

REVIEW GROUP 0044: OFGAS ACCESS TO UK-LINK SCREENS

REVIEW GROUP REPORT

Background

At the Modification Panel meeting on 20 June Modification Proposal Ref 0033 was unanimously approved for direct implementation as a Class 3 UK Link Modification. This Modification allowed Ofgas access to two additional UK Link screen displays and the Panel requested that a Proposal for Review be brought forward to ascertain if there was a need to further extend Ofgas system access.

Review Group 0044 was therefore constituted to consider to what extent, if at all, Ofgas on-line access to operational information should be widened in the interests of better decision making, for example when considering Urgent Modification Proposals associated with Energy Balancing.

Review Group Findings

Details of Ofgas' current requirements for the use of UK-Link screens is set out in the attached letter. In summary, only screens relating to the Flexibility Mechanism are used on a regular basis and other screens are used infrequently. Ofgas' rationale for the use of UK-Link screens is also set out in the letter.

The Review Group was satisfied that Ofgas' rationale justified the broad range of access to UK-Link screens currently available for the following reasons:

1. live data avoids misunderstanding as information is communicated;
2. information is readily available, thereby helping Ofgas in its decision making process, especially in relation to urgent modification proposals.

The Review Group agreed that should Ofgas have any concerns with the data entered by any shipper, then it should seek clarification from the party concerned before drawing any conclusions.

In respect of future urgent modification proposals, information requirements arise on an ad hoc basis, are dependent on the nature of the proposal and consequently these requirements cannot be predicted. Therefore, the Review Group agreed that unrestricted Ofgas access to UK-Link was not justified at the present time since the additional screens would only be accessed on rare occasions, if at all. In addition, Ofgas can source additional information direct from Transco and Shippers if required and the Review Group was of the opinion that this was the most suitable short term option.

Conclusion

The Review Group is of the opinion that Ofgas should retain access to the broad range of information currently available in order to facilitate its decision making processes. However, an extension of access rights is not justified at the present time, since the additional data requirements cannot be predicted and because the information can be obtained from other sources.

Recommendations

The Review Group is of the opinion that no further Modification Proposals are required and recommends that the Group is terminated.



15 May 1997

Phil Carter - BG Transco
Richard Sarsfield-Hall - BG Trading

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Our Ref :
Your Ref :

Dear Phil/Richard

Review Group 44: Ofgas Access to UK Link

I agreed to provide details of the use of AT-Link by Ofgas. Ofgas only uses screens relating to the flexibility market on a regular basis, full details of these screens is attached to this letter. Other screens are used infrequently.

Ofgas produces a daily accepted flexibility report by shipper. Individual bids are recorded with summaries of the total gas taken and the cost of those bids. AT-Link is also used to check the price of BGT's posted flexibility bids against the daily BGT bid offer spread information submitted to Ofgas.

Flexibility screens have been used during 'unusual' levels of flexibility activity and in response to shipper queries/concerns, for example, when system buy and sell bids have been accepted close together and more recently when negative system sell bids had been accepted.

Even though other screens are used infrequently, Ofgas has and is likely to continue to receive some of that AT-Link information directly from Transco, on request. Transco has provided this in summary form. This information has in the main been provided for Ofgas analysis undertaken as part of the Hard Landing "Go/No-Go" decision, the review of the capacity overrun regime and the current review of the flexibility mechanism. The data received has included information on the flexibility market, input and output nominations, scheduling, capacity booking at entry and exit and the associated gas flows especially in relation to overrun charges.

Ofgas does not foresee any requirements to further extend its access to AT-Link at this time. However, it is important to maintain the broad range of access that is currently provided so that information can be readily available as requirements for this data continue to arise.

Yours sincerely



Tahir Majid
Network Operations/
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AT-Link screens frequently used by Ofgas

PE10	Main menu
BL50	Flexibility market internal menu
BL00	List flexibility bids
BL08	View input system buy bids
BL31	View output system buy bids
BL28	View input system sell bids
BL10	View output system sell bids
BL75	List shippers with selected bids