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Our Ref.
Your Ref.

1 February 2005

Dear Julian

RE: Network Code Modification Proposal 735 – Amendment to the minimum notice period required for UK Link changes

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Modification Proposal.

British Gas Trading is supportive of the implementation of this Modification Proposal.

The common systems in use by Network Code signatories are key processes in the everyday operation of all Users. Therefore, the timing and co-ordination of system changes and updates are of vital importance. We believe that there are real benefits in applying a formal structure to those changes, comprising acceptable lead times and the adoption of a number of dates through the year upon which such changes would be made.

The adoption of such a structure would ensure all Users have sufficient time to plan resources for implementation of the changes. It would reduce risk, and therefore costs, as currently Users can at times be required to react quickly to changes that Transco are implementing at minimum notice periods. Users do not always have the opportunity to assess the impact any changes proposed by Transco on other aspect of their own systems. The ad-hoc nature of some changes, which are necessary to maintain functionality with Transco's systems, does not always allow optimal solutions.

We also believe that this structure will have the benefit of a more strategic view of system changes being taken by Transco by the control of the schedule being ratified through UK Link Committee.

The implementation of this modification will also allow alignment of changes to the systems of shippers and suppliers emanating from the wider processes, for example the Customer Transfer Programme (CTP) and Supply Point Administration Agreement

(SPAA). Whilst such processes may be outside the scope of UK Link, this structure would facilitate the integration of the impacts from the various areas of energy supply.

By structuring the release programme into a schedule, this will improve the ability to plan more effectively and this in turn will minimise costs. It would also facilitate testing of multiple changes in one iteration thus reducing IS and business overhead time and costs

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Young
Commercial Manager