TRANSCO NETWORK CODE MODIFICATION PROPOSAL No. 0691

"Amendment to the Opening Meter Read Requirement to Facilitate RGMA Implementation"
Version 1.0

Date: 02/04/2004

Proposed Implementation Date:

Urgency: Non-Urgent

Justification

Implementation of the 'Review of Gas Metering Arrangements' (RGMA) regime is planned for 12 July 2004. This introduces a suite of New Metering Contracts featuring arrangements between Transco and suppliers. Introduction of the new contractual regime will be accompanied by the removal of relevant metering provisions from the Network Code.

For the purposes of ensuring that Transco (Metering) is able to invoice the correct supplier and in the interests of facilitating an orderly transition to the new regime, an important pre-requisite for RGMA 'cutover' is for a community exercise to be undertaken to validate and if necessary update the supplier identity recorded by Transco on its Sites and Meters database. Where updates are required, it is necessary for Users to undertake a Supply Point Confirmation in accordance with Section G of the Network Code.

Section M3.8.1 identifies that where such Confirmation occurs, Users are required to procure and provide an Opening Meter Reading to Transco where "one or more of the User identity, the supplier identity or the Supply Point configuration" changes.

For the purposes of the exercise described above, an Opening Meter Reading is not required. Transitional Network Code provisions are therefore required which relieve Users from their obligations set out in Section M3.8.

It should be noted that Transco does not intend to undertake any amendment to its UK-Link system to suppress the generation and provision to Users of a notional Meter Reading which would occur in the event of an Opening Meter Reading not being received by Transco. Naturally, given that the Opening Meter Reading provisions contained within Section M3.8 would not apply, Transco would not levy an estimated read charge in accordance with Section M3.8.10(a).

Nature of Proposal

Modification of the Network Code is required to remove temporarily the requirement for an Opening Meter Reading to be procured and provided to Transco by a User. This would apply where a Supply Point Confirmation is submitted requesting a change to the supplier identity but not the User identity or Supply Point configuration. The transitional provisions would expire upon commencement of the RGMA 'cutover'

period, currently planned for 10,11 and 12 July 2004. Within scope of this Modification Proposal would be all Supply Point Confirmations with a Supply Point Registration Date prior to 9 July 2004.

Purpose of Proposal

In preparation for RGMA 'cutover', it is necessary for an exercise to be undertaken to ensure that the supplier identity recorded by Transco on its Supply Point Register is accurate. For the purposes of this initiative, where a User wishes to re-confirm a Supply Point to update the supplier identity, it is unnecessary for an Opening Meter Reading to be obtained and provided to Transco as required by Section M3.8.1. The measure identified within this Modification Proposal is consistent with Transco's obligations contained within Amended Standard Condition 31 of the GT Licence and Transco's GT Licence 'code relevant objective' of facilitating the efficient discharge of its obligations under its GT Licence.

Consequence of not making this change

Users needing to update the supplier identity on Transco's Sites and Meters database in preparation for RGMA implementation would be required to procure an Opening Meter Reading and provide this to Transco for each Supply Point re-confirmation. Failure to meet this obligation would result in a charge being levied for the notional Meter Reading subsequently provided by Transco with respect to Smaller Supply Points.

Area of Network Code Concerned

Principal Document Section M3.8.1 (Transitional provisions required).

Proposer's Representative

Christopher J Warner (Transco)

Proposer

Sharon D McLaughlin (Transco)

Signature

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