

# National Grid publish Winter Outlook report for 2015/16

Diverse sources of gas available and demand looking similar to last winter

**15 Oct 2015**

- Electricity margins are manageable with a range of tools available to keep the system in balance.

National Grid has today published the Winter Outlook 2015/16 report, looking ahead at the picture of supply and demand for both the gas and electricity systems for the coming winter. It follows consultation with the energy industry during the summer.

The report is published by National Grid in its role as electricity system operator and as owner and operator of the gas transmission infrastructure in GB.

The peak transmission system demand forecast, used for calculating the winter margin for the coming winter is 54.2 Gigawatts, a slight increase from last year. There has been no change in the position for generation since the Winter Review was published in July. The de-rated margin figure for winter 2015/16 is 5.1% which equates to a loss of load expectation of 1.1 hours - well within the Reliability Standard set by the Government.

Additional balancing services of 2.4 GW have been contracted for the winter period to be available to manage periods of peak demand. This includes 133MW coming from businesses who have signed up for reducing demand at peak periods if called on, in return for payment.

Cordi O'Hara, Director of UK Market Operations said:

"Electricity margins are manageable throughout the winter period and we believe we have the right tools in place to manage the system. This includes using the 2.4 GW of additional balancing services that we have ready in place for times of highest demand.

"On the gas side, supplies are expected to be comfortable this year, thanks to good availability of liquefied natural gas on the global market and stable flows from the North Sea and Norway.

"Gas demand for the winter period is expected to be broadly in line with last year, showing a slight increase to 48.6 billion cubic meters (bcm). Peak daily demand is forecast to be 465 million cubic metre (mcm).

The maximum potential delivery of gas supplies, including from storage is 613 mcm, which is significantly higher than the peak demand forecast.

- ENDS -

Read the [Winter Outlook report](#) in full.

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#### Notes for editors

**Notes to Editors:**

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

**National Grid in the UK:**

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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- > [Our business](#)
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