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The Joint Office of Gas Transporters, relevant Gas Transporters, Shippers and other interested parties

Our Ref: Net/Cod/Mod/029  
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17 June 2005

Dear Colleague,

**Request for urgent status for Uniform Network Code modification proposal 029: 'Metering arrangements at Special Metering Supply Points'**

Ofgem has received a request from National Grid Transco (NGT) for its UNC modification proposal 'Metering arrangements at Special Metering Supply Points' to be granted urgent status.

Some supply points, often referred to as '*unique sites*' have complex arrangements, such as multiple shippers. In the Uniform Network Code (UNC) these are referred to as '*Special Metering Supply Points*'. Given that these sites account for only 100 or so of the 22 million metering assets within the UK, they were considered out of scope of the Review of Gas Metering Arrangements (RGMA) project, which culminated with the separation of NGT's metering and transportation businesses, and the removal of the majority of metering provisions from the Network Code effected by modification 672: '*Amendments to Facilitate the Unbundling of Supply Meter Ownership and Associated Works in accordance with the Review of Gas Metering Arrangements (RGMA)*'. However, given that unique sites were out of scope of RGMA, a further modification, 678: '*Primary and Sub-deduct meters and 'unique' sites –transitional metering arrangements post-RGMA*' provided that on a transitional basis with effect from 12 July 2004, NGT would for 12 months, provide, install and maintain meters at such sites.

It was originally intended that suitable arrangements would be developed in the 12 month transitional period to allow the metering at unique sites to also be unbundled. However, the Meter Asset/Work Unbundling sub-group of the Network Code Supply Point & Billing Workstream<sup>1</sup>, which was tasked with looking at this issue, has since recommended that unique site metering arrangements (i.e. all provision, installation and maintenance activities currently performed by NGT) should be retained within the (Uniform) Network Code.

The intent of this proposal is therefore to ensure that metering arrangements for 'unique sites' continue to be covered under the UNC without the need for a 'sunset clause'.

Ofgem has decided to grant the proposal urgent status in accordance with Standard Special Condition A11(9)(g). Ofgem considers the justification for urgency accords with Ofgem's guidelines on granting urgency status to a modification proposal<sup>2</sup>. In particular, Ofgem considers that if the modification proposal were to follow non-urgent procedures, there is a significant likelihood that those procedures,

<sup>1</sup> Now the Distribution workstream of the UNC.

<sup>2</sup> [www.ofgem.gov.uk/temp/ofgem/cache/cmsattach/2752\\_Urgency\\_Criteria.pdf](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/temp/ofgem/cache/cmsattach/2752_Urgency_Criteria.pdf)

including the eventual decision, could not be completed by 12 July 2005, with the consequence of uncertain metering arrangements for these sites.

### **Urgency Timetable**

The granting of urgent status and adherence to the timetable below would ensure that the proposal is in a position to be decided upon and if appropriate implemented ahead of 12 July 2005. The timetable for this modification will therefore be as follows:

Proposal agreed as urgent	17 June 2005
Circulated to Users requesting representations	17 June 2005
Close out of representations	27 June 2005
Urgent modification report issued	29 June 2005
Panel decide upon recommendation	06 July 2005
Revised urgent modification report issued to Ofgem by	07 July 2005
Ofgem decision by	11 July 2005

In accepting this request for urgency, Ofgem has made no assessment of the merits of this modification proposal. If you have any queries in relation to the issues raised in this letter, please feel free to contact me or alternatively, Jon Dixon 020 7901 7354.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Simpson  
**Director, Modifications**