



15 Jul 2015

- Last winter saw milder than average weather, but demand and supply largely in line with forecasts
- Consultation with the industry starts for the coming winter - electricity margins forecast to be tighter but gas supplies expected to be sufficient
- Balancing tools contracted by National Grid will increase supply margins to normal levels

National Grid has published its review of Winter 2014/15, as well as launching its consultation for views on the coming winter.

The report has been produced by National Grid in its role as the national gas and electricity system operator. It is asking for industry views and feedback for the coming winter.

Last winter's mild weather led to seasonally low energy demand while windy conditions and high imports from interconnectors provided additional electricity supply. Overall this meant that the additional balancing services procured by National Grid last year were not called upon.

The company has already bought 2.56 GW of additional balancing services for this winter, as part of its toolkit to balance the electricity network. These services are from generators and from major energy users willing to reduce their energy consumption at critical times. These services combined with available generation show a margin of 5.1% for this winter. A first look at gas for the coming winter shows that gas supplies are expected to be sufficient to meet demand.

Cordi O'Hara, National Grid's Director of Market Operation, said

"It's clear that electricity margins for that coldest, darkest half hour of winter are currently tighter than they have been, due to power stations closures. As system operator, we feel we've taken a sensible precaution again this winter to buy some extra services. Together with the tools we already use to balance the network these additional services will significantly increase the energy reserve available this winter"

The review of last year highlights that the winter was milder than average, and demand forecasts for gas and electricity were close to National Grid's scenario planning. Gas came from a variety of sources, with a particular increase in liquefied natural gas (LNG).

In electricity, the margin of generation above demand last winter was adequate, with peak demand hitting 53.2GW. There were high imports of electricity from mainland Europe at peak times, and wind generation delivered well at 44% of its capacity.

To read the report in full visit www.nationalgrid.com/winteroutlook (please note this document will not be live until 9am Wednesday 15th July)

Contact for media information only

Corporate Media Relations Manager (Monday - Thursday)

Gemma Stokes
gemma.stokes@nationalgrid.com
 +44 (0)7974 198333
 +44 (0)1926 655272

Share this page



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>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

Quicklinks

- In Media
- > [Press Releases](#)
- > [Media contacts](#)

Useful National Grid information

- United Kingdom
- > [Our business](#)
- > [Electricity](#)
- > [Gas](#)
- > [Operating responsibly](#)
- > [Investor factsheets](#)
- > [Presentations and webcasts](#)
- > [Annual reports](#)
- > [Biographies](#)

- United States
- > [Our business](#)
- > [Operating responsibly](#)
- > [Investor factsheets](#)
- > [Presentations and webcasts](#)
- > [Annual reports](#)
- > [Biographies](#)