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Your Reference: Modification Proposal 0259

Dear John,

Re: Modification Proposal 0259: 'Removal Of Obligations to Install UK Link User Equipment and UK Link User Software for UK Link Users who utilise the services of an UK Link User Agent'

Thank you for your invitation seeking representations with respect to the above Modification Proposal.

National Grid Gas plc, Distribution (NGD) would like to offer support for this proposal which, if implemented, would allow an applicant User, intending to use the services of a User Agent, to satisfy the admission requirement of having access to UK Link by appointing an Agent already acting for another User. By using an existing User Agent, it is likely that sufficient IS equipment will already be installed at the Agent's premise to meet the incremental requirements of the new client, thereby avoiding the need to install a new network connection and gateway server. Additionally, implementation of the proposal would allow the Transporters' Agent to remove UK Link Equipment where an existing User Agent is already acting for more than one User and, therefore, would have surplus to requirement equipment installed at its premises.

We believe that implementation would offer a practical cost saving measure which has benefits for both the transporters over time, and for new shippers immediately, by decreasing the lead time taken to access the UK-Link system, and hence commence shipping activities.

Implementation of this proposal would allow cost effective options to be adopted by the Transporters' Agent for the installation of UK Link Equipment and would provide a more flexible arrangement for shippers requiring access to UK Link. UK Link Equipment would only be installed where there is a new requirement for a User, or User Agent, to access the UK Link system, as well as permitting the disconnection and removal of redundant and / or duplicate hardware. The efficient management of IS systems reduces costs and is consistent with furthering the relevant objective described in Standard Special Condition A11.1(f) by promoting the efficient implementation of UNC obligations.

We agree with the purpose of the proposal and, accordingly, NGD supports implementation

Please contact Alan Raper on 01926 653559 (alan.raper@uk.ngrid.com) should you require any further information with respect to the above.

Yours sincerely

Richard Court
Commercial Manager, Distribution.