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Distribution List Not Shown
Subject: MB/848/SN - Rejection Code 217

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Dear colleague,

MB/848/SN - Rejection Code 217

In previous years AQ Amendments have been rejected due to the application of a backstop date which has been spanned by the shipper's amendment. These rejections were previously sent to the industry at the end of the AQ Review process and could not be re-submitted as the information was not available before 13 August, the cut off for the submission of AQ Amendments.

The back stop date itself is set in the system when an AQ Amendment, be this shipper or xoserve inspired, is input to the system. The back stop date is not set in instances where there is an AQ calculation that is not amended by either the Shipper or xoserve. When a back stop date is set in the system no amendments can be submitted using meter read information prior to that date. When this occurs an amendment subsequently submitted is rejected. Historically we believe this was introduced to prevent gaming.

It was decided at last years AQ Forum that we would bring forward these rejections into the AQ Review itself so that shippers have the opportunity to amend AQs rejected for that reason. Whilst visibility of these sites is now apparent, in many cases shippers were unable to do anything about them. xoserve carry out manual checks against the AQs and where appropriate may rollover the previous years AQ in preference to the calculated AQ or may recalculate the AQ using an alternative meter readings. Both of these actions would create a back stop date. Unfortunately this would be unknown to the shipper.

If a shipper subsequently disagrees with the xoserve calculated AQ they can amend the AQ using data of their own. However whenever this amendment spans the back stop date the shipper will receive a 217 rejection code. This scenario has always been the case over the years and it is only now that the rejections have become visible.

Our solution is to temporarily suspend this rejection type, this would mean that for AQ 2008, AQ amendments that would otherwise have been rejected against STD00217 will actually be acceptable. It is anticipated that this validation and subsequent reject code will be reviewed with a plan to fully activate the rejection code for AQ 2009. There are a small number of rejections in this category submitted by 2 shippers before we backed out the rejection code. These will be dealt with separately in conjunction with the shippers concerned. However all other shippers remain unaffected.

There is one scenario where shippers will receive 217rejections. This will occur when a shipper has submitted an Amendment using data before the system backstop date of 30/09/02. This is the date on which all WAALP data was updated. WAALP data before this point in time is incorrect. This was the subject of UNC mod 018 in 2005. These rejections will once again be submitted back to the Registered System User at the end of the AQ process.

This was not communicated to the industry as a whole and perhaps this was remiss. However only two shippers were affected by rejection 217 exceptions and xoserve spoke to them directly. The only effect on other shippers would be that they do not receive 217 rejections.

Regards

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xoserve