

Welcome to Gas Industry Co's *News Bulletin*, a periodic advisory of new and current consultations, workstream developments, publications and presentations.

In this issue:

- April 2018 potential critical contingency
- Gas consumer switching statistics for March 2018 available

April 2018 potential critical contingency

Gas Industry Co would like to acknowledge the important contribution that many in the energy industry made to ensure continuity of electricity and gas supplies during recent gas production station outages.

Last Tuesday (10 April), a severe storm cut power supplies to Oaonui production station, causing an unplanned outage of the facility that processes gas from the Maui field. At the time, the Kupe gas field was also experiencing an outage. Due to falling pressure in the transmission pipelines, the Critical Contingency Operator (CCO) notified a potential critical contingency at 9:00 AM to alert industry participants and other stakeholders to the problem.

In response to the notification, a number of large gas users voluntarily minimised their gas usage. In particular, Gas Industry Co understands that Methanex altered its maintenance schedule to bring forward the shutdown of one of the two trains at its Motunui plant. Genesis Energy scaled back its gas usage at Huntly and increased its coal generation. Gas Industry Co understands that First Gas, the transmission system owner, was in touch with a number of industrial gas consumers who moderated their gas usage during the event. In general, users were understanding of the need to maintain balance in the pipeline during a time of reduced flow and acted accordingly.

Collectively, these actions prevented a critical contingency and the need for formal demand curtailment. Although the Critical Contingency Management Regulations provide an important backstop in managing serious gas outages, this event shows that voluntary industry action can sometimes resolve difficult situations without invoking the regulations. We join with First Gas in appreciating the efforts of those who took action.

Gas consumer switching statistics for March 2018 available

The Gas Registry statistics recording gas consumer switching numbers for March 2018 are available [here](#).

There were 3,863 completed customer switches during March 2018 – 14 more than February 2018, and 209 less than March 2017.

For the last couple of years switching numbers and the time they take to complete have been relatively stable. In the last 12 months we saw on average 3,900 switches taking place a month and they took on average two days to complete. During that time the highest numbers of switches occurred in August 2017 (4,353) and January 2018 saw the lowest (3,236).

