

## **Appendix B - Electric/Gas Operations Committee's (EGOC) Operations Communications Protocol**

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**ISO New England Inc.**  
**&**  
**Northeast Gas Association**  
**Electric/Gas Operations Communications Protocol**

**Approved by the**  
**Electric/Gas Operations Committee**  
**On June 27, 2017**

***Introduction***

The purpose of this Electric/Gas Operations Communications Protocol (the “*protocol*”) is to enhance communication between ISO New England Inc.\* (ISO-NE) and the Northeast Gas Association’s\*\* (NGA) member companies. This protocol identifies the mechanisms to be used should ISO-NE need the assistance of any regional natural gas company(s) to help mitigate electric power grid operating emergencies and/or other abnormal conditions jeopardizing the reliability of New England’s electric power system. The reciprocal is true of the regional natural gas industry. This protocol was first developed in 2004 and is regularly reviewed and updated by ISO-NE, NGA and NGA’s member companies.

***Regular Information Flow***

Ongoing communication is expected to occur between the electric and natural gas industries on a daily basis as part of their regular business processes. For example, regular communications occur between ISO-NE and electric generators interconnected with the regional transmission system and communications also occurs between those generators, specifically gas-fired generators, with their corresponding transportation service providers (TSP), i.e. the operating personnel of interstate or intrastate pipelines, local gas distribution companies (LDCs), and other natural gas suppliers. Communication may also occur between ISO-NE and the operating personnel of an interstate natural gas pipeline company.

It is anticipated that most issues or events will be mitigated through this regular information flow, which are in place to support their bilateral and contractual arrangements (ISO to generator, generator to pipeline, ISO-NE to pipeline).

If conditions on either the regional electric power system or the regional natural gas grid are considered abnormal (i.e., severe weather, capacity deficiencies, energy emergencies, infrastructure failures, etc.), and these conditions are either declared in real-time or projected

within a forecast, then the potential exists for additional or enhanced electric/gas communications.

The communications described in this Operating Procedure will take place as needed (i.e. more than once) to ascertain the level of knowledge and understanding concerning system status, problem duration, and identification of remedial activities or mitigation methods.

ISO-NE may contact any regional gas delivery entity (and vice versa) anytime it has questions regarding real-time or forecast conditions of the natural gas system or electric power system. Natural gas delivery entities may also contact NGA regarding any key developments or regarding any prior communications they have had with ISO-NE. The status of individual interstate pipelines is routinely posted on their electronic bulletin boards (EBB). The information requested by ISO-NE and subsequently provided by the natural gas company (and vice versa) may be of any level of classification (e.g. confidential information) provided that the receiving party agrees that such information will be handled in accordance with the requirements of FERC Order No. 787\*\*\*. Confidential information regarding specific generators will be shared only with the pipeline serving that generator directly and ISO-NE has determined that it is operationally necessary to ensure reliability to disclose the confidential information. The information discussed will also comply with NGA's and the gas industry's anti-trust and market confidentiality contractual agreements.

Another mechanism for industry coordination is the Electric/Gas Operations Committee (EGOC). The EGOC was jointly established by ISO-NE and NGA in 2004. It is comprised of representatives of the electric and natural gas delivery systems in the northeast; ISO-NE, on behalf of the bulk electric power industry, and NGA (interstate pipeline companies, the regional LNG importer, and local gas distribution companies), on behalf of the regional natural gas industry. The EGOC is jointly administered by ISO-NE and NGA. Throughout the year, the EGOC convenes on a periodic basis, through meetings and conference calls. The EGOC's purpose is to provide a forum for electric and natural gas representatives to learn more about each other's systems and share information on system operations, planning and procedures. The meetings and information-sharing abide by each industry's antitrust and information policies and only address publicly-available information. Meeting minutes are approved and publicly available.

### ***Real-Time Communications***

If the electric power system is currently experiencing an abnormal event or an event projected to occur near-term, or should there be a gas delivery interruption that would potentially impact fuel deliveries to gas-fired generating units, or even a projection of extreme weather, the level of coordination between the electric and gas industries will likely increase. ISO-NE has several procedures that, when implemented, may require increased communications between both parties:

- 1) Master/Local Control Center Procedure No.2 - Abnormal Conditions Alert (M/LCC2)
- 2) Operating Procedure No. 4 – Action During a Capacity Deficiency (OP-4).
- 3) Operating Procedure No. 7 – Actions in an Emergency (OP-7).
- 4) Operating Procedure No. 21 – Energy Inventory Accounting and Actions During an Energy Emergency (OP-21).
- 5) SOP-RTMKTS.0050.0007 - Perform Cold Weather Condition Operations

The regional gas pipelines and LDCs also have procedures that, when implemented, may contemplate increased communications between both parties (i.e. Critical and Non-Critical Notices). The interstate pipelines post relevant information on their EBBs. Interstate pipeline information may be accessed through the Informational Postings section of their EBBs. Relevant information includes both Critical and Non-Critical notices as well as Planned Service Outages and available capacity. If a gas supply situation emerges that has implications for the Northeast, a NGA member company can request that NGA convene its Gas Supply Task Force (GSTF) to assess the situation and consider remedial actions that may be taken by GSTF members to alleviate the situation. NGA will institute the procedures outlined in its GSTF charter.

### ***One-Company To One-Company Communications***

If either entity, the electric power grid or a natural gas pipeline/LDC is experiencing abnormal system conditions, information will be shared on a one-company to one-company basis, either through an initial telephone call, an email message, or posting of relevant information on a respective web site or electronic bulletin board. (e.g. ISO-NE Control Room to individual pipelines). Some interstate pipelines also offer subscription services that allow users to subscribe to e-mail messages for Critical and Non-Critical notices to be sent electronically to email inboxes.

### ***Communication Between ISO-NE And NGA***

NGA administers a long-established committee of gas supply officials through its Gas Supply Task Force (GSTF). The GSTF is comprised of representatives from the major LDCs in the Northeast, as well as from all the regional interstate pipelines and the regional LNG supplier. The GSTF was established to monitor and assess any regional gas supply or deliverability issue concerning the natural gas system in the greater Northeast. The GSTF may also be convened to address other non-regional issues, that may have the potential to impact the Northeast (i.e. gulf coast hurricanes damaging oil and gas infrastructure). The GSTF abides by NGA's anti-trust guidelines in all its deliberations. Via telephone or email message, NGA will debrief ISO-NE of all meetings of the GSTF, as it also does for officials of state public utility commissions and energy agencies serving the northeast region. NGA has served as a liaison (conduit) between ISO-NE and the GSTF in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

### ***Industry Contact And Coordination During Non-Business Hours***

Should an emergency situation develop during non-business hours, i.e. in the middle of the night or a weekend, the primary contact will be between the control rooms of the electric grid operator (ISO-NE) and the natural gas pipeline(s) or LDCs. NGA has included contact information for

ISO-NE and the New York ISO (NYISO) within their update to their emergency communication manual entitled, “*Gas Supply Information for the Northeast Gas Industry*,” as published annually by the GSTF of NGA. This contact information can be used by any entity to contact the other.

\*ISO New England is the independent, not-for-profit corporation responsible for the reliable operation of New England’s electric power generation and transmission system, overseeing and ensuring the fair administration of the region’s wholesale electricity markets, and managing comprehensive regional electric transmission planning process. Reference ISO-NE’s web site located at: <http://www.iso-ne.com>.

\*\* The Northeast Gas Association (NGA) is a regional trade association that focuses on education and training, technology research and development, operations, planning, and increasing public awareness of natural gas in the Northeast U.S. NGA represents natural gas distribution companies, transmission companies, liquefied natural gas importers, and associate member companies. These companies provide natural gas to over 12 million customers in nine states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont). NGA was established on January 1, 2003. Its predecessor organizations were The New England Gas Association (founded in 1926) and the New York Gas Group (founded in 1973). Reference NGA’s web site located at: [https://www.northeastgas.org/about\\_intro.php](https://www.northeastgas.org/about_intro.php)

\*\*\* FERC Order No. 787 [http://www.ferc.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/order-787\\_0.pdf](http://www.ferc.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/order-787_0.pdf)

## OP-21 Appendix B Revision History

This initial version document content was formerly SOP-RTMKTS.0050.007, Attachment A (now retired)

Rev. No.	Date	Reason
Rev 0	08/28/14	Initial Version
Rev 0.1	06/15/16	Periodic review performed requiring no changes; Made administrative changes required to publish a Minor Revision;
Rev 1	05/18/18	Biennial review completed by the Change Initiator designated by the procedure owner; Added required corporate document identity to all page footers; Updated to reflect changes consistent with FERC Order 787 – Communication of Operational Information Between Natural Gas Pipelines and Electric Transmission Operators
Rev 1.1	04/27/20	Biennial review completed by the procedure owner requiring no changes.
Rev 1.2	12/07/21	Biennial review completed by the procedure owner requiring no changes.
Rev 1.3	12/06/23	Biennial review completed by the procedure owner requiring no intent changes; Updated the links for the NGA web site and FERC Order No. 787.