Wales & West Utilities

Distributed Gas Information Strategy

Contents

Foreword

WWU's Distributed Gas Information Strategy has been developed to provide basic information for those stakeholders that wish to put gas into the WWU network. The document also satisfies our licence obligation to provide an adequate level of information and a satisfactory standard of service in relation to the Distributed Gas connections process and matters relevant to it. The scope and contents of the strategy must cover how WWU will provide information to such users, in a form and manner tailored to their particular needs.

Users of this document should ensure they are using the current version of the document held on WWU's web site.

Introduction

The Distributed Gas Information Strategy document details how and when WWU will provide information to users wishing to connect Distributed Gas to WWU's network. This document is reviewed on an annual basis.

The Distributed Gas Information Strategy document describes:

1. Process of obtaining a Distributed Gas entry connection ;
2. Standards of Service
3. Information provision

WWU owns and operates the principal GB gas distribution networks in Wales and the south west of England. Further information regarding us and our activities is available on our web site, www.wwutilities.co.uk. that contains an electronic version of this document.

Each Transporter issues a Licence Condition 4B statement that describes the methods and principles used to derive connection charges. Currently WWU lists all entry connections as Sufficiently Complex Jobs (SCJ). This means that each entry connection is subject to the SCJ process which requires feasibility and design studies. A copy of WWU's 4B statement can be found on our web site,[1]
WWU also publishes a Distributed Gas Connections Guide that provides more detail of the process, and regulatory, technical and commercial matters. Each transporter also issues a Long Term Development Statement that provides an indication of the system usage for our pipeline system and likely developments.[2]

Process

General

The process to apply for a distributed gas connection is shown in Appendix 1; it can also be found on WWU's web site. WWU offers the following services with regard to distributed gas connections:

- Dedicated point of contact with our Third Party Connections department
- Free land enquiry plus estimate of capacity available

[1] http://www.wwutilities.co.uk/charging-statements2.aspx?GroupKeyPos=02,06,02,01
[2] http://www.wwutilities.co.uk/Content/Publications/pdf/WWU_Long_Term_Development_Statement_2012.pdf

- Fixed price chargeable gas capacity study (for details see our connections charging statement[3])
- Connections Agreement, Feasibility Study, Design Study and Construct if WWU is constructing any of the infrastructure
- Network Entry Agreement

All entry connections are defined in our 4B statement as being Sufficiently Complex Jobs. When a project is determined to be of Sufficient Complexity WWU will quote for, charge and having received payment, will carry out the design of apparatus prior to estimating the cost of constructing any equipment. Sufficiently Complex Jobs are charged on the basis of anticipated cost plus applicable overheads.

- As indicated above, WWU will supply the customer with a design study in respect of Sufficiently Complex entry connections. The design study is not an acceptance or offer by WWU to enter Distributed Gas into its system.
- The indicative timescales involved in obtaining services related to an entry connection on to WWU's network are provided in the table below for below 7bar connections. Please contact us if you are considering a connection to an above 7bar pipeline.

WWU supports the competitive provision of connection activities and further details are available in WWU's Distributed Gas Connections Guide which is available on our website.

Standards of Service

Timescales and Standards of Service

The GDNs have collectively agreed voluntary standards of service for distributed gas connections for the services which cannot be provided competitively.

Process	Below 7bar*
Initial enquiry	15 working days
Capacity Study	30 working days

*All periods in working days, unless stated otherwise.

Correspondence

At each stage of the process WWU will ensure that written correspondence confirming the actions that have been undertaken are sent to the customer, through the:

- Initial enquiry response;
- Feasibility Study quotation;
- Feasibility Study report;
- Connections Agreement documentation;
- Network Entry Agreement documentation; and
- Construction planning correspondence;
    - Physical commencement date;
    - Substantial completion date; and
    - Final completion date.

Information Provision

[3] http://www.wwutilities.co.uk/Distributed_Gas.aspx?GroupKeyPos=03,08,

We recognise that there are a variety of potential distributed gas producers that may be interested in connecting to the WWU network and these range from Anaerobic Digestion plants to large shale gas, coalbed methane or LNG terminals and onshore gas fields. We are also aware that some of the plants may have a choice of location and some may be constrained to a single location.

We will seek to meet customers' requirements by offering a variety of services. We can:

- Provide access to our maps to allow customers to find out which of their proposed sites are near to a suitable main
- Offer an free enquiry service as described above for customers who would prefer WWU to provide an initial view
- Face to face meetings for customers who wish to discuss their requirements with us

As we gain experience of different types of connection we will be able to develop more specific guidance for particular classes of customer.

We recognise that different customers will have different requirements that may vary according to

- Their ability to vary injection rates
- Gas quality issues that may require special consideration

Gas demand on the WWU network varies both seasonally and over the day, therefore facilities that have the ability to vary injection rates according to demand on the network will have more choice of connection points. At a very general level of guidance our experience to date is that Intermediate and Medium Pressure connections are most likely to be appropriate for anaerobic digestion plants injecting a few hundred cubic metres an hour. The reason is that most low pressure networks do not have the capacity to take gas at times of low gas demand, for example on summer nights, and connections to high pressure systems are likely to be too expensive. Entry connections for gas fields that wish to inject higher volumes are likely to need to connect to higher pressure tiers to obtain the capacity required. WWU offers a chargeable gas capacity study to customers.

WWU requires the gas injected to be compliant with the relevant regulations; however it may be possible to consider the injection of non-compliant gas in certain circumstances on a case by case basis; although customers should be aware that they will need to fund studies and may be liable for ongoing monitoring costs if such a connection is possible. If you believe that you are likely to wish to inject non-compliant gas you should make this clear as soon as possible as it is likely to affect the choice of connection point.

Contact Information

Distributed Gas Connections are handled by our third party connections department; they will be able to help you with requests to access our maps online.

Telephone: 029 2027 8567

E-mail: gtuip@wwutilities.co.uk

Post: Wales & West Utilities Limited
Wales & West House
3rd Party Connections,
,
Spooner Close
Coedkernew
NP10 8FZ

Website: http://www.wwutilities.co.uk/Distributed_Gas.aspx?GroupKeyPos=03,08,

To find out more about our charges, visit
http://www.wwutilities.co.uk/Distributed_Gas.aspx?GroupKeyPos=03,08,

If you wish to contact Ofgem:

Telephone: 020 7901 7000

Post: The Chairman,
The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority,
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets,
9 Millbank,
London SW1P 3GE