

A new voluntary framework for entry gas connections, to allow the networks and stakeholders to drive the right improvements: Agreed Terms of Reference for a Gas Networks Entry Customer Forum (EnCF)

Purpose

The purpose of this Forum is to ensure Entry connections processes, standards, and associated commercial arrangements are kept under review to promote standardisation across the networks, remove barriers, share best practise, enable efficiencies and improvements, and respond to industry developments.

The cross network Forum will also ensure changes and improvements will be coordinated and prioritised, with transparency and influence for customers and stakeholders.

Business of the Forum

- Customers, stakeholders and network present issues and challenges, for discussion by the Forum to voice and record industry feedback.
- Establish, maintain and develop the Connections Standard Methodology (CSM) which would set out how each network undertakes the connection, commissioning, maintenance, and operation for gas to grid distributed gas projects.
- The Networks will establish, maintain and review an Action Plan for all the Entry improvement initiatives including changes to the CSM. The Initial draft Action Plan will be based on existing Standardisation work supporting the first CSM, and will be supplemented by RII02 commitments, post Final Determinations in early 2021.
- Networks will present additions to the Action Plan in response to issues raised by customers and stakeholders.
- Updates on wider industry developments impacting Entry Gas customers and stakeholders, including changes initiated from the Forum but being taken forward by other governance frameworks e.g. UNC.

Scope

The scope of the Forum are the connection processes for gas injections to the networks. This includes the initial application and assessment process, the construction and initial connection to the gas grid, ongoing operation of entry gas connections, and changes through the lifetime of a facility including final decommissioning.

Any aspect of the design, construction and operation of a gas entry facility is in scope, however, many changes will be controlled by other wider industry Governance, so can only be monitored and reported in the Forum.

March 2021

Changes to the Action Plan must be shown to improve cost reflectivity, promote competition and address changes in the industry.

Note: The Action Plan can include actions to be completed by parties other than the gas networks.

Membership

The following organisations can provide a single representative per organisation to attend any Forum meeting:

- Any organisation operating one or more facilities injecting gas into the gas grid, including any party with agreed connection terms for a new facility.
- Gas Distribution Networks.
- National Grid NTS.
- Any organisation supplying Grid Entry Units.
- Association of Independent Gas Transporters.
- Energy Networks Association.
- ADBA.
- REA.
- Energy UK.
- Joint Office.
- Ofgem.

There will be additional attendees to administer and record the meetings, and ad-hoc attendees will be allowed for specific agenda items.

Governance

ENA will provide secretariat for the Forum. Documentation will be shared at least one week in advance of meetings via the online workspace Huddle, to which members would receive invitations.

Chair

The gas networks will appoint an initial Chair for the Forum and this will then be reviewed and at least every 12 months, starting from the first meeting.

Stuart Easterbrook, Future Gas Strategy Manager at Cadent was appointed Chair in October 2020.

March 2021

Meetings

The initial first three meeting so the Forum will be monthly, and will then move to a regular normal frequency of bi-monthly meetings. On 15th December the Forum agreed to meet monthly for the first three months of 2021. On 23rd March 2021, the Forum agreed to continue monthly meetings until June 2021.

Until further notice the Forums will be conducted over Microsoft Teams.