

Distributed Gas Information Strategy

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1 Introduction

The Distributed Gas Information Strategy has been written to provide basic information for stakeholders wishing to inject gas into NGN's network. This 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 NGN will provide information to such users, in a form and manner tailored to their specific requirements.

The Distributed Gas Information Strategy outlines how and when NGN will provide information to producers wishing to connect distributed gas to our network. It is reviewed on an annual basis, so ensure that you are using the current version, as displayed on the NGN Biomethane website <https://biomethane.northerngasnetworks.co.uk/>.

This document will explain our process for obtaining a distributed gas entry connection, our standards of service and our information provision.

Each Transporter issues a Licence Condition 4B Statement which describes the methods and principles used to derive connection charges. NGN currently defines all distributed gas entry connections as Sufficiently Complex Jobs (SCJs). Each entry connection application is therefore subject to the SCJ process which requires feasibility and design studies to be carried out. A copy of our 4B Statement¹ can be found on the NGN website. We also publish a distributed gas connections guide known as 'Biomethane: a producer's handbook' which provides more details of our process, as well as regulatory, technical and commercial matters. Additionally, each transporter also issues a Long Term Development Statement² which provides a ten-year forecast of transportation system usage and likely system developments that can be used by companies contemplating connecting to our system to identify and evaluate opportunities.

¹ https://biomethane.northerngasnetworks.co.uk/document-library/Connections_Charges

² https://www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk/document-library/Long_Term_Development_Statements

2 Process of obtaining a Distributed Gas entry connection

The process to apply for a distributed gas connection is shown in Appendix 1 and can also be found on the NGN website.

NGN offers the following services to anyone wishing to make a distributed gas connection:

- Dedicated project manager
- Free 'initial network capacity check' - a high-level report identifying the available network capacity and feasibility of your project
- Fixed price full capacity study
- Connections Agreement, Feasibility Study, Design Study and Construction Agreement, as well as physical construction if NGN is constructing any of the infrastructure
- Network Entry Agreement

As all distributed gas entry connections are defined in our 4B Statement as being SCJ, for each project we will quote, and on receipt of payment, carry out a design study prior to estimating the cost of constructing any equipment. SCJs are charged on the basis of anticipated cost, plus applicable overheads. Please note that the design study does not constitute an acceptance, or offer, by NGN to enter 'distributed gas' into our network.

The timescales involved in obtaining services relating to an entry connection on to NGN'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.

NGN supports the competitive provision of connection activities and further details are available in 'Biomethane: a producer's handbook' on our website.

3 Standards of Service

Timescales and Standards of Service

For distributed gas connections services which cannot be provided competitively, NGN have developed our own in-house target:

Process	NGN < 7bar voluntary target
Initial network capacity check	5 working days
Full capacity study	20 working days

Correspondence

For each of the processes listed below, NGN will send the customer written correspondence confirming the work that has been carried out.

- Initial network capacity check
- Full capacity check
- Connection point reservation
- Network Entry Agreement
- Construction planning correspondence – physical commencement date; substantial completion date and final completion date

4 Information provision

Northern Gas Networks has adopted an approach to support producers from conception to completion of their distributed gas to grid project. We proactively work with you while you identify, develop, construct and produce your sustainable locally sourced gas project. We offer a range of services to achieve this, including:

- Providing access to our maps so that you can determine which of your proposed sites are near to a suitable main. Email beforeyoudig@northerngas.co.uk to request access to our GIS system.
- Providing a free Initial network capacity check
- A face-to-face or online meeting with a project manager to discuss your project requirements

We recognise that different sites will have different requirements, ranging from their ability to vary injection rates to gas quality issues.

Gas demand on our network varies throughout the day and is seasonally influenced. There will therefore be a greater choice of connection points for facilities that are able to vary injection rates according to demand on the network.

To date, we have found that Intermediate and Medium Pressure connections have been more appropriate for anaerobic digestion plants injecting a few hundred cubic metres an hour. This is due to most low-pressure networks not having the capacity to take gas at times of low gas demand, e.g. on summer nights, and high pressure connections generally being too expensive. Entry connections for gas fields wishing to inject higher volumes are likely to need to connect to higher pressure tiers to obtain their required capacity. This information will all be detailed in the chargeable 'full capacity check'.

5 Contact information

Contact our Biomethane Team for further information.

Telephone Amy Rawding-Howell, Supply Strategy Lead, 07816 535 370

Email biomethanedoc@northerngas.co.uk

Website <https://biomethane.northerngasnetworks.co.uk/>

If you need to contact OFGEM

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6 Appendix 1

