

From: "Webb,Chris" <Chris.Webb@boc.com>
Subject: RE: Alternative Modification Proposal 0286A: Extending Modification Panel Voting Rights to a Consumer Representative
Date: 24 March 2010 17:49:51 GMT
To: "Joint Office" <enquiries@gasgovernance.co.uk>

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for putting the two variants of Mod 286 out for consultation. BOC is a significant industrial consumer of Natural Gas, and feels strongly that consumers who ultimately pay for a regulated product should have a right to influence the regulations that affect the prices and risks imposed upon them.

In that respect Mod 286 seems preferable to Mod 286A, as it allows voting rights for two consumer representatives; these would sensibly be split Residential and Business, covering the interests of the smaller and the larger consumers respectively. BOC rejects the suggestion in Mod 286A that consumer representation should be limited to the National Consumer Council on two grounds

- 1 NCC no longer exists per se, its remit to speak for households and small businesses is now performed by Consumer Focus
- 2 Industry, in the form of larger consumers, is the primary engine of growth for the economy, and it will be made less internationally competitive if the wrong decisions are made in this forum because industry's view is not heard.

In this respect, BOC strongly supports the original Mod 286.

On balance BOC also believes that the proposed limitation in Mod 286A to the scope for contribution from consumer representatives to be a misplaced concern, though recognises that the proposers of Mod286A are right to raise concerns over conflict with timelines for Ofgem's review of Code Governance.

In conclusion, BOC therefore believes that though Mod 286A would be an improvement on the status quo, it does not go far enough, and that Mod 286 should be approved and implemented as soon as it practicable.

Yours sincerely

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From: Joint Office [<mailto:enquiries@gasgovernance.co.uk>]
Sent: 24 March 2010 16:54
Subject: Alternative Modification Proposal 0286A: Extending Modification Panel Voting Rights to a Consumer Representative

Dear Colleague,

Please note that alternative Modification Proposal 0286A: Extending Modification Panel Voting Rights to a Consumer Representative, which has been raised by British Gas has been published to the Joint Office web site: www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0286.

In accordance with the Modification Rules, this Alternative Proposal will align with the timescales for the original Modification Proposal 0286 which is currently out for representations, and consultation on both these modification proposals will close at 17:00hrs on 7 May 2010.

A revised Draft Modification Report for 0286/0286A has been published to the Joint Office website at the same location.

Regards,

Bob Fletcher
Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Tel: 0121 623 2115
Email: enquiries@gasgovernance.co.uk

UNC related documents can be accessed via our website:
www.gasgovernance.co.uk

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