

97/12/24/03



23 December 1997

Direct Dial: 0171-932-1656

Our Ref : bg712_23

Your Ref :

Ms Sharon McLaughlin
Transco
31 Homer Road
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 3LT

Dear Ms McLaughlin

**MODIFICATION 203 - MANAGE THE EFFECTS OF INAPPROPRIATE AQ5
RESULTING FROM THE 1997 REVIEW PROCESS**

I refer to the above modification proposal that Transco has requested should be treated as urgent. We have considered the proposed modification and the proposed short timetable for consultation.

Transco has suggested that the timetable is to ensure that, if the modification is accepted in its present form, shippers will have adequate warning of the modification's effect before the 26 January (the date by which Transco has suggested shippers would have to submit AQ appeals if they are to have effect before the recalculation of charges on 1 March).

We have decided to accept the proposal for urgent consultation but, to give shippers more time in which to consider the proposed modification, have decided on an amended timetable. The timetable is shown below:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Ofgas decision regarding urgency | 23 December |
| • Close out for representations | 9 January |
| • Final report to Ofgas | 13 January |
| • Final Ofgas Decision | 19 January |

Given that this still gives shippers very little time during which to comment on the proposal, at a time when many other important issues are requiring their attention, can Transco explain its reason for the timetable in the report which is circulated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Aldridge".

Sean Aldridge
Manager, Network Operations