TITLE: Opening Read Process - Tolerance Checking

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: Tolerance checking of opening meter reads is based on comparison with estimates generated using the meter point AQ and the previous meter read. For Domestic Competition Phase 1 there were a large number of default meter point AQs and default 1 March reads held by TransCo as a consequence of poor quality data being provided to TransCo. Tolerance checking based on estimates generated using these default AQs/meter reads led to a large number of rejected opening reads. This in turn led to estimated opening reads being provided derived from default AQs/meter reads, with the subsequent implications for meter read queries and end user billing. While some meter reads were being properly rejected, the balance of opinion is that greater problems were created by incorrectly rejecting reads than would have been caused by failure to correctly reject a read.

CONSEQUENCE OF NOT MAKING THIS CHANGE:

One of the lessons learnt from Domestic Competition Phase 1 was that the process of providing Shipper transfer reads needs to be improved. In particular a significant number of "valid" opening reads were rejected because data provided to TransCo to enable tolerance checking of these reads was of poor quality. Where TransCo does hold poor quality data it is not in a position to correctly reject opening reads. To continue to do so and to replace these reads with inaccurate estimates will continue to lead to meter read queries with implications for end user billing.

AREA OF NETWORK CODE CONCERNED:

M1.5.3

NATURE OF PROPOSAL:

TransCo(MR) does not provide an opening read service for the domestic market. Thus, where a Shipper has selected TransCo to provide its meter read service, even where that Shipper has to provide its own opening read service for the domestic market, the read is subject to the Validation Rules as applies to the TransCo(MR) service. These Validation Rules require an opening read to be rejected if it fails the tolerance check. The proposal is to change the Validation Rules as applies to TransCo(MR) such that it will not reject opening reads based on tolerance checking where such a tolerance is based on a default AQ or default 1 March read. Instead these reads will be marked as failing tolerance checking.

(Where a Shipper has selected someone other than TransCo to provide its meter read service then the same process is applied to all of these opening reads, irrespective of default AQs/1 March reads.)

A modification is required to be able to change the Validation Rules for this purpose on less than 3 months notice to Shippers.

PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL:

The purpose of the proposal is to ensure that opening reads are not unnecessarily rejected.

IDENTITY OF PROPOSER'S REPRESENTATIVE:

PROPOSER: Tony Wray
SIGNATURE:
POSITION: Account Manager - Portfolio Management
COMPANY: TransCo

MODIFICATION PANEL'S SECRETARY'S USE ONLY
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