

UNC Workgroup 0407 Minutes
Standardisation of notice periods for offtake rate changes for all
National Grid NTS Exit Users
Wednesday 30 May 2012
via teleconference

Attendees

Bob Fletcher (Chair)	(BF)	Joint Office
Lorna Dupont (Secretary)	(LD)	Joint Office
Alan Raper	(AR)	National Grid Distribution
Alison Chamberlain	(AC)	National Grid Distribution
Bethan Winter	(BW)	Wales & West Utilities
Brian Stoneman	(BS)	Northern Gas Networks
Emma Buckden	(EB)	Northern Gas Networks
Helga Clarke	(HC)	National Grid NTS
Keith Dixon	(KD)	Northern Gas Networks
James Thomas	(JT)	Ofgem
Lewis Hodgart	(LH)	Ofgem
Phil Hobbins	(PH)	National Grid NTS
Ritchard Hewitt	(RH)	National Grid NTS
Robert Cameron-Higgs	(RCH)	Wales & West Utilities

Copies of all papers are available at: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0407/300512

1.0 Introduction and Status Review

1.1. Review of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

1.2. Review of actions

No actions outstanding.

2.0 Finalisation of Workgroup Report

The process was reiterated. Amendments to the Solution had been suggested but the Proposer rejected these. The Workgroup reviewed the draft Workgroup Report produced following the previous meeting and suggested further changes.

The impacts on the relevant objectives were reviewed. A discussion ensued relating to the provision of the results of the analysis that was being commissioned by National Grid NTS. RH was unable to offer any specific timeframe as to when this was likely to be available as the scoping/tendering was still under discussion.

LH observed that it would be difficult for respondents to the consultation to form a valid view without sight of the analysis/outcomes. RCH added that the DNs' customers were keen to reach a landing on this. AR questioned why there

appeared to be delay in commencement of the analysis, as the requirements of the modification should provide the scope. RH responded that National Grid NTS wanted to be certain that it would deliver what is required. Outcomes would be reviewed and any relevant information to inform the Consultation would be made available (this may not include the public sharing of all results/outcomes although any additional information may be made available to Ofgem to inform its decision). It was pointed out that any party was at liberty to perform its own analysis to inform its decisions.

The DNs and Ofgem believed that the basis on which analysis is done must be transparent to assist respondents to the Consultation, and whatever the prescription/assumptions agreed needs to be in the public domain. It was important for the parameters of the analysis to be shared and interested parties need to understand what questions were asked/answered. Certain relevant outputs could be made public but others may be accessible only to Ofgem to inform the final decision.

LH stated that it was important that there was confidence that the analysis undertaken will properly evaluate the modification as it stands. RH reiterated that it would look at the impact of the exact wording of the modification, ie removal of the rule. AR pointed out that in order for the rule to exist, National Grid must have some information already available to prove it is needed. If the rule is removed do all the elective provisions then apply, and a 'free fall' position is then negated? Would this not form the boundary of the analysis, ie what happens if you continue to use the elective provisions as they stand?

The remainder of the Report was reviewed and revised to reflect the views expressed.

As indicated during the discussions, RCH and RH will submit further comments for inclusion in the Report.

BF confirmed that the revised draft Report would then be published for review and any additional comments should be provided to the Joint Office by Thursday 07 June 2012 at the very latest, to enable the Workgroup Report to be formally submitted to the June UNC Modification Panel for its consideration (the submission deadline to Panel being Friday 08 June 2012).

3.0 Any Other Business

None raised.

4.0 Diary Planning for Review Group

Further details of planned meetings are available at: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/Diary

No further meetings were required.