

Review Group 0114R 'Revisions to Maximum Daily Permissible SPA Volumes'.

Interim Review Group Report

Summary

Review Group 0114R was convened to review the effectiveness of Urgent Modification Proposal 0114 'Revisions to Maximum Daily Permissible UK-Link Processing Volumes' which was implemented, effective from 17 January 1997. The purpose of the modification was to bring the maximum daily usage volumes for SPA files in line with performance indicators demonstrated in a Scalability Benchmarking exercise conducted by Transco. The review group were in addition asked to investigate the requirements for Domestic Competition Phase III.

The group concluded that an evaluation of the performance of the various systems and processes in place for DCII had proven to be of limited value. This was due to the lack of retrospective systems data available. It was noted, however, that the agreed maximum daily volumes were not exceeded at any time during implementation.

For Domestic Competition Phase III, Transco identified that they were confident that a level of 50,000 daily Confirmations for each tranche could be sustained throughout the programme. The group acknowledged that the volume impact would be more significant as implementation proceeded.

The group have agreed that industry constraints are now the major issue and analysis is required to establish the maximum daily volumes which can be catered for by Shippers. Further work is required by Shippers to establish this data.

Introduction

Urgent Modification Proposal 0114 'Revisions to Maximum Daily Permissible UK-Link Processing Volumes' established revised maximum volumes of SPA Confirmation files and resultant Transfers of Ownership which may be submitted each day by Shippers during Domestic Competition Phase II. A concept 'smoothing the peak' was in addition introduced which provided a mechanism to control the numbers of confirmations which could lead to a Transfer of Ownership. The modification in addition recommended maximum daily volumes for the receipt of meter reads and the generation of opening read requests.

The Review

Effectiveness of revised maximum daily volumes for Domestic Competition phase II.

In order to establish whether there was any potential constraint on Transco's systems during implementation, the Review Group initially proposed to identify the peak days for file transactions and compare for each day the number of Confirmations and Transfer of Ownership transactions with the processing window in order to identify the percentage of processing time used.

This unfortunately proved to be impractical due to the difficulty of extracting the relevant systems data without extensive effort. The Review Group therefore determined that no further progress could be made on evaluating the performance of the modification.

Requirements for Domestic Competition Phase III

The group determined that the pattern of confirmations and resultant transfers of ownership was likely to increase as roll-out progressed, peaking at tranche 6. This was because confirmations for each tranche would be an ongoing process. Transco informed the review group that for the Interim Solution and for each tranche of DCIII the existing maximum daily volumes could be accommodated without difficulty and on this basis, the principle constraint on volume was the capacity of Shippers to absorb files.

Conclusion

The Review Group have determined that the maximum daily volumes specified for Domestic Competition phase II were not exceeded at any time. No problems were in addition experienced with the smoothing the peak concept although there was little evidence to suggest to what extent the procedure had been adhered to by Shippers due to the fact that the maximum daily volumes were not constrained at any point.

With respect to the projected requirements for Domestic Competition Phase III (including the Interim Solution for Tranche 1), no conclusion is available at this time. Transco are confident that the existing volumes can be dealt with throughout all tranches and performance testing is underway to substantiate this.

Further work is required to establish the maximum daily volumes for the generation of withdrawal notices to Shippers as the critical constraint is believed to be in this area.

The group are aware that the subject of maximum daily volumes of SPA transactions has been addressed in other forums, for example, the Domestic Competition Focus Group. Investigation is underway to determine whether there is any overlap in the matters under consideration and whether the review group can benefit from any conclusions developed by those forums.

Timescales

No further meetings are planned at present. The Review Group are, however, planning to present to the October 1997 Modification Panel.