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Dear Julian

UNC Modification Proposal 0066: 'Programmed Maintenance Notice Periods at NTS System Exit Points'

Thank you for your invitation seeking representations with respect to the above Modification Proposal. National Grid Gas plc (UK Distribution) ("Distribution") is supportive of this modification in principle.

The Proposal seeks to provide clarity on the timing of NTS maintenance by:

- At the same time as publishing the draft Maintenance Programme (1 February) NGNTS to publish specific dates (or a maintenance window) when planned maintenance work will be carried out
- No later than publication of final Maintenance Programme (1 April) notify parties of any change to specific dates
- Notwithstanding the first two points give six weeks notice of actual dates of planned maintenance work (to protect parties where maintenance work is due to start soon after 1 April)
- NGNTS to publish additional information to relevant parties at NTS Supply Points where they are affected by the online inspection programme

Notwithstanding that NG NTS is able to adhere to the notice periods Distribution feels that the provision and timing of this information at the NTS level should enable the relevant parties to coordinate their operations and should help to minimise disruption of gas supplies. There may be good reason why NG NTS is not able to precisely meet the notice periods and the proposed modification could be drafted to give NG NTS some flexibility in provision of this information. On this basis Distribution is of the view that the proposal would better facilitate the relevant objectives by increasing the efficient and economic operation of the pipeline system.

Yours sincerely,

Declan McLaughlin