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Review of gas emergency arrangements

Sonia Brown, Gas Forum - 9 November 2006



Exercise feedback

- Recent industry exercises have tested GB energy markets emergency arrangements.
- These exercises have identified areas in particular need of urgent review:
 - Gas emergency Cash Out
 - Credit arrangements and market resilience
 - Emergency communication and command arrangements

Ofgem seeks to work with industry in exploring and developing ways of addressing these issues



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Gas emergency cash out

- Cash out price currently set at a fixed level, from the start of the emergency period
- Conditions may evolve during a prolonged emergency
 - Prices may be too high or too low
 - Import-dependent GB market must take into account relative development of other markets

Consider moving from a static cash out price to a dynamic one



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Credit arrangements under emergency

- Extraordinary price levels
 - Potential high and immediate financial impact
- Tense emergency industry atmosphere





Are credit arrangements robust?



Emergency communication and command

- Emergency simulations have highlighted:
 - Dependency on single individuals
 - Communication channels may be vulnerable
- Is the current obligation to switch off effective?
- What is best way to ensure customers switch off in an emergency?

Are communication and command mechanisms effective and robust?



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