGN will have discretion as to what information about the deployment of constraint management services it publishes and when.

Sufficient information to establish the basis for any charges will be either released to support invoiced amounts or made available to an industry or Ofgem appointed auditor to confirm the validity of the charges.

6. Emergency Procedures

Under the circumstances defined in National Grid Emergency Procedure documentation Network Gas Supply Emergency Procedures (E/1) and the Local Gas Supply Emergency Procedure (E/2) under which Emergency Procedures would be invoked, the processes and procedures in that document shall supersede all considerations arising from this statement.

**PART C: STATEMENT UNDERLYING CONSTRAINT MANAGEMENT
ACTIONS**

Not used

PART D: CONSTRAINT MANAGEMENT**Constraint Management Services**

Services include:

Capacity Tools

NGN may use NTS capacity services (NTS (Flat) Offtake Capacity and NTS (Flexibility) Offtake Capacity for the purposes of constraint management.

Storage Service Tools

NGN may procure any storage service from storage facility owners or operators, or any other market, mechanism or contract relating to physical or commercially based storage products for the purposes of constraint management where such storage facilities are connected to the pipeline system owned by the DN.

Demand and Supply Management Services

NGN may incentivise Users or end consumers to enter into contracts to affect desired gas flow offtake or delivery into the system in accordance with the terms of the Uniform Network Code.

Other Commercial and Contractual Tools

NGN may develop further services or enter into contracts that will enable it to better manage both its operational and commercial risks.

NGN Diurnal Storage resources

NGN will provide diurnal storage from its own dedicated resources and storage sites as required to meet the gas demands of customers, including storage available from Linepack, low pressure and high pressure storage vessels, and other means at its disposal. All such storage will be used and, where necessary, replenished in the same gas day

PART E: CONSTRAINT MANAGEMENT TOOL DEPLOYMENT AHEAD OF THE DAY

Rather than wait for imminent gas flows for constraint management actions it may be appropriate for NGN to deploy tools ahead of the gas day. This may be assessed on risk management, efficiency or cost grounds, amongst other considerations (as described elsewhere).

For example, it may be that gas flows at particular points are expected to exceed the capability of the system and so, rather than wait until close to gas flow to achieve the aims defined in Part F, it may be appropriate to consider deployment of constraint management tool(s) at an earlier stage.

NGN will seek to develop and implement such tools wherever it appears viable to do so, taking account of its obligations to maintain a safe and secure system and its risk/reward profile defined in the context of the DN incentive schemes. NGN may also seek to develop new tools and liquidity to improve the effectiveness, range or cost of constraint management services in the longer term.

The deployment of such tools will be at the discretion of NGN and will be guided by consideration of the incentive schemes subject to NGN other obligations.

PART F: DAILY CONSTRAINT MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The following represents the aims of constraint management processes close to the time of gas flow:

- To maintain linepack levels and other key operational parameters within predetermined operating ranges at all times within the Gas Day whilst ensuring safe operation.
- To address exit constraints where flows are forecast to exceed assessed system capability.
- To implement interruption and give notice of potential interruption conditions.
- To identify potential operational or commercial requirements to use storage services.

PART G: GLOSSARY

Capacity Constraint	A constraint affecting part of the System which results in the gas flows in that part of the System needing to be restricted
Gas Day	The period from 0500 hours on one day to 0500 hours on the following day
LDZ	Local Distribution Zone
Linepack	The volume of gas within the DN pipelines calculated to facilitate delivery of gas to networks and supply points connected to the distribution system in accordance with the gas safety Management Regulations under demand conditions as stipulated by its GT Licence.
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LOPs	Local Operating Procedures agreed between National Grid and Delivery Facility Operators
MCM	Million Cubic Metres
NTS	The National Transmission System
NTS Offtake (Flat) Capacity	Is capacity which a Distribution Network operator is treated as using in causing or permitting gas to flow from the NTS at a rate which (for a given daily quantity) is even over the course of a Day
NTS Offtake (Flexibility) Capacity	Is capacity which a Distribution Network operator is treated as using or releasing from utilisation in causing or permitting gas to flow from the NTS to the extent that (for a given Daily Quantity) the rate of offtake or flow is not even over the course of a Day
OCM	On the Day Commodity Market - Trading System or contingency balancing arrangements
Projected Closing Linepack	The expected end of Gas Day linepack level
Diurnal Storage	Is the quantity of gas required in any given gas day that will balance the input (supply) to match the gas demand at the parts of the day where that demand exceeds the supply. This gas will then be put back into store over night with a net storage use effect across the day of zero. It should be noted that diurnal storage can take several forms including internal LDZ storage, either low or high pressure, and NTS swing.

DN Incentive Schemes

Incentive schemes contained within the calculation of NGN allowed revenues set out in Part B of Special Condition 1B of its Licence to incentivise certain operational and/or commercial behaviours on NGN as Distribution Network Operator

Assured Offtake Pressures

For each day in any Gas Year, the Assured Offtake Pressures are the 0600 and 2200 pressures specified for that Gas Year in the Offtake Capacity Statement. The pressure at any time of any day will not be higher than the 06:00 hrs value but will never be less than the 22:00 hrs value.