

URGENT MODIFICATION PROPOSAL No. 0089

TITLE: Opening Read Process - Receipt Window

DATE: 4 November 1996

PROPOSED

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: 1 January 1997

URGENCY: This modification is urgent as sufficient time must be allowed to provide the necessary functionality to support it before the extension of Domestic Competition.

JUSTIFICATION: There is the potential for a large number of supply point transfers as Domestic Competition extends. Opening reads (Shipper transfer reads) in the Domestic Market are provided by Shippers using an ad-hoc process. Sufficient time must be allowed for TransCo to process these reads, particularly rejected reads, otherwise estimated opening reads derived using default data could be generated. This will lead to an increase in meter read queries and replacement opening reads, with possible implications on end user billing.

Consideration is being given to a more efficient process for the provision of these reads to TransCo. This process, once it has been agreed and implemented, will supersede the requirements of this modification.

CONSEQUENCE OF NOT MAKING THIS CHANGE:

One of the lessons learnt from Domestic Competition Phase 1 was that the process whereby Shippers provide opening reads needs to be improved. Insufficient time had been allowed for TransCo to process the opening reads provided by Shippers leading to a large number of estimated opening reads being provided. These were subsequently used by BGT for closing accounts with end users, leading to a large number of complaints of inaccurate invoices. Without this modification, similar problems and complaints will be experienced in the next phase of Domestic Competition.

AREA OF NETWORK CODE CONCERNED:

M3.8.5

NATURE OF PROPOSAL:

The proposal is to allow TransCo more time to process opening reads received from Shippers so as to be able to review rejected reads such that more actual reads and less estimated reads can be used. In order to do this the date that the estimated opening read is transmitted will move from D+7 to D+10. An estimated opening read will only be provided where a valid opening read is not received from a Shipper.

These proposed changes will affect the whole of the competitive market, as it is not possible, in the timescale available, to develop separate functionality for Domestic and non-Domestic markets.

These proposed changes will be reviewed 3 months after the last tranche of Phase 2 of Domestic Competition.

PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL:

The purpose of the modification is to ensure that, as far as is possible, opening reads as provided by Shippers are used as Shipper Transfer reads, rather than TransCo generated estimates.

IDENTITY OF PROPOSER'S REPRESENTATIVE: Neil Pennington

PROPOSER: Tony Wray

SIGNATURE:

POSITION: Account Manager - Portfolio Management

COMPANY: TransCo

MODIFICATION PANEL'S SECRETARY'S USE ONLY

Reference Number:

Date Received: