

Stage 02: Workgroup Report

0378:

Greater Transparency over AQ Appeal Performance

What stage is this document in the process?



This Proposal will give more transparency over the way in which Shippers use the AQ Review process.



The Workgroup recommends that this self-governance modification should now proceed to Consultation



Medium Impact:
Shippers



Low Impact:
Network Owners

Contents

1	Summary
2	Why Change?
3	Solution
4	Relevant Objectives
5	Impacts and Costs
6	Implementation
7	The Case for Change
8	Legal Text
9	Recommendation
10	APPENDIX ONE – OVERVIEW OF NEW REPORTS

About this document:

The purpose of this report is make a recommendation to the Panel, to be held on XX XXXX 201X, on whether Modification 0378 is sufficiently developed to proceed to consultation and to submit any further recommendations in respect of the definition and assessment of this self-governance modification.



3 Any questions?

5 Contact:
Joint Office

6  enquiries@gasgo.vernance.co.uk

7  **0121 623 2115**

8 Proposer:
David Watson

11  dave.a.watson@centrica.com


11  **07789 570501**

Transporter:
Insert name

 ...@...

 **0000 000 000**

xoserve:
Insert name

 commercial.enquiries@xoserve.com

0378 Workgroup Report

26 August 2011

Version 0.4

Page 2 of 14

© 2011 all rights reserved

1 Summary

Is this a Self-Governance Modification

The Modification Panel determined that this modification should not follow Self Governance procedures as it may have impacts on competition between Shippers, and the provision of protected information may impact customers.

Why Change?

The AQ appeal process, which includes the AQ Review, helps assign £billions of cost in the gas market and any issues or misuse of it can therefore have a material impact on the accuracy of cost allocation and therefore consumer's bills. The Proposer considers that the current transparency and controls on Shipper's use of the AQ appeal process are not sufficiently robust to provide the market with confidence that the process is working effectively and not being misused. The impact is that even if a Shipper were to misuse the AQ appeal process for financial gain, the controls on the process are not be sufficient to establish this in anything other than extreme circumstances.

Solution

This proposal will increase the amount of data provided on the industry MOD81 reports so that there is more transparency about the way in which Shippers have used the AQ Review Process.

This Proposal will add to the existing MOD81 report so that it covers AQ appeals made outside of the AQ Review process.

Impacts & Costs

This Proposal will not change the rules around how the AQ appeal process works and therefore will have no impact on Network Owners other than a requirement to collate and publish more data.

The impact on Shippers will be limited to the fact that more information will be publicly available about the way in which they have used to AQ appeal process. As a User Pays change, they will also be required to fund the cost of any extra work required to support this Proposal.

Implementation

This Proposal should be implemented before 1st November 2011, that being the date that the new reports can be provided for the 2010/11 Gas Year.

The Case for Change

The Proposer consider that by improving the control and assurance framework around the AQ appeal process the industry will have more confidence that the process is working effectively, Shippers will be dissuaded from any potential misuse of the process and the industry will be better able to identify and resolve any misuse.

This in turn will ensure that cost allocation in the gas market will be as accurate as possible thus facilitating effective competition between Shippers. In addition, this Proposal will provide greater transparency over the degree to which Shippers are



Where can I find more information about how the AQ appeals process works?

The rules which govern the AQ appeals processes can be found in UNC section G, from paragraph 1.6 onwards. Link [here](#).

compliant with the existing Code obligations not to misuse the AQ appeal process, thus facilitating efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Code. This Proposal will therefore facilitate Relevant Objectives (d) and (f).

Recommendations

[The Workgroup considers that the modification is sufficiently developed and should now proceed to consultation.]

2 Why Change?

Context

In the Non-Daily Metered (NDM) market the allocation of gas costs are allocated based on an estimate of how much gas a site has used. These estimated costs are then aggregated up for all the sites on a Shipper's portfolio to calculate the charges that Shipper is liable for.

The estimate referred to above is known as the Annual Quantity (AQ) value, and it is derived from historic consumption at a site. As with any other estimate, the AQ is not absolutely accurate and therefore the AQ Review process exists to allow Shippers to correct any material variations between the AQ and the consumption they see at the site with the aim of improving the accuracy of cost allocation.

The rules around the AQ Review process provide for the Network Owners to advise the Shipper, for each of the NDM sites in their portfolio, a provisional AQ value by 31st May in each year. Shippers then have until 13th August in each year to appeal any AQ value which they consider to be inaccurate by submitting meter readings which substantiate the revised AQ being sought. Importantly, Shippers have an obligation to ensure that in the AQ Review they have applied a methodology which is consistent across their Supply Points, they have been even handed in their submission of AQ amendments – whether they be increases or decreases – and that it has not been selective over the AQs which it has finally appealed.

The risk arising from misuse of this process is material: £billions of cost is allocated through the AQ process each year and we calculate that were a Shipper with a 10% NDM market share to avoid just 1% of their costs through misuse of the AQ Review process, the misallocation of costs would be worth ~£6.5m¹.

The Issue

The "MOD81 report" is actually a collection of reports, or datasets, used to provide transparency over Shipper activity following the AQ Review. It contains no information about any AQ appeal which was submitted outside of the AQ Review process.

The Proposer considers that, aside from extreme cases, it is not possible to establish from the data in the MOD81 report whether any particular Shipper's actions have or have not been compliant with the provisions under Code. The report also does not provide any data on AQ appeals made by Shippers outside the AQ Review Process. The effect is that Shippers are unlikely to be able to use the MOD81 report to demonstrate non-compliance with Code provisions, and those facing allegations are unable to demonstrate their compliance.

The Workgroup considers that more data is required in this report to give the necessary transparency to establish whether the process has been properly used or not.

¹ Assuming approximate SSP aggregate AQ of 328 TWh at an average cost of approximately £20m p/TWh, or £6.5bn total value. 10% share of this cost is therefore approximately £650m, with 1% of that cost valued at approximately £6.5m.

3 Solution

This Proposal will add the following three reports or datasets to the MOD81 report considered by UNC TPD G1.6.

1. Aggregate effect of AQ movement during the AQ Review window expressed in kWh, by Shipper.
2. The number of increases and decreases in AQ made during the AQ Review, by Shipper, split by kWh movement bands.
3. A separate report providing the same data as the MOD81 report shows, but specifically covering AQ appeals submitted outside of the AQ Review process, split by Shipper. This should be delivered once a year along with the final issue of the current MOD81 and detail all appeal activity for the previous gas year. Its headings will be based on the MOD81 report, showing, by Shipper, EUC and LDZ, a count of AQ Appeal, associated aggregate AQ movement, count of upward and downward appeals and associated aggregate AQ movement.

An overview of the proposed reports is attached to this document as Appendix One.

4 Relevant Objectives

Implementation is expected to better facilitate the achievement of **Relevant Objectives d and f**.

Proposer's view of the benefits against the Code Relevant Objectives	
Description of Relevant Objective	Identified impact
a) Efficient and economic operation of the pipe-line system.	None.
b) Coordinated, efficient and economic operation of (i) the combined pipe-line system, and/ or (ii) the pipe-line system of one or more other relevant gas transporters.	None.
c) Efficient discharge of the licensee's obligations.	None.
d) Securing of effective competition: (i) between relevant shippers; (ii) between relevant suppliers; and/or (iii) between DN operators (who have entered into transportation arrangements with other relevant gas transporters) and relevant shippers.	Yes, see below.
e) Provision of reasonable economic incentives for relevant suppliers to secure that the domestic customer supply security standards... are satisfied as respects the availability of gas to their domestic customers.	None.
f) Promotion of efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Code	Yes, see below.

The Workgroup considers this Proposal facilitates UNC Relevant Objectives (d) and (f).

d) Securing of effective competition:

(i) between relevant shippers;

(ii) between relevant suppliers; and/or

(iii) between DN operators (who have entered into transportation arrangements with other relevant gas transporters) and relevant shippers.

Some members consider that by improving the control and assurance framework around the AQ appeal process the industry will have more confidence that the process is working effectively, Shippers will be dissuaded from any potential misuse of the process and the industry will be better able to identify and resolve any misuse. That this in turn will ensure that cost allocation in the gas market will be as accurate as possible thus facilitating effective competition between Shippers.

Some members disagreed that the modification is likely benefit this relevant objective between Shippers as it provides information that does not directly increase competition.

f) Promotion of efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Code

The Workgroup considers this Proposal will provide greater transparency over the degree to which Shippers are compliant with the existing Code obligations not to misuse the AQ appeal process, thus facilitating efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Code.

5 Impacts and Costs

Consideration of Wider Industry Impacts

None identified.

Impacts

This Proposal will impact both Shippers and Network Owners. Network Owners, who administer the AQ appeal process, will need to collect and report the additional data required under this Proposal. To the extent that there is cost associated with the implementation of this Proposal, Shippers will have to bear the cost of that implementation.

Costs

Indicative industry costs – User Pays
Classification of the proposal as User Pays or not and justification for classification
User Pays
Identification of Users, proposed split of the recovery between Gas Transporters and Users for User Pays costs and justification
[Shippers who choose to take the report will pay 100% of the costs associated with this modification.]
Proposed charge(s) for application of Users Pays charges to Shippers
TBC
Proposed charge for inclusion in ACS – to be completed upon receipt of cost estimate from xoserve

Impacts

Impact on Transporters' Systems and Process	
Transporters' System/Process	Potential impact
UK Link	• TBC

Operational Processes	• TBC
User Pays implications	• TBC

Impact on Users	
Area of Users' business	Potential impact
Administrative and operational	• None.
Development, capital and operating costs	• TBC.
Contractual risks	• None.
Legislative, regulatory and contractual obligations and relationships	• None.

Impact on Transporters	
Area of Transporters' business	Potential impact
System operation	• TBC
Development, capital and operating costs	• TBC
Recovery of costs	• TBC
Price regulation	• TBC
Contractual risks	• TBC
Legislative, regulatory and contractual obligations and relationships	• TBC
Standards of service	• TBC

Impact on Code Administration	
Area of Code Administration	Potential impact
Modification Rules	• None.
UNC Committees	• None.
General administration	• None.

Impact on Code	
Code section	Potential impact

Impact on UNC Related Documents and Other Referenced Documents	
Related Document	Potential impact
Network Entry Agreement (TPD I1.3)	None.
Network Exit Agreement (Including Connected System Exit Points) (TPD J1.5.4)	None.
Storage Connection Agreement (TPD R1.3.1)	None.
UK Link Manual (TPD U1.4)	None.
Network Code Operations Reporting Manual (TPD V12)	None.
Network Code Validation Rules (TPD V12)	None.
ECQ Methodology (TPD V12)	None.
Measurement Error Notification Guidelines (TPD V12)	None.
Energy Balancing Credit Rules (TPD X2.1)	None.
Uniform Network Code Standards of Service (Various)	None.

Impact on Core Industry Documents and other documents	
Document	Potential impact
Safety Case or other document under Gas Safety (Management) Regulations	None.
Gas Transporter Licence	None.

Other Impacts	
Item impacted	Potential impact
Security of Supply	None.
Operation of the Total System	None.
Industry fragmentation	None.
Terminal operators, consumers, connected system operators, suppliers, producers and other non code parties	None.

6 Implementation

This Proposal should be implemented as soon as possible after an Ofgem direction. We believe it is important that the implementation date should be before 1st November 2011 so that the improvements can be included in the reports covering the 2010/11 Gas Year.

[To be reviewed by the Proposer]

7 The Case for Change

Advantages

1. Provides greater transparency over Shipper behaviour during the AQ appeal process, deterring any non-compliance and ensuring that any non-compliance can be identified and addressed.

Disadvantages

None identified.

8 Legal Text

None provided

9 Recommendation

The Workgroup invites the Panel to:

- AGREE that Modification 0378 be submitted for consultation.

10 Appendix One – Overview of New Reports

AQ Appeal reporting (As in addition to existing MOD 81 reporting – This is the Publication of Statistical Information for AQ Appeals.

Release :	Reports to be released on 1 st of November (At the same time as the final MOD081 report) covering AQ appeal activity during the period ending 30 th September (of the year the report is released) for the previous gas year starting on the previous 01 st October. This report would cover the same categories of supplies as the MOD 081 report (e.g. Live NDM's)
AQ Appeal:	AQ Appeal activity, would be defined as any confirmation resulting from a nomination using an AQ appeal reference, where the confirmation effective date falls within the reporting period (the reporting period being 1 st October to 30 th September).
RSU:	Registered System User at the time of the confirmation effective date of the AQ appeal

Report 1: AQ Appeal Trends Report - Total Number of confirmed AQ appeals by LDZ - Count and Energy

The report is split by, LDZ, RSU and shows the number of confirmed AQ Appeals between the specified date parameters of the report. The report also captures how the energy values are affected, pre and post the confirmed AQ appeals. Included will be any MPR that has had a change in AQ resulting from and AQ appeal. In the case of aggregated supply points, it is intended that only the MPR's that had a change in AQ would be included. The "State" would be the registered system user at the time of the confirmation effective date of the AQ appeal.

LDZ	State	CountOfMPR	CountOfConfirmed Appeals	SumOfPrevious AQ	SumOfNew AQ
-----	-------	------------	--------------------------	------------------	-------------

Report 2: Confirmed AQ appeals – Increasing or Decreasing AQ by Shipper

The report captures the total number of confirmed AQ Appeals for each RSU and shows the affect of the appeals on the previous AQ values. It also indicates how the industry is / has undertaken AQ Appeals in regards to a balanced approach being applied.

State	Confirmed appeals	Decreasing_AQs	Increasing_AQs
-------	-------------------	----------------	----------------

Report 5: EUC Band Changes – Decreasing AQs Energy for confirmed AQ Appeals

The report reflects the **DECREASING** energy values for each EUC band and tracks how this energy is dispersed between other EUC Bands following the confirmed AQ appeals. This report also captures in which EUC Zone the energy was allocated, and then captures where the energy has moved zones as a result of the confirmed AQ Appeal.

State	LDZ_Identifier	Previous_EUC_Band	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	Total Of NEW_AQ
-------	----------------	-------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----------------

Report 6: EUC Band Changes – Decreasing AQs by Meter Point for confirmed AQ Appeals

The report shows the same data as Report 5 although this report reflects count of Supply Points and Report 5 shows the data in kWh following the confirmed AQ Appeals.

State	LDZ_Identifier	Previous_EUC_Band	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	Total Of MPRN
-------	----------------	-------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	---------------

Report 7: EUC Band Changes – Increasing AQs Energy for confirmed AQ Appeals

The report reflects the **INCREASING** energy values for each EUC band and tracks how this energy is dispersed between other EUC Bands following the confirmed AQ appeals. This report also captures in which EUC Zone the energy was allocated, and then captures where the energy has moved zones as a result of the confirmed AQ Appeal.

State	LDZ_Identifier	Previous_EUC_Band	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	Total Of NEW_AQ
-------	----------------	-------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----------------

Report 8: EUC Band Changes – Increasing AQs by Meter Point for confirmed AQ Appeals

The report shows the same data as Report 7 although this report reflects count of Meter Points and Report 7 shows the data in kWh following the confirmed AQ Appeals.

State	LDZ_Identifier	Previous_EUC_Band	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	Total Of MPRN
-------	----------------	-------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	---------------

Report 9: EUC Band Changes – Pre/Post Confirmed AQ Appeal Movement

The report captures all of the movement between EUC codes following successful confirmed AQ appeals. It shows the original starting point of the EUC band prior to the confirmed AQ appeal and then shows which EUC codes the Supply Points have moved into after the confirmed AQ appeal. The final column is a count that captures the gains and losses, the movement of Supply Points within that EUC code. This report would not include acquired brown field and previously shipperless supplies.

State	LDZ_Identifier	Previous_EUC_Band	New_EUC_Band	Pre_Appeal_MPRs	Post_Appeal_MPRs	Difference
-------	----------------	-------------------	--------------	-----------------	------------------	------------

MOD 081 reports not deemed as having an applicable AQ Appeal report

Report 3: Confirmed AQ appeals Received by Outcome & Outcome Code (Accepted / Rejected / Referred) – Volume Count & Percentage of Total

The report captures the total number of confirmed AQ Appeals for each RSU received within the date parameters of the report and shows the aggregate volume of Outcome Codes, i.e. if the amendments were Accepted, Rejected or Referred.

State	All_Amendments	Accepted_Amendments	Rejected_Amendments
-------	----------------	---------------------	---------------------

Report 4: Speculative Calculator File Submission outside of the AQ Review

The report demonstrates the volume of AQ enquires that have put through the Speculative Calculator for each RSU to derive revised AQ values (including multiple submissions on one meter point).

State	Spec_Calc	Duplicates	Amendments_Submitted	Spec_Calc_as_Amendment	Total_Portfolio	Portfolio_as_Spec
-------	-----------	------------	----------------------	------------------------	-----------------	-------------------

Report 10: EUC Band for pre and post confirmation effective for AQ Appeals by LDZ

This report looks to capture the total affect of the years confirmed AQ Appeals on all Meter Points. The report is structured to show the RSU, LDZ and EUC band for pre-confirmation effective and then the position post confirmation effective of the AQ Appeal.

It looks to capture:

- The transfer of ownership, it captures the Previous Shipper (1st of October previous gas year) and the Current Shipper as at the 1st of October (new gas year).
- The previous LDZ and then the current LDZ, these are usually where there has been an address / postcode amendment on Sites and Meters.
- The previous EUC code and then the new EUC code.
- The total count of Meter Points.
- Previous AQ, this being the AQ value prior to the annual AQ review being undertaken, and then the new AQ going live as on the 1st of October.

Previous Shipper	Previous LDZ ID	Previous EUC Descriptions	Current Shipper	Current LDZ ID	Current EUC Description	MPR Count	Previous NDM AQ
------------------	-----------------	---------------------------	-----------------	----------------	-------------------------	-----------	-----------------