

Northern Gas Networks

31 October 2008

Long Term Development Statement 2008

Northern Gas Networks

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[Long Term Development Statement 2008](#)

Foreword

The Long Term Development Statement, published annually, provides a ten-year forecast of transportation system usage and likely system developments that can be used by companies contemplating connecting to our system or entering into transport arrangements, to identify and evaluate opportunities. It is produced in accordance with Standard Condition D3 of Northern Gas Networks' Gas Transporters Licence.

The Statement explains our latest volume forecasts, system reinforcement projects and investment plans. It has been published at the end of the 2008 planning process following an appraisal of the current market conditions.

Layout

The Statement contains essential information on actual volumes and the process for planning the development of the system, including demand and supply forecasts, system reinforcement projects and associated investment. The main body of the document provides an overview of the key issues, with all details contained in the appendices.

Background

This document is the fourth edition to be published by Northern Gas Networks. The document sets out our assessment of the future demand and supply position for natural gas in Northern Gas Networks and outlines proposals for investment in the Local Transmission and Distribution Systems.

Northern Gas Networks manages the development, operation and maintenance of the High Pressure and below 7bar Distribution Networks. These extend from the Inlet Valves of the Pressure Regulating Installations at the National Transmission System interface, to the outlet of the consumer's Emergency Control Valve in the North East of England, northern Cumbria and West, North and East Yorkshire.

The restructuring of the gas industry during 2005 led to the formalisation of relationships between various parties, not least between the Distribution Networks and National Grid Gas (NGG). Network staff have been involved in the development of key documents, which describe this relationship and the resulting processes. In order to fulfil its Licence obligation as a Gas Transporter, Northern Gas Networks is required to confirm to NGG the quantity of gas required at a number of different demand levels. This is stated as a request for Offtake Daily Quantity (Flat Capacity) and the amount of Storage (Flexibility) at each offtake. We also indicate the Peak Hourly Flow and associated Minimum Inlet pressure required for each point in the Network where gas is offtaken from the National Transmission System. After discussion between the two parties, NGG allocates these quantities in the Offtake Capacity Statements.

The forecasts described within this document have been prepared by Northern Gas Networks (NGN). The methodology for production of the forecasts is compliant with the demand forecasting requirements of Section H of the Uniform Network Code Offtake Arrangements Document.

Chapter One - Demand

1.1 Overview

This Chapter describes the forecast for gas demand ten years ahead for each LDZ within Northern Gas Networks. It also includes discussion on how current forecasts relate to previously published forecasts. Further information is provided in Appendix 2.

Demand forecasts have been prepared as part of an exchange of information that is intended to inform respective capacity planning processes between the Independent Distribution Networks and NGG. These forecasts are compliant with the demand forecasting requirements of Section H of the UNC Offtake Arrangements document.

1.2 Demand Forecasts

This section provides an outline of our latest gas demand forecasts and the key underlying assumptions.

The demand forecasts are based on planning assumptions derived from market observations, the view of specialist consultancies and data collected from NGG's Transporting Britain's Energy (TBE) consultation process. The consultation involves a broad cross section of market participants including consumers and consumer groups, and provides important feedback on the impact of market developments, such as Climate Change Levy (CCL) and data relating to the consumption of new and existing loads.

1.2.1 Forecast Demands

This section provides an overview of our latest gas demand forecasts through to 2017/18. A more detailed view can be found in Appendix 2, which includes our forecasts for both annual and peak demand on a year-by-year basis. During the next ten years, gas demand is forecast to grow at an average of approximately 0.72% per annum on a Network basis.

At LDZ level, North East's trend suggests growth across the whole forecast period of 6.25% with average growth of 0.68% per annum.

North LDZ forecast suggests very moderate growth in demand over the first few years of the period with an increase in demand towards the end of the forecast period. Overall, the whole forecast period shows growth of 7.15%.

The models have been influenced by the recent demand patterns impacted by factors such as the warm weather, improved energy conservation and continuing high fuel prices.

Peak demand is forecast to rise by 0.94% per annum over the period within North LDZ and 1.11% in North East. This compares with respective figures of 1.29% and 1.45% for these LDZ's in 2007. This trend in peak demand follows the pattern of the annual demand and reflects a scenario of depressed economic growth over the first half of the forecast period with a return to stronger growth in the last five years of the period.

Table A1.2.1 – Northern Gas Networks Forecast Annual Demand – By Load Category

Load Band	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
0-73 MWh	46.94	46.84	47.12	47.40	48.11	48.54	49.13	49.60	50.51	51.11
73-732 MWh	6.58	6.56	6.59	6.61	6.72	6.76	6.83	6.89	7.01	7.09
732-5860 MWh	7.86	7.88	7.92	7.94	8.08	8.12	8.21	8.28	8.43	8.53
Small User	61.38	61.29	61.63	61.94	62.91	63.42	64.17	64.76	65.96	66.73
Firm > 5860 MWh	9.81	9.76	9.68	9.72	9.84	10.00	10.12	10.26	10.44	10.64
Interruptible < 1465 GWh	10.88	10.88	10.84	10.69	10.56	10.59	10.54	10.52	10.47	10.50
Total Large / V. Large User	25.51	25.45	25.33	25.22	25.22	25.40	25.47	25.60	25.72	25.95
LDZ Consumption	84.50	84.21	84.44	84.67	85.82	86.37	87.22	87.85	89.28	90.14
LDZ Shrinkage	0.52	0.51	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.53	0.53	0.54	0.55	0.55
LDZ Demand	85.02	84.72	84.96	85.19	86.34	86.90	87.75	88.39	89.82	90.69

Note

- Figures may not sum exactly due to rounding.
- All figures in TWh

1.2.1.1 Annual Flows

Annual forecasts are based on average weather conditions. Therefore, when comparing actual demand with forecasts, demand has been adjusted to take account of the difference between the actual weather and the seasonal normal weather.

The result of this calculation is the weather corrected demand.

The basis for any calculation of future demand is the accuracy of the previous forecast.

Table A.1.2.1.1 provides a comparison of actual and weather corrected throughput during the 2007 calendar year with the forecast demands presented in the 2007 Demand Statement. Annual forecast demands are presented in the format of load bands/categories, consistent with the basis of system design and operation.

Table A1.2.1.1

Northern Gas Networks	Actual	Weather Corrected	Forecast	Corrected v Forecast (%)
0-73 MWh	43.26	46.39	48.93	-5.19
73 – 732 MWh	6.07	6.57	7.26	-9.51
>732 MWh	19.00	19.46	15.08	29.00
Interruptible	12.32	12.44	11.67	6.55
LDZ Shrinkage	0.49	0.53	0.52	0.61
LDZ Total	81.12	85.38	88.26	-3.27

Historical Throughput & Forecast Annual Gas Demand by Load Band.

Figure 1.2A

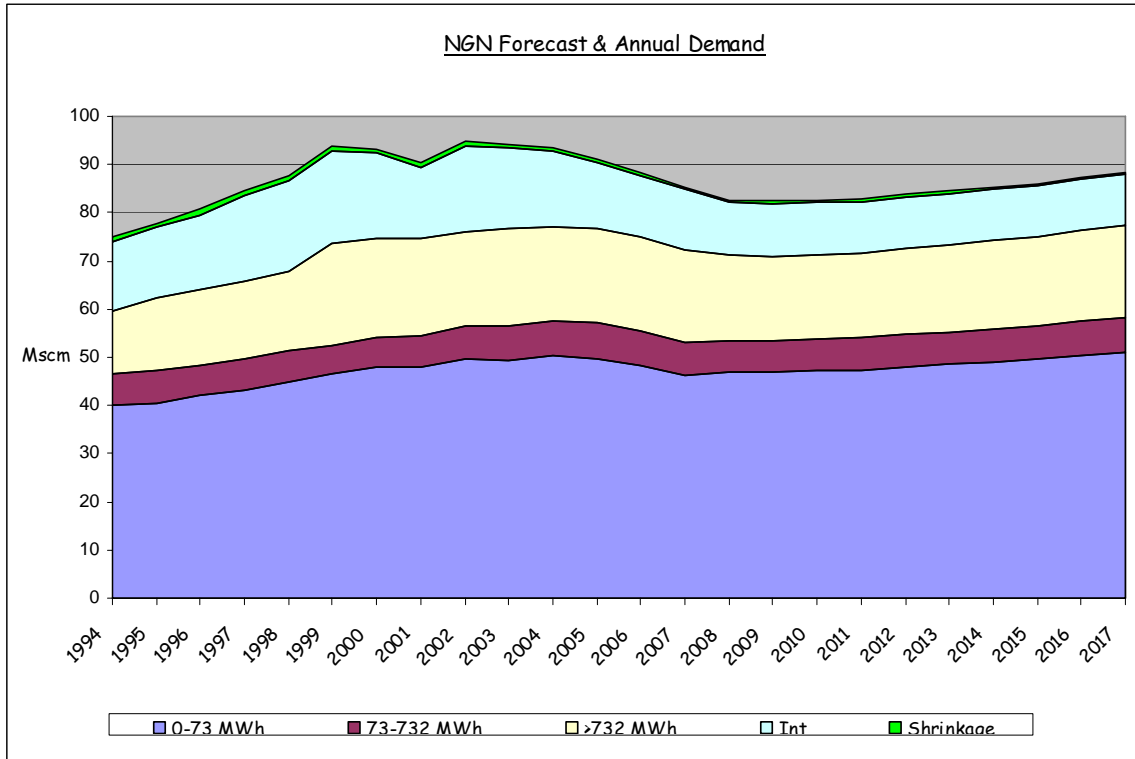


Figure 1.2B

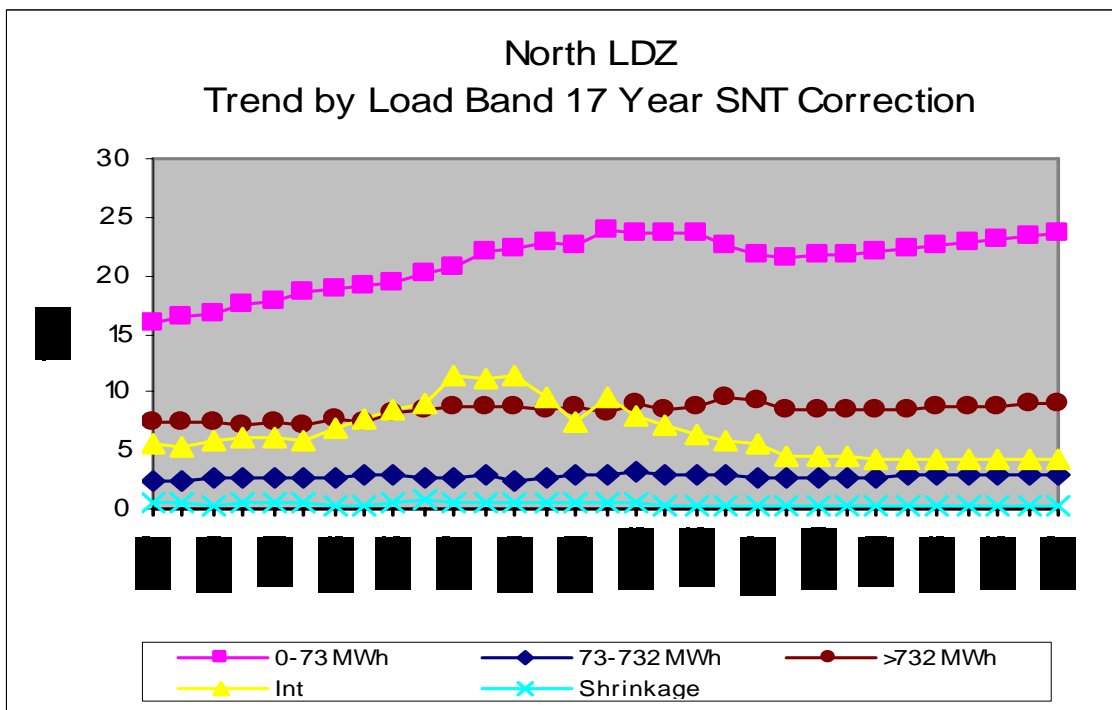
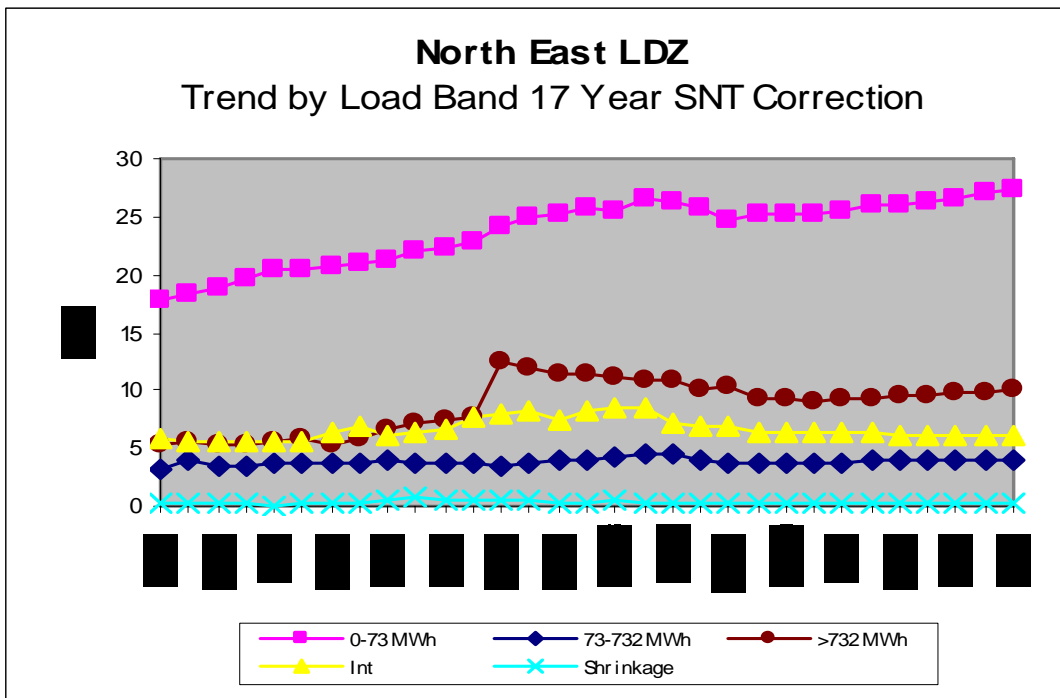


Figure 1.2C



The trend graphs above show energy by load band category for North and North East LDZ since 1987. The values from 1987 to 2007 are weather corrected throughput, and thereafter, the figures are taken from the 2008 Forecast Demand Statements.

2.2 Storage in the Network

Gas is stored at various facilities within the Network, to be used on a daily basis.

The oldest form of storage is Low Pressure Gas Holders, which are normally situated nearest to the centre of demand in towns and cities. This type of storage is usually kept for times of peak daily demand i.e. early morning and early evening.

There are also various high pressure storage facilities in the Network.

We have a High Pressure below ground pipe array, which operates at pressures between 7 and 17bar. There are 28 storage vessels on this site, each 927 feet long of 42 inch diameter steel pipe with domed end caps. These are connected together by a manifold and give 68,000 scm of storage.

There are also two sites with above ground HP Bullet Storage. There are 6 storage vessels in total at these sites with a combined total volume of 47,000 scm.

The lease on the Salt Cavity storage facility on Teesside expires on 31 December 2008 and contractual discussions have been ongoing for some time with the operator. These discussions have highlighted issues which could not be resolved leading NGN to seek alternative storage provision from the NTS.

Additional NTS storage was allocated by NGG, on the 1st October 2008 and it has subsequently been decided not to renew the contract for the Teesside Salt Cavities.

Chapter Three - Investment in the Distribution Networks

3.1 LTS Development Plan.

The LTS is designed for transmission and storage of gas on the basis of satisfying the 1 in 20 peak day firm only forecast demands. The system is developed, based on demand and supply forecasts, to ensure that this capability is maintained.

Major projects above £0.5m currently in the 2008 Plan are shown below: -

LDZ	Project Name	Authorised / Unauthorised	Initial Start Date	Construction Year	Total Project Cost (£m)
NO	North Seaton Reinforcement	U	2008	2009	2.0
NE	New Tyersal Regulator	U	2008	2010	2.8
NE	Paull Offtake Upgrade	U	2009	2010	0.9
NO	Naisberry PRI Upgrade	U	2009	2010	0.8
NO	Scremerston PRI Upgrade	U	2011	2012	0.8
NE	Whitehall Rd PRI Upgrade	U	2012	2012	1.4
NE	East Bierley PRI Upgrade	U	2012	2012	1.4
NO	Revalidate Lamesley Pipe Array	U	2012	2012	1.2
NE	Calder Valley Pipeline	U	2014	2015	27.8
NE	Catwick to Hornsea Pipeline	U	2014	2015	3.1

3.2 Below 7barg Distribution System.

The NGN below 7barg system is designed to operate between levels of pressure defined by statute, regulation and safe working practices.

We continue to develop our below 7barg Distribution system, investing in mains, services and associated plant and machinery to meet the needs of providing capacity to customers wishing to connect to our network and other Gas Transporters' requests for transportation services.

The Distribution systems are designed and reinforced to meet a peak six-minute (Pk6) demand level, which is the maximum demand level (averaged over a six minute period) that can be experienced in a network under cold winter conditions.

NGN continues to invest in capital for reinforcement and new connections consistent with the growth in peak day demand forecast in this document.

We also continue to invest in the replacement of our transportation network assets, primarily for the renewal of mains and services within Distribution systems. This includes expenditure associated with the Enforcement Policy initiated by the HSE for decommissioning all iron gas mains within 30 metres of buildings within a 30-year period. Ofgem has agreed funding arrangements for the first 5 years of the programme.

Chapter Four - Commercial Developments

The major areas of commercial development that are anticipated for the twelve months starting 1 October 2008 are expected to be:

- Revised DN Interruption Arrangements; and
- NTS/DN Offtake Arrangements.

4.1 DN Interruption Arrangements

Interruptible capacity is used by the Gas Distribution Networks (GDNs) as a system management tool which, alongside linepack, pipeline reinforcement and incremental NTS offtake capacity, helps them manage their licence obligations (licence condition A9) to economically and efficiently meet the gas transportation needs of customers connected to their pipeline network.

The model for the current GDN interruption arrangements predates the sale by National Grid Distribution (NGD) of four of its eight distribution networks, and was introduced as part of the Network Code in March 1996, when Transco had sole responsibility for managing constraints across the transmission and distribution networks.

Ofgem's view that reform of GDN interruption arrangements is necessary, to address shortcomings with the existing regime, has been well documented since at least 2001. In 2005 the GDNs were given a licence obligation to use reasonable endeavours to review and develop proposals for the reform of the interruption arrangements within the distribution networks.

Generally, Ofgem considers that much greater control of the amount of interruption purchased should rest with the GDNs, while customers should be able to offer terms for interruption that reflect the value they place on interruption rather than having to accept a uniform price. Ofgem has outlined that, in their view, this should help ensure that an efficient and economic amount of interruption is purchased, and that efficient trade-offs with alternative system operation tools, such as pipeline reinforcement and NTS offtake capacity, are made.

Following Ofgem's May 2006 consultation document, and consistent with their licence obligation to develop proposals for reform, in July 2006 National Grid Distribution raised UNC proposal 90. The proposal was raised with the support of each of the other GDNs and seeks to address the weaknesses of the existing interruption arrangements as set out in Ofgem's initial thoughts consultation document. This proposal was raised by National Grid Distribution on July 7, 2006, and has the expressed intention of reforming the interruption arrangements on the GDNs.

The proposal aims to improve upon the current interruption arrangements by introducing changes that will allow

- GDNs to determine the quantity and location of interruption purchased, and
- Shippers, on behalf of customers, the flexibility to offer interruption on their preferred terms.

This proposal was implemented in April 2008 and Road Shows were held to explain to shippers and customers the full implications of the first auction process which took place in June 2008. Unfortunately, no successful bids were received from our customers.

The other DN's were in a similar position to us and a meeting was convened with Ofgem to discuss the outcome of the auction process. It was decided that the DN's should hold an Ad-Hoc auction in October 2008 to ensure that our customers were given another opportunity to bid for interruption arrangements. NGN is currently evaluating the results of the Ad-Hoc auction.

4.2 NTS / DN Offtake Arrangements

Ofgem approved the sale of the GDN's in January 2005 following extensive consultation with industry participants. One of the key policy challenges associated with the sale process was the creation of formal operational and commercial arrangements at the new interface between NGG NTS as the owner of the transmission network and the owners of the GDNs.

The creation of formalised arrangements to govern the interface between the two types of networks was considered to be necessary for several reasons. These included:

- Ensuring that investment across the interface was efficient. This was widely recognised as important because, to varying extents, investment on the high pressure network can offset investment on the local GDN and vice versa. Whilst a single integrated network owner could be expected to optimise its investment strategy across both networks, with multiple owners arrangements are needed to indicate to the GDNs the relative costs of using the transmission network capabilities compared to investing in their own networks.
- Establishing a user commitment framework under which NGG NTS would obtain financially backed investment signals from GDNs and from shippers acting on behalf of Transmission Connected Customers (TCC) through purchases of offtake rights. This would be expected to improve the efficiency of NGG NTS, TCC and GDN investment decisions.
- Introducing non-discriminatory access arrangements to ensure that, amongst other things, NGG NTS is not biased in its allocation of the NTS's capabilities in favour of its retained GDN businesses or one class of user over another. In addition, non-discriminatory arrangements were necessary to ensure that the GDNs supplying gas to their customers, and shippers supplying gas to large customers connected to the NTS have equal opportunities to compete for and obtain access to NTS offtake capacity following the GDN sales process.

When the Authority gave its consent to GDN sales in January 2005, it included the introduction of the proposed NTS offtake arrangements from September 2005 as a condition of its consent.

In July 2008 Ofgem issued an Impact Assessment (IA) and Consultation document on the Gas National Transmission System Offtake Arrangements. The Impact Assessment is based on two sets of Unified Network Code (UNC) modification proposals relating to the reform of the framework under which shippers and Gas Distribution Networks (GDNs) obtain access to offtake (exit) capacity on the National Transmission System (NTS) of National Grid Gas (NGG).

The first set of proposals (UNC 0116V and its alternatives) has been considered in two previous impact assessments. The Authority's decision on them was referred back to the Authority following a Competition Commission (CC) appeal.

The second set of proposals (UNC 0195 and UNC 0195AV) were developed by the industry in response to the CC's decision and have not been the subject of a previous IA.

The IA assesses both sets of proposals in the light of new information received since the original decision to approve one of the proposals, the decision of the CC and analysis carried out by a UNC Review Group. The IA and its responses will inform the Authority's assessment of both sets of proposals in reaching a final decision on whether to approve any of the proposed modifications.

A final decision is expected in November 2008 with any proposals likely to be implemented from April 2009.

Appendix One - Process Methodology

A1.1 Demand

The purpose of this section is to give a brief overview of the methodology that is adopted to develop forecasts of annual and peak demand. The methodology can be categorized into three main modelling areas; annual demand, demand/weather and peak demand modelling.

A1.1.1 Annual Demand Modelling

The development of annual gas demand forecasts considers a wide range of factors, from complex econometrics to an assessment of individual load enquiries. For any forecasting process a set of planning assumptions is required, which if necessary can be flexed to create alternative scenarios. In the case of the forecasts presented in this document, assumptions include economic, fuel prices, environmental and tax policies. A number of these assumptions are based on data from independent organisations.

These forecasts are also benchmarked against the work of a number of recognised external sources, such as the DTI.

A1.1.1.1 LDZ Modelling

LDZ demand is split into four market sectors according to load size and supply type (i.e. firm or interruptible). For each sector, models have been developed that make allowance for economic conditions, local demand intelligence, new large load enquiries, relative fuel prices, potential new markets and other factors, such as the Climate Change Levy, that could affect future growth in demand. By adopting this approach we are able to take account of varying economic conditions and specific large loads within different LDZs.

A1.1.1.2 Industrials

The production of forecasts within this sector is dependent on forecasts of individual new and existing loads based on recent demand trends, Transporting Britain's Energy feedback, load enquiries and commercial sources.

A1.1.2 Demand/Weather Modelling

Due to the temperature sensitivity of LDZ markets, forecasts of annual demand are based upon an assumed average weather condition to allow underlying year-on-year changes to be identified. The related demand models, developed for overall LDZ demand and a number of sub-LDZ load categories, are based on factors known as Composite Weather Variables (CWVs). The CWVs are derived from temperature and wind speed data, defined and optimised for each LDZ, and give a straight-line relationship between demand and weather.

There is an obligation to review, at least every 5 years, the definition and seasonal normal basis of all CWVs. To meet this obligation, a comprehensive review was completed in 2005 in consultation with the Network Code Demand Estimation Sub-Committee (DESC). As agreed by DESC, the CWV definition for each LDZ was revised and includes a new seasonal profile that improves the seasonal shape of the CWV for demand modelling purposes. The SNCWV for LDZ demand has also been revised using 17 gas years of weather data (1987/88 to 2003/04) to take account of the effects of climate change on average demand. The annual demand forecasts produced since 2005 have been calculated using 17 year SNCWVs.

This change has had no impact on the 1 in 20 peak day demands or the 1 in 50 severe load duration curves which continue to be calculated, as per the relevant statutory and licence obligations, from a longer period of weather data, in this case 1928/29 to 2006/07.

A1.1.3 Peak Day Demand Modelling

Once the annual demand forecasts and daily demand/weather models have been developed, a simulation methodology is employed, using historical weather data for each LDZ, to

determine the peak day (in accordance with statutory/Licence obligations) and severe winter demand estimates.

A1.2 High Pressure Tier Planning

Although the development of DN's Local Transmission Systems (LTS) is largely demand led, LTS capacity planning processes are not dissimilar to those utilised for the development of the NTS. GDNs use forecast demand to model system flow patterns and produce capacity plans that take account of anticipated changes in system load and within-day demand profiles.

The options available to relieve LTS capacity constraints include:

- Uprating pipeline operating pressures;
- Uprating offtakes from the NTS, regulators and control systems;
- Constructing new pipelines or storage; and
- Constructing new supplies (offtakes from the NTS), regulators and control systems.

As well as planning to ensure that LTS pipelines are designed to the correct size to meet peak flows, there is a requirement to plan to meet the variation in demand over a 24-hour period. Diurnal storage is used to satisfy these variations and may consist of gas held in linepack, low-pressure gasholders, high-pressure vessels and salt cavities.

A1.3 Lower Pressure Tier Planning (<7 barg)

The lower pressure tier system (distribution system) is designed to meet expected gas flows in any six-minute period, assuming reasonable diversity of demand. Lower tier reinforcement planning is based on LDZ peak demand forecasts, adjusted to take account of the characteristics of specific networks.

Network analysis is carried out using a suite of planning tools with the results being validated against a comprehensive set of actual pressure recordings. The planned networks are then used to assess future system performance to predict reinforcement requirements and the effects of additional loads. Reinforcement options are then identified, costed and programmed for completion before the constraint causes difficulties within the network. Reinforcement is usually carried out by installing a new main or by taking a new offtake point from a higher-pressure tier. In general, the reinforcement project is of such a size that the work can be completed and operational before the following winter.

A1.4 Investment Procedures and Project Management

All investment projects must comply with our Investment and Disposals Guidelines, which set out the broad principles that should be followed when evaluating high value investment or divestment projects.

The investment guidelines define the methodology to be followed for undertaking individual investments in a consistent and easy to understand manner. Together with the planning and budgeting methodology, they are used to ensure maximum value is obtained. For non-mandatory projects, the key investment focus in the majority of cases is to undertake only those projects that carry an economic benefit.

For mandatory projects, such as safety-related work, the focus is on minimising the net present cost whilst not undermining the project objectives or the safety or reliability of the network. The successful management of major investment projects is central to our business objectives.

Our project management strategy involves:

- Determining the level of financial commitment and appropriate method of funding for the project;

-
- Monitoring and controlling the progress of the project to ensure that financial and technical performance targets are achieved; and
 - Post project and post investment review to ensure compliance and capture lessons learnt.

When a Transmission project is approved, a multi-discipline team prepares an Invitation to Tender in accordance with the EC Utilities Directive. For major projects, specialist consultants with experience of preparing and evaluating tender documents are used.

Tenders are received and evaluated against previously agreed technical, quality, safety, financial and programme criteria. They are compared on a cost basis with a database of capital projects. An award is then made to the most economically advantageous tender consistent with these criteria.

The successful contractor completes the project in accordance with an agreed programme of works. It remains the contractor's responsibility to manage and supervise the works. We monitor the work on a day-to-day basis and manage the funding of the project by careful cost control.

Following completion, a Post Completion Review is carried out to provide feedback to management on project performance and to improve future decision making processes.

Our project management of major investment projects is designed to ensure that they are delivered on time, to the appropriate quality standards at minimum cost. The project management process in particular makes use of professional consultants and specialist contractors, all of whom are appointed subject to competitive tender.

Appendix Two - Gas Demand Forecasts

A2.1 Demand

During the next ten years annual gas demand is forecast to grow by only 7.15% in North LDZ and by 6.25% in North East.

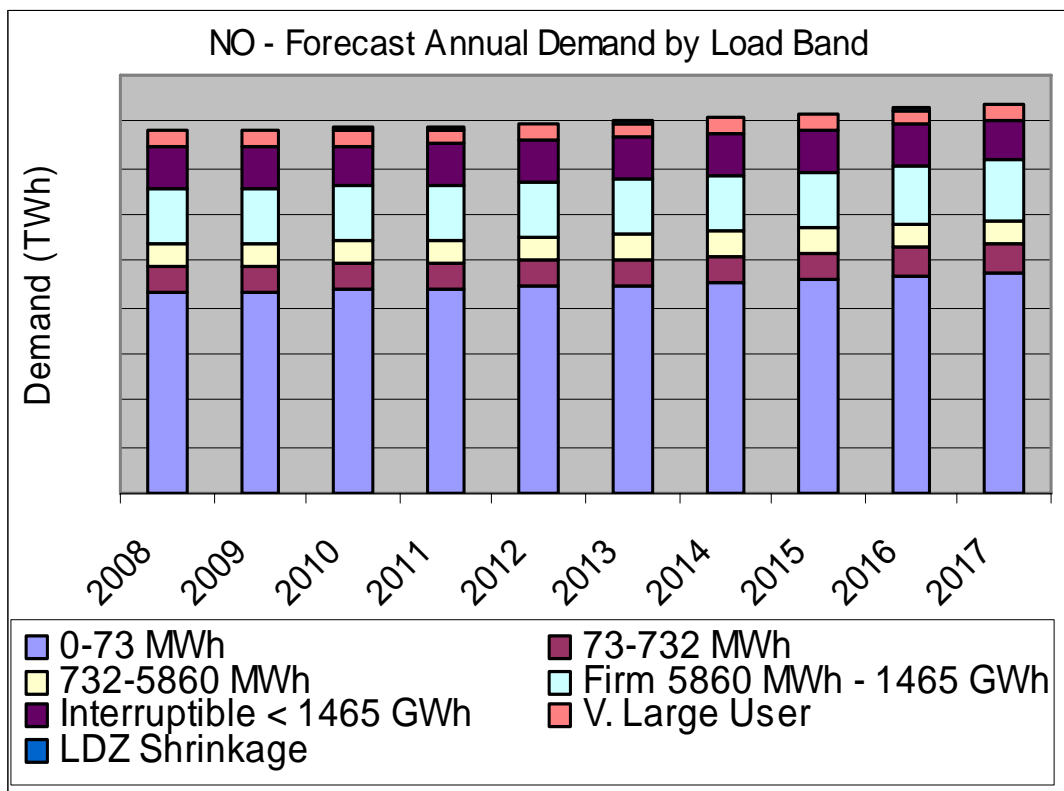
Table A2.1A
Forecast Annual Demand by Load Category by LDZ from 2008 Demand Statements. (TWh)

North.

LDZ	Load Band	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
NO	0-73 MWh	21.62	21.72	21.82	21.92	22.21	22.44	22.73	22.97	23.41	23.71
NO	73-732 MWh	2.77	2.77	2.78	2.79	2.83	2.84	2.87	2.89	2.95	2.98
NO	732-5860 MWh	2.54	2.54	2.55	2.56	2.60	2.61	2.64	2.65	2.71	2.73
NO	Firm 5860 MWh - 1465 GWh	5.93	5.87	5.90	5.91	6.00	6.04	6.11	6.17	6.29	6.36
NO	Interruptible < 1465 GWh	4.41	4.41	4.39	4.35	4.32	4.34	4.32	4.31	4.29	4.30
NO	V. Large User	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65
NO	LDZ Shrinkage	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24
NO	LDZ Demand	39.15	39.17	39.29	39.37	39.86	40.14	40.56	40.87	41.55	41.95

Note

- Figures may not sum exactly due to rounding.

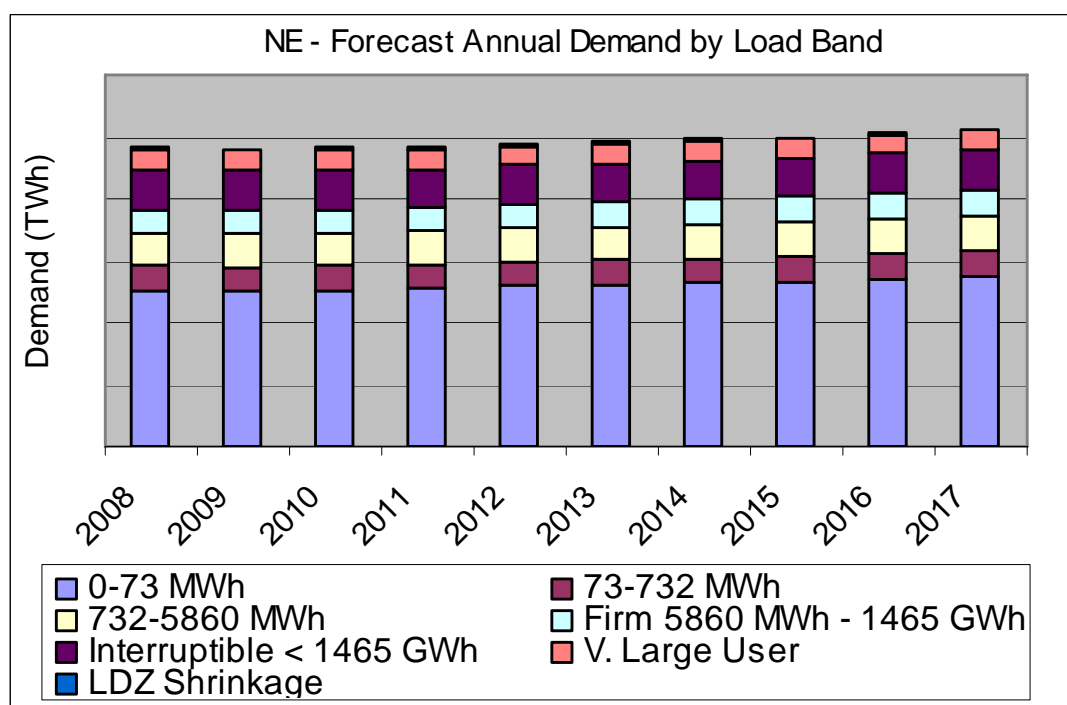


North East.

LDZ	Load Band	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
NE	0-73 MWh	25.32	25.12	25.30	25.48	25.90	26.10	26.39	26.63	27.10	27.40
NE	73-732 MWh	3.80	3.80	3.81	3.82	3.89	3.92	3.96	3.99	4.06	4.11
NE	732-5860 MWh	5.31	5.35	5.36	5.38	5.48	5.52	5.58	5.62	5.73	5.79
NE	Firm 5860 MWh - 1465 GWh	3.88	3.88	3.78	3.81	3.84	3.95	4.01	4.09	4.15	4.28
NE	Interruptible < 1465 GWh	6.47	6.47	6.45	6.33	6.24	6.25	6.22	6.21	6.18	6.20
NE	V. Large User	3.16	3.16	3.16	3.16	3.16	3.16	3.16	3.16	3.16	3.16
NE	LDZ Shrinkage	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.31
NE	LDZ Demand	45.87	45.55	45.67	45.82	46.48	46.75	47.19	47.52	48.28	48.73

Notes

- Figures may not sum exactly due to rounding.



Forecast 1 in 20 Peak Day Firm Demands by LDZ from the 2008 Demand Statements

1 in 20 Peak Day Demand (TWh)										
LDZ	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
North	251	252	253	255	257	259	262	266	269	273
North East	269	270	271	275	278	281	283	288	291	295
Total	520	522	525	530	535	540	545	553	561	569

Notes

- Figures may not sum exactly due to rounding.
- All figures in GWh.

The last few years have presented some tough market conditions for energy consumers, with high oil prices, the UK's rapidly growing reliance upon imported gas and concerns about the development of new infrastructure driving up both wholesale and retail gas prices. After a brief period of low prices during early 2007, gas prices have increased to unprecedented levels during winter 2007/08.

Higher prices have impacted demand in all sectors and total DN throughput has fallen in six out of the last seven years – significantly, there has also been a reduction in the demand of the domestic sector in each of the last three years

The current high gas prices are consistent with the current trend of high energy prices, with both oil and coal prices at record levels. The price of oil is a key driver in several major world economies including USA, China and India. High energy prices were beginning to have a negative impact on economic growth in these economies in the early part of 2008. Prices increased further over the same period and have been identified as the major influence on future growth patterns over the forecast period.

Natural Gas Prices in Europe are directly linked to world oil prices through oil indexation arrangements in many gas supply contracts. This in turn feeds directly into prices in the UK even though we have a competitive wholesale and retail gas market. Domestic gas prices were increased by all the major suppliers in the early part of 2008 and again in September.

Our forecast of fuel prices is much higher than this time last year, when the advent of new supplies being delivered to the UK resulted in a lowering of wholesale prices. This has a significant effect on the gas demand forecasts, with overall throughput forecast to be significantly lower than in last year's forecast.

Government publications in early 2008 were forecasting continued strong economic growth in the UK economy over the ten year forecast period of 2.5 to 3% per annum. However, developments in world financial markets and growing uncertainties around the state of the UK economy caused NGN to revise these forecast downwards significantly and provide a rather more pessimistic view of the UK economy.

Our figures reflect a scenario of depressed economic growth over the first half of the forecast period with average annual growth in GDP of around 1.5% per annum over the first five years with a return to stronger growth of 2.0 -2.5% per annum in the last five years of the period.

As in last year's forecast we have assumed in this forecast that environmental concerns continue to be reflected in the development of energy policy and that there will be an increasing appetite on the part of consumers to limit or reduce consumption. This assumption has been translated into further increases in energy efficiency improvements in all sectors of gas demand and results in a view of reduced growth.

2.2 Forecast Comparisons

The following charts provide a comparison of the current forecasts with those published in 2007 Demand Statements.

Figure 2.4A – North LDZ Total Annual Forecast Demand

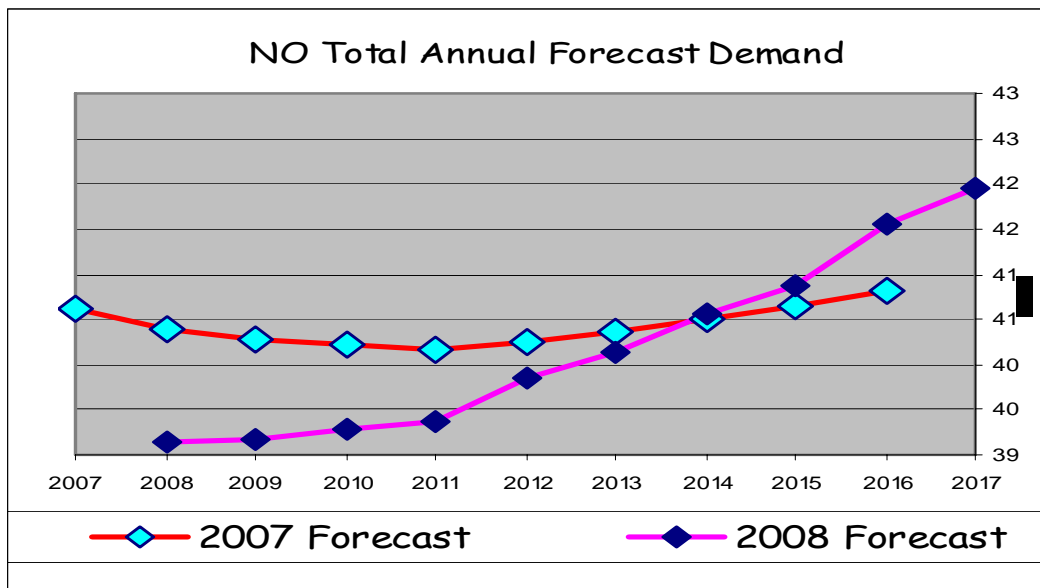
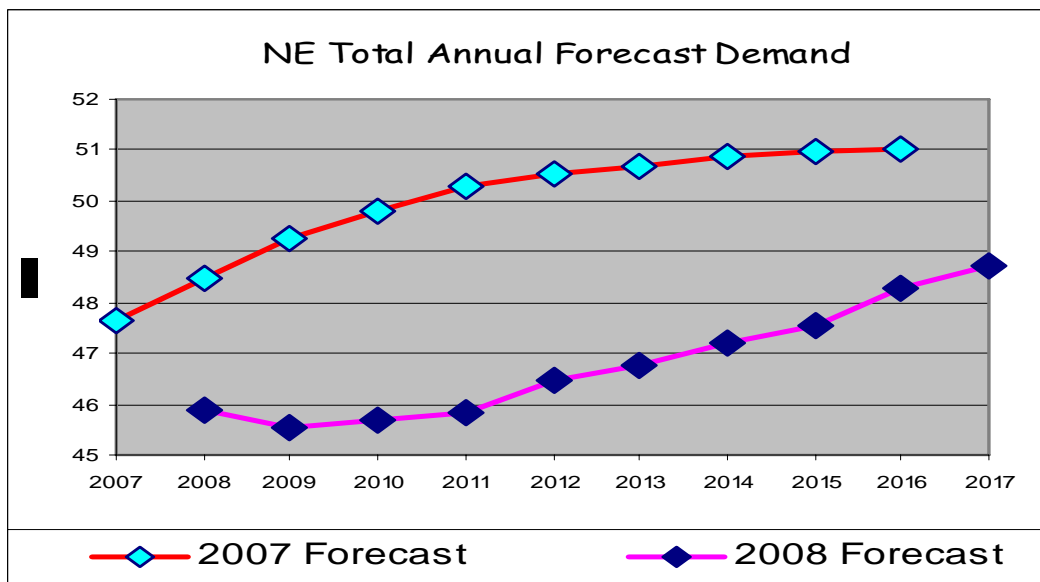


Figure 2.4B – North East LDZ Total Annual Forecast Demand



Historic assumptions by NGG have removed the effect of any short term response to relative increases in fuel prices, with a basic assumption that the gas load will return once prices reduce. The main change in the latest forecast is the assumption that demand reduction has a more permanent effect. With fuel prices forecast to remain high, there will be increased load shedding in the larger load bands coupled with no return from loads lost in the past few years. This reduces forecast demand in both the Interruptible and DM firm load bands.

Appendix Three - Actual Flows 2008

A3.1 Annual Flows

Annual forecasts are based on average weather conditions. Therefore, when comparing actual throughput with forecasts, throughput has been adjusted to take account of the difference between the actual weather and the seasonal normal weather.

The result of this calculation is the weather corrected throughput.

The weather corrected throughput and forecast demands are shown assuming a weather condition based on weather data from 17 years.

Actual throughputs have incorporated a reallocation between load bands based on reconciliation processed.

The basis for any calculation of forecast demand is the accuracy of the previous forecast.

Tables A.3.1.1 and A3.1.2 provide a comparison of actual and weather corrected throughputs during the 2007 calendar year with the forecast demands presented in the 2007 Demand Statement. Annual demands are presented in the format of LDZ and NTS load bands/categories, consistent with the basis of system design and operation.

Table A3.1.1

NORTH 2007	Actual	Weather Corrected	Forecast	Corrected v Forecast(%)
0-73 MWh	20.15	21.66	22.61	-4.21
73 – 732 MWh	2.56	2.77	3.01	-7.96
>732 MWh	8.98	9.22	8.31	10.95
Interruptible	5.57	5.63	4.85	15.94
LDZ Shrinkage	0.21	0.22	0.23	-1.12
LDZ Total	37.48	39.50	40.63	-2.78

Table A3.1.2

N.EAST 2007	Actual	Weather Corrected	Forecast	Corrected v Forecast(%)
0-73 MWh	23.10	24.73	26.32	-6.03
73 – 732 MWh	3.50	3.80	4.25	-10.61
>732 MWh	10.02	10.24	6.77	51.15
Interruptible	6.75	6.81	6.82	-0.12
LDZ Shrinkage	0.27	0.30	0.30	1.91
LDZ Total	43.64	45.88	47.64	-3.68

As has been the case for recent years 2007 was warmer than seasonal normal, reducing total throughput by 2.02 TWh (5.3%) in North and 2.24 TWh (5.1%) in North East.

At lower levels, both the 0-73 and the 73-732MWh markets were overstated within both LDZs.

For the larger consumer sectors, North East LDZ saw an understatement in the >732MWhs whereas the Interruptible Market was very accurate.

Northern LDZ's 2007 forecast understated demand in >732MWh and the Interruptible market.

However, the total annual forecast demand was overstated in both LDZ's.

A3.2 Peak Flows

The day of highest throughput in the Network was 19th February, 2008, (37.27mscm) and was also the day of highest throughput in North East LDZ (21.81mscm). The day of highest throughput in North LDZ was 14th December, 2007, with 17.18mscm.

The throughput on 19th February, 2008 equated to 73% of peak day firm only forecast demand for North East LDZ and 14th December was 63% of peak day firm only forecast demand in North LDZ.

Record throughput in North LDZ is 20.1mscm on 30th January, 2003, and in North East LDZ the record stands at 24.4mscm on 28th January, 2004.

During the next ten years, average annual peak forecast demand growth is 0.94% in North and 1.11% in North East.

Figure 3.2a – Historical Throughput & Forecast Peak Day Firm Demand for North LDZ.

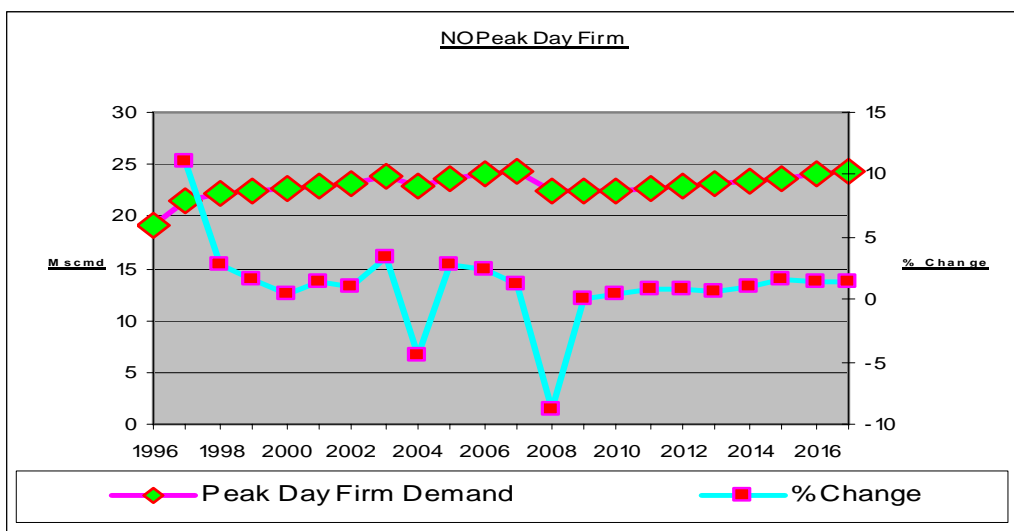
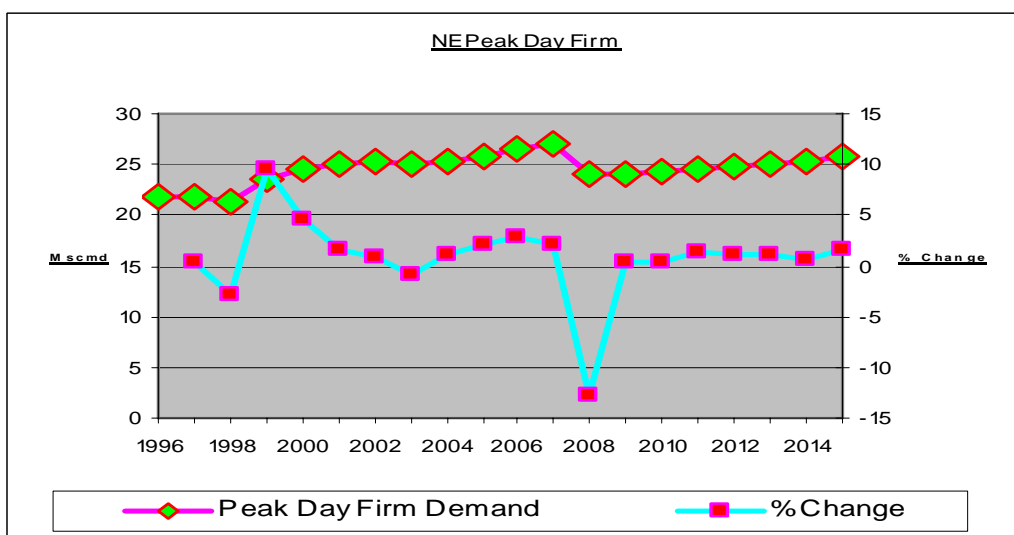


Figure 3.2b – Historical Throughput & Forecast Peak Day Firm Demand for North East LDZ.



Appendix Four - Offtakes

As an indication of available capacity at the Network's offtakes, the 2012 requested Peak Flow from NTS has been plotted against the Maximum Offtake Capacity in 2008.

Figure 4.0a – NO Small Offtakes 2012 Flow Vs Maximum

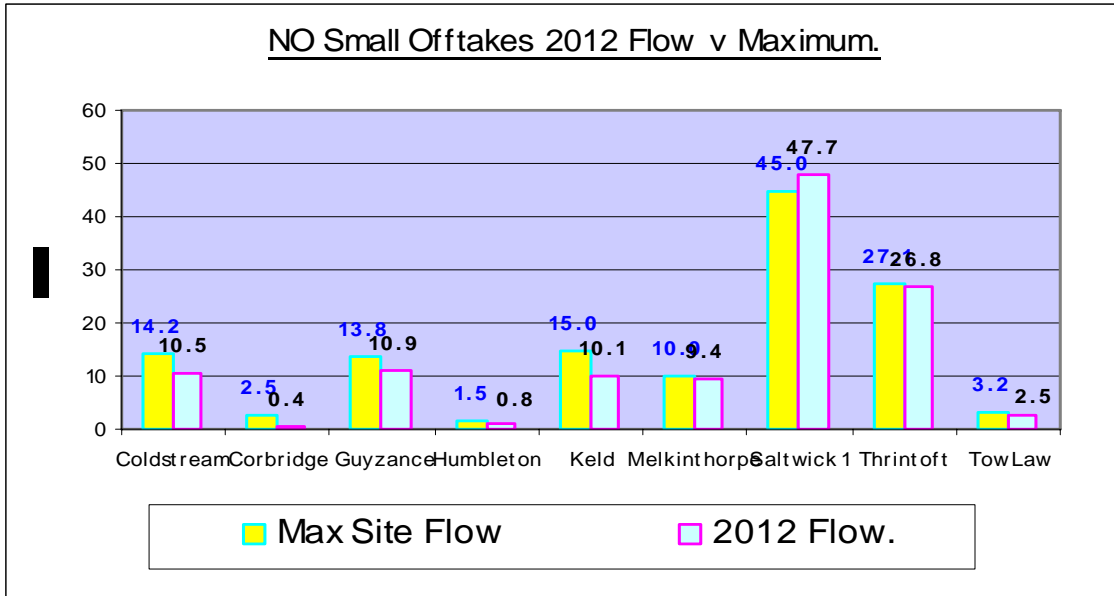


Figure 4.0b – NO Large Offtakes 2012 Flow Vs Maximum

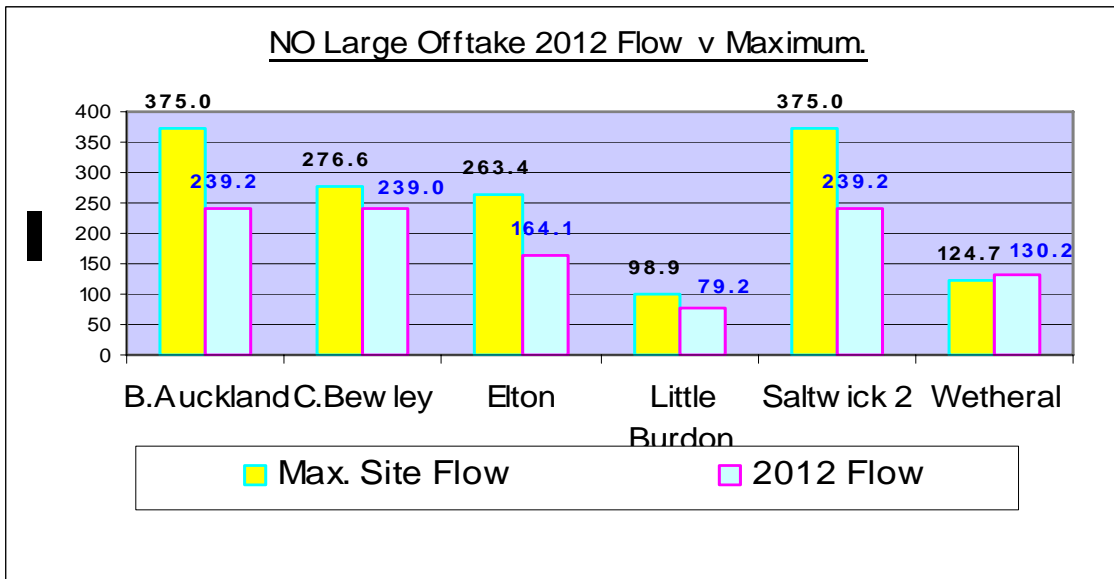


Figure 4.0c – NE Small Offtakes 2012 Flow Vs Maximum

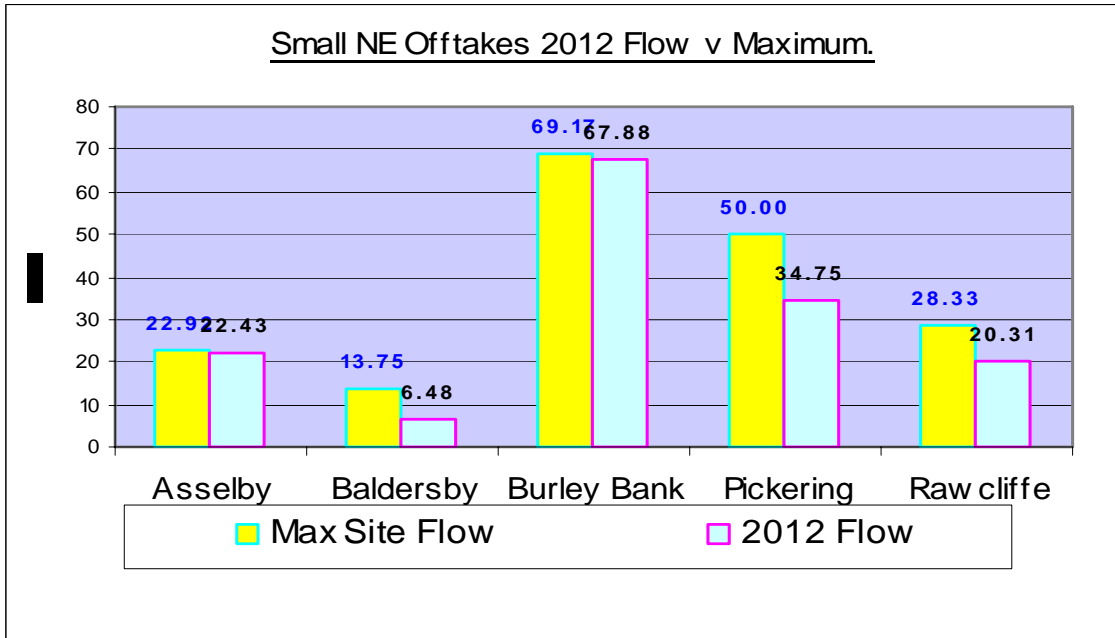
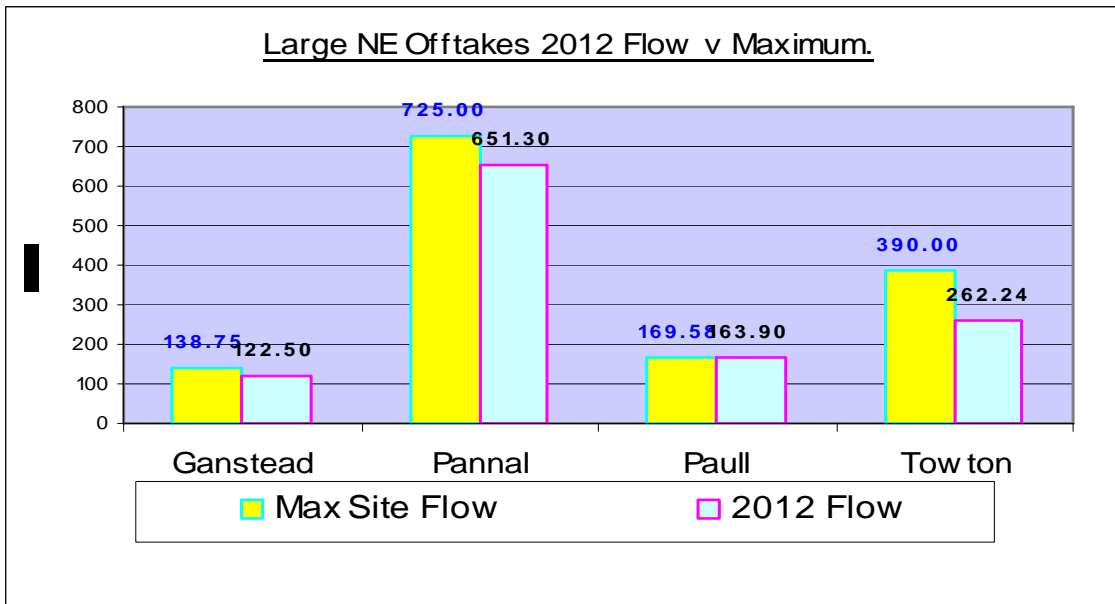
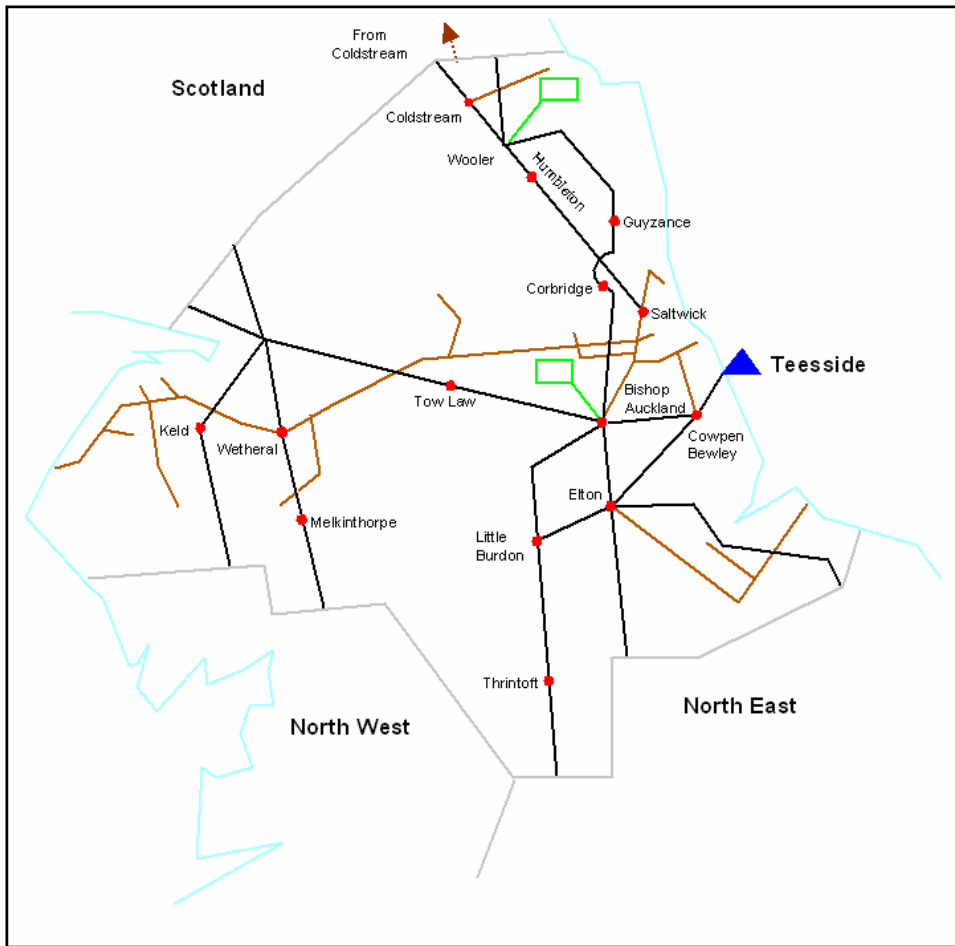


Figure 4.0d – NE Large Offtakes 2012 Flow Vs Maximum

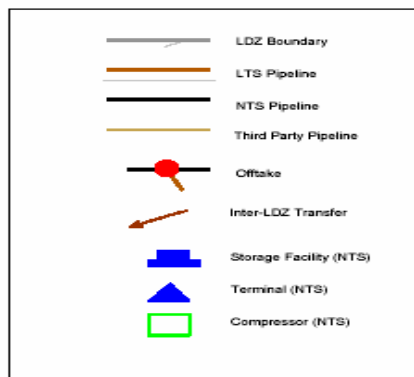


Appendix Five - The Gas Transportation System

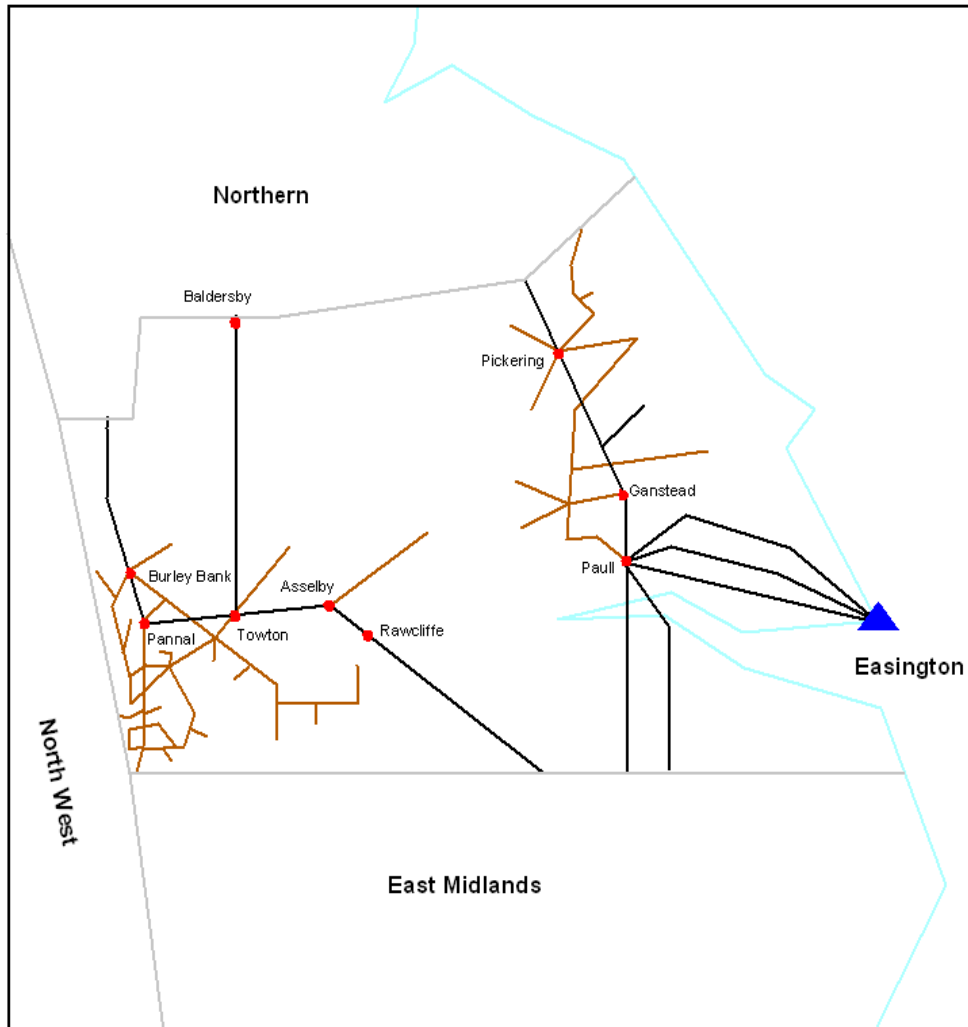
North LDZ



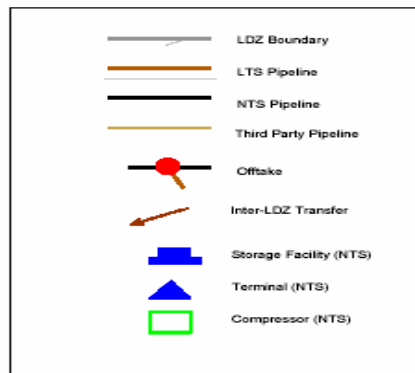
Key - Network Code LDZ Map



North East LDZ



Key - Network Code LDZ Map



Appendix Six - Connections to our System

A6.1 Introduction

Within the space of a few years, the gas industry in Britain has evolved from a situation where one company provided all new connections, to one where many alternative connection services are now available on a competitive basis.

Indeed, whilst Northern Gas Networks continues to offer connection services in line with our Gas Act obligations, customers and developers have the option to choose other parties to build their facilities, have the connection vested in or adopted by the host gas transporter (depending upon circumstances), pass assets to a chosen system operator, transporter, or retain ownership of them.

The following are the generic classes of connection.

- **Entry Connections:** connections to delivery facilities processing gas from gas producing fields or, potentially in the future, LNG vaporisation (i.e. importation) facilities, for the purpose of delivering gas into the NGN system.
- **Exit Connections:** connections that allow gas to be offtaken from our system to premises (a 'Supply Point') or to Connected System Exit Points' (CSEPs). There are several types of connected system including:
 - A pipeline system operated by another gas transporter;
 - Any other non-NGN pipeline transporting gas to premises consuming more than 2,196MWh per annum; and
 - **Storage Connections:** connections to storage facilities for the purpose of temporarily offtaking gas from our system and delivering it back at a later date.

Please note that storage may both deliver gas to the system and offtake gas from the system and therefore specific arrangements pertaining to both Entry and Exit Connections will apply. In addition to new pipes being termed connections, any requirement to increase the quantity of gas delivered or offtaken is also treated as a new connection.

It should be noted that any person wishing to connect to our system, or requiring increased flow, should contact us as early as possible to ensure that requirements can be met on time, particularly if system reinforcement is required as outlined in A6.7.

A6.2 Additional Information Specific to System Entry and Storage Connections

We require a Network Entry Agreement or Storage Connection Agreement as appropriate, with the respective operator of all delivery and storage facilities to establish, among other things, the gas quality specification, the physical location of the delivery point and the standards to be used for both gas quality and the measurement of flow.

A6.2.1 Network Entry Quality Specification

For any new entry connection to our system, the connecting party should notify us as soon as possible as to the likely gas composition. We will then determine whether the gas can be accepted, taking into account our existing statutory and contractual obligations.

The ability of Northern Gas Networks to accept gas supplies into the system is affected by, among other things, the composition of the new gas, the location of the system entry point, volumes entered and the quality and volumes of gas already being transported within the system.

In assessing the acceptability of any proposed new gas supply, we will take account of the following.

- a) Our ability to continue to meet statutory obligations (including, but not limited to, the Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 1996 (GS(M)R)).
- b) The implications of the proposed gas composition on system running costs.

- c) Our ability to continue to meet our contractual obligations.

For indicative purposes, the specification set out below is usually acceptable for most locations and encompasses, but is not limited to, the statutory requirements set out in the GS(M)R.

1. Hydrogen Sulphide
 - Not more than 5mg/m³
2. Total Sulphur
 - Not more than 50mg/m³
3. Hydrogen
 - Not more than 0.1% (molar)
4. Oxygen
 - Not more than 0.001% (molar)
5. Hydrocarbon Dewpoint
 - Not more than -2°C at any pressure up to 85barg
6. Water Dewpoint
 - Not more than -10°C at 85barg
7. Wobbe Number (real gross dry)
 - The Wobbe Number shall be in the range 47.20 to 51.41MJ/m³
8. Incomplete Combustion Factor (ICF)
 - Not more than 0.48
9. Soot Index (SI)
 - Not more than 0.60
10. Gross Calorific Value (real gross dry)
 - The Gross Calorific Value (real gross dry) shall be in the range 36.9 to 42.3MJ/m³, in compliance with the Wobbe Number, ICF and SI limits described above. Subject to gas entry location and volumes, we may set a target for the Calorific Value within this range.
11. Inerts
 - Not more than 7.0% (molar) subject to Carbon Dioxide: not more than 2.0% (molar)
12. Contaminants
 - The gas shall not contain solid, liquid or gaseous material that may interfere with the integrity or operation of pipes or any gas appliance within the meaning of regulation 2(1) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 that a consumer could reasonably be expected to operate.
13. Organo Halides
 - Not more than 1.5 mg/m³
14. Radioactivity
 - Not more than 5 Becquerel/g
15. Odour

- Gas delivered shall have no odour that might contravene the statutory obligation not to transmit or distribute any gas at a pressure below 7 barg, which does not possess a distinctive and characteristic odour.

16. Pressure

- The delivery pressure shall be the pressure required to deliver natural gas at the Delivery Point into our Entry Facility at any time, taking into account the back pressure of our System at the Delivery Point as the same shall vary from time to time.
- The entry pressure shall not exceed the Maximum Operating Pressure at the Delivery Point.

17. Delivery Temperature

- Between 1°C and 38°C

Note that the Incomplete Combustion Factor (ICF) and Soot Index (SI) have the meanings assigned to them in Schedule 3 of the GS(M)R. In addition, where limits on gas quality parameters are equal to those stated in GS(M)R (Hydrogen Sulphide, Total Sulphur, Hydrogen, Wobbe Number, Soot Index and Incomplete Combustion Factor), we may require an operational tolerance to be included within an agreement to ensure compliance with the GS(M)R.

Due to continuous changes being made to the system, any undertaking made by us on gas quality prior to signing an agreement will normally only be indicative. We are working with the Government and Ofgem in assessing the compatibility of existing specifications (both statutory and contractual) with the longer term needs of the UK in respect of additional gas supplies, and the European Association for the Streamlining of Energy Exchange (EASEE-gas) in the development of a Gas Quality harmonisation Common Business Practice. The outcomes of these projects could ultimately result in changes to our network entry quality specifications in the future.

A6.3 Additional Information Specific to System Exit Connections

Any person can contact us to request a connection, whether a shipper, operator, developer or consumer. However, gas can only be offtaken where the Supply Point so created has been confirmed by a shipper, in accordance with the Network Code.

A6.4 National Transmission System (NTS) Connections

The Applicable Offtake Pressure for the NTS, as referred to in UNC Section J2.1 is normally 25barg. Although system pressure is typically higher, it will be subject to variation over time and location on the network. We currently plan normal NTS operations with start of day pressures no lower than 33barg, but such pressure cannot be guaranteed as pressure management is a fundamental aspect of operation of an economic and efficient system.

NTS offtake pressures at any location will vary due to the following.

- Gas demand
- Gas supply pressures at entry points
- Compressor operation
- Pipeline sizes and maximum operating pressures
- Special operations such as maintenance and system development works

Offtake pressure also varies within day, from day to day, season to season and year to year. As a general rule, NTS offtake pressures tend to be higher at pressure sources such as entry points and outlets of operating compressors, and lower at the system extremities and inlets to operating compressors.

A6.5 Distribution Network Connections

Gas will normally be made available for offtake to consumers at a pressure that is compatible with a regulated metering pressure of 21mbarg. Information on the design and operating pressures of distribution pipes can be obtained by contacting the appropriate office.

A6.6 Self Lay Pipes or Systems

In accordance with Section 10(6) of the Gas Act, and subject to the principles set out in the published Licence Condition 4B Statement and the terms and conditions of the contract between us and the customer in respect of the proposed connection, where a party wishes to lay their own service pipe to premises expected to consume 2,196MWh per annum or less, ownership of the pipe will vest in us once the connection to the our system has been made.

Where the connection is for a pipe laid to premises expected to consume more than 2,196MWh per annum or the connection is to a pipe in our system which is not a relevant main, self laid pipes do not automatically vest in us. However, subject to the principles set out in the published Licence Condition 4B Statement and the relevant contractual terms and conditions, we may take ownership of pipes to such premises.

Parties considering laying a pipe that will either vest in us or is intended to come into our ownership should refer to the published Licence Condition 4B Statement and make contact with the appropriate office prior to the planning phase of any project.

A6.7 Reasonable Demands for Capacity

Operating under the Gas Act 1986 (as amended 1995), we have an obligation to develop and maintain an efficient and economical pipeline system and, subject to that, to comply with any reasonable request to connect premises, provided that it is economic to do so.

However, in many instances, specific system reinforcement may be required to maintain system pressures for the winter period after connecting a new supply or demand. Details of how we charge for reinforcement and the basis on which contributions may be required can be found in the published Licence Condition 4B Statement. Please note that dependent on scale, reinforcement projects may have significant planning, resource and construction lead-times and that as much notice as possible should be given. In particular, we will typically require three to four years' notice of any project requiring the construction of high pressure pipelines or plant, although in certain circumstances, project lead-times may exceed this period.

Glossary

[Calorific Value \(CV\)](#)

The ratio of energy to volume measured in mega Joules per cubic meter (MJ/m³), which for a gas is measured and expressed under standard conditions of temperature and pressure.

[Composite Weather Variable \(CWV\)](#)

A single measure of weather for each LDZ, incorporating the effects of both temperature and wind speed. A separate composite weather variable is defined for each LDZ.

[Distribution Network \(DN\)](#)

An administrative unit responsible for the operation and maintenance of the local transmission system (LTS) and <7barg distribution networks within a defined geographical boundary.

[Diurnal Storage](#)

Gas stored for the purpose of meeting, among other things, within day variations in demand. Gas can be stored in special installations, such as gasholders, or in the form of linepack within transmission, i.e. >7barg, pipeline systems.

[Formula Year](#)

A twelve-month period commencing 1st April, predominantly used for regulatory and financial purposes.

[Gas Transporter \(GT\)](#)

Formerly Public Gas Transporter (PGT), GTs, such as Northern Gas Networks, are licensed by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority to transport gas to consumers.

[Gasholder](#)

A vessel used to store gas for the purposes of providing diurnal storage.

[Gas Supply Year](#)

A twelve-month period commencing 1st October, also referred to as a Gas Year.

[Interruptible Service](#)

A service that offers financial incentives to customers but under which we can interrupt the flow of gas to the supply point.

[Kilowatt hour \(kWh\)](#)

A unit of energy used by the gas industry. Approximately equal to 0.0341 therms. One megawatt hour (mWh) equals 10³ kWh, one gigawatt hour (gWh) equals 10⁶ kWh, and one terawatt hour (tWh) equals 10⁹ kWh.

[Linepack](#)

The volume of gas within the National or Local Transmission System at any time.

[Load Duration Curve \(1 in 50 Severe\)](#)

The 1 in 50, or severe, load duration curve is that curve which, in a long series of years, with connected load held at the levels appropriate to the year in question, would be such that the volume of demand above any given demand threshold (represented by the area under the curve and above the threshold) would be exceeded in one out of fifty years.

[Load Duration Curve \(Average\)](#)

The average load duration curve is that curve which, in a long series of winters, with connected load held at the levels appropriate to the year in question, the average volume of demand above any given threshold, is represented by the area under the curve and above the threshold.

[Local Distribution Zone \(LDZ\)](#)

A geographic area supplied by one or more offtakes. Consists of LTS and distribution system pipelines.

[Local Transmission System \(LTS\)](#)

A pipeline system operating at >7barg that transports gas from one or more offtakes to distribution systems. Some large users may take their gas direct from the LTS.

[National Transmission System \(NTS\)](#)

A high-pressure system consisting of terminals, compressor stations and pipeline systems. Designed to operate at pressures up to 85 bar. NTS pipelines transport gas from terminals to LTS offtakes.

[Non-Daily Metered \(NDM\)](#)

A meter that is read monthly or at longer intervals. For the purposes of daily balancing, the consumption is apportioned, using an agreed formula, and for supply points consuming more than 73.2MWh pa, reconciled individually when the meter is read.

[Odourisation](#)

The process by which the distinctive odour is added to gas supplies to make it easier to detect leaks. We provide odourisation at our offtakes.

[Own Use Gas \(OUG\)](#)

Gas used by us to operate the transportation system. Includes gas used for compressor fuel, heating and venting.

[Peak Day Demand \(1 in 20 Peak Demand\)](#)

The 1 in 20 peak day demand is the level of demand that, in a long series of winters, with connected load held at the levels appropriate to the winter in question, would be exceeded in one out of 20 winters, with each winter counted only once.

[Seasonal Normal Composite Weather Variable \(SNCWV\)](#)

The seasonal normal value of the CWV for a LDZ on a day is the smoothed average of the values of the applicable CWV for that day in a significant number of previous years.

[Shrinkage](#)

Gas that is input to the system but is not delivered to consumers or injected into storage. It is either Own Use Gas or Unaccounted for Gas.

[Therm](#)

An imperial unit of energy. Largely replaced by the metric equivalent: the kilowatt hour (kWh). 1 therm equals 29.3071 kWh.

[Unaccounted for Gas \(UAG\)](#)

Gas lost during transportation. Includes leakage, theft and losses due to the method of calculating the Calorific Value.

[Uniform Network Code](#)

The document that defines the contractual relationship between System Users. The Uniform Network Code has replaced the Network Code and, as well as existing arrangements, cover the arrangements between all gas transporters.

