

Company Secretary
National Grid Electricity
Transmission plc
National Grid House
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill
Warwick, CV34 6DA
Company number: 04031152

Max Brown
Direct Dial: 020 7901 3948
Email: max.brown@ofgem.gov.uk

Date: 20 March 2019

Dear Company Secretary,

Decision on National Grid Electricity Transmission plc's Sulphur Hexafluoride Exceptional Event Claim – Walpole 132kV Gas Insulated Switchgear

I refer to National Grid Electricity Transmission plc's (NGET) notification under paragraph 3E.12 of Special Condition 3E (Incentive in Respect of Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF₆) Gas Emissions) (SpC 3E) of the SF₆ Exceptional Event detailed below. Having reviewed the claim and supplementary information provided by NGET, the Authority is now in a position to decide on this claim. The Authority's decision is set out in the table below; the reasons for this decision are set out in Annex A.

Details of claim provided by Licensee	
Type of claim	SF ₆ Exceptional Event (SpC 3E)
Licensee	NGET
Start date of event	24/08/2016
End date of event	24/08/2016
Event	Leak at Walpole 132kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS)
Nature/cause of event	Damage to NGET asset by third party contractors working under DNO safety rules
Substation(s) affected	Walpole
Total SF ₆ leakage associated with event (kg)	0.7kg
Date of notification to the Authority	06/09/2016
Authority's Decision	
<p>The Authority's view is that the event in question does not meet the criteria of an SF₆ Exceptional Event as set out in Part C of SpC 3E of NGET's licence. Therefore, the Authority has decided not to issue a direction (under paragraph 3E.13 of SpC 3E) adjusting the value of ALE in the year 2020-21.</p> <p>The Authority's reasons for not issuing a direction are set out in Annex A to this letter.</p>	

If you have any questions in relation to the above please contact Max Brown on tel: 020 7901 3948 or by email: max.brown@ofgem.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Min Zhu,
Deputy Director, Electricity Transmission
Duly authorised on behalf of the Authority
20 March 2019

Annex A - SF₆ Exceptional Event claim under Part C of SpC 3E (Incentive in Respect of Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF₆) Gas Emissions) of NGET's Electricity Transmission Licence

The claim relates to SF₆ gas leakage amounting to 0.7kg on the 132kV GIS at Walpole substation.

Based on our analysis of the information provided, we do not consider the event in question meets the criteria of an SF₆ Exceptional Event as set out in SpC 3E.17. Therefore, the Authority does not intend to issue a direction (under paragraph 3E.13 of SpC 3E) adjusting the value of ALE for the purpose of calculating the outputs incentive revenue adjustment for 2020-21.

The leakage of SF₆ in this case was the result of damage to NGET's 132kV switchgear by a third party carrying out commissioning works on behalf of UK Power Networks at the Walpole substation. We acknowledge that the incident was an accident and it is evident from ABB's incident report that it and the third party contractor took responsibility for it (although neither admitted legal liability).

However, given that NGET was aware that the work at the Walpole substation was taking place, our view is that it was NGET's responsibility to take reasonable steps to guard against this event during the commissioning works. Therefore, the Authority does not consider the event to be an SF₆ Exceptional Event.