

CODE MODIFICATION PROPOSAL No. 0066
"Programmed Maintenance Notice Periods at NTS System Exit Points"
Version 1.0

Date: 09/11/2005

Proposed Implementation Date: 01/02/2006

Urgency: Non-Urgent

Proposer's preferred route through modification procedures and if applicable, justification for Urgency

(see the criteria at http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/temp/ofgem/cache/cmsattach/2752_Urgency_Criteria.pdf)

The Proposer suggests that this proposal proceed directly to consultation. The changes proposed are incremental improvements to the current arrangements and the opportunity has been taken for discussion of the relevant issues at the Transmission Workstream meetings on 6 October 2005 and 3 November 2005. In addition, this proposal is consistent with proposals brought forward by National Grid NTS (NGNTS) in response to concerns raised by affected parties.

Nature and Purpose of Proposal (including consequence of non implementation)

Programmed Maintenance refers to maintenance of any part of a relevant System by the Transporter. Various notice periods are prescribed in the UNC for different categories of System Point. This proposal only seeks to modify the notice period arrangements at NTS Supply Points. Any changes to the arrangements at NTS/LDZ offtakes or DN connected sites could be considered by separate modification proposals.

The proposal is for NGNTS to send to Maintenance Relevant Parties at NTS Supply Points, at the time of the publication of the draft of the Maintenance Programme (1st February), Programmed Maintenance notifications identifying wherever possible the specific dates on which planned maintenance work will be carried out. Where it is not possible to provide specific dates, as may be case in respect of online inspections, a "**Maintenance Window**" will be notified that will be no longer than two weeks in duration.

No later than the publication of the final Maintenance Programme (1st April) NGNTS will issue revised notifications to the Maintenance Relevant Parties where the dates have changed since the publication of the draft of the Maintenance Programme or where more precise dates are available.

Notwithstanding any notifications provided as part of the draft of the Maintenance Programme or the final Maintenance Programme. NGNTS will notify Maintenance Relevant Parties as soon as reasonably practicable, but no less than 42 days before maintenance work is due to commence, the actual dates on which Planned Maintenance will be carried out. This additional notification provision will ensure that where maintenance is due to start on or soon after 1 April the Maintenance Relevant Parties will still get at least six weeks notice.

In addition, it is proposed that NGNTS will publish information to the Maintenance Relevant Parties at each NTS Supply Point concerning its online pipeline inspection programme carried out under the provisions of Section L 4.4 so that these parties are aware when a prolonged period of maintenance affecting their offtake will be expected. The information to be provided by

NGNTS should include the affected site, the feeder, the date of the last inspection and the latest date by which the next inspection must take place, noting when this is a confirmed date. The information should be provided by 30th September so that Users and consumers can consider this in their maintenance planning submissions by 30 November as per section L 1.5a. This advanced period of notice may allow Users and consumers to align significant site maintenance with the NGNTS maintenance and encourage early dialogue on maintenance planning schedules.

Non-implementation would mean that consumers could continue to be significantly affected and given inadequate notice of NTS maintenance. This would perpetuate the current lack of co-ordination between shippers, affected sites and NGNTS in respect of maintenance.

Basis upon which the Proposer considers that it will better facilitate the achievement of the Relevant Objectives, specified in Standard Special Condition A11.1 & 2 of the Gas Transporters Licence

Increasing notice periods for long cessations and applying a cancellation notice period would better facilitate the achievement of the following relevant objectives:

- A11 1 (a) The efficient and economic operation of the pipe-line system to which the licence relates. The operation of the System covered by the Maintenance Programme would potentially benefit from better co-ordination of maintenance as a result of implementation of this Proposal.
- A11 1 (c) The efficient discharge of the licensee's licence obligations. This includes securing that no shipper, supplier or DN operator obtains any unfair commercial advantage from a preferential or discriminatory arrangement. Improvements in the notice period arrangements would ensure that all relevant parties would be informed on an equivalent basis
- A11.1 (d) The securing of efficient competition between relevant shippers, suppliers and DN operators. This would result from the benefit of implementation outlined above in respect of Standard Special Condition A11.1 (c).

Any further information (Optional), likely impact on systems, processes or procedures, Proposer's view on implementation timescales and suggested text

These enhanced maintenance notification periods and processes will provide Users and consumers more timely information on NTS planned maintenance such that they will be better placed to manage their commercial position. In the case of gas fired generation, this will promote effective competition within and between energy markets.

Code Concerned, sections and paragraphs

Principal Document

L - Maintenance and Operational Planning

Proposer's Representative

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Proposer

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Signature

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