Modification Proposal 0005

Unbundled Choice of Meter Reading Service Provision

Monthly Report: 4th June 1996

Progress of Development Workgroup

During the period May to June 1996, the Development workgroup have had 2 meetings. Kieron Farry of PanEnergy has joined the group, increasing the number of Shipper Representatives from 5 to 6.

Significant progress has been made on the Unbundled Commercial Principles; some of the issues still under discussion are

- TransCo as interim "meter reader of last resort": contract terms
- Volume of reads passed to TransCo
- Audit / Risk Management
- Must Read

At the meeting of 29th May, the Workgroup were presented with file formats for data exchange, and proposed validation rules, within the Unbundled Business Processes. It is intended that further discussion will take place on 11th June, with a view to sign off.

Costs

The Modification Rules have a clear requirement that the Development Workgroup should address the "development and capital cost and operating cost implications" for TransCo and Shippers. To this end, the Workgroup have identified the following high level cost elements for consideration:

- Systems Development: TransCo / Shipper
- Systems Development: Shipper / Meter Reader
- Systems Testing: TransCo / Shipper
- Procedures & Training: TransCo / Shipper
- New Process Operating Costs: TransCo / Shipper

These elements will be refined, however they categorise into Development, Implementation, Operation. Clearly there will be one-off costs and incremental costs within the model.

Impact on Shippers

A key principle of the Workgroup has been to ensure that the effect of Unbundled Choice on Shippers not wishing to take the service, should be minimised. This has been achieved, with change of meter reading service, submission of meter reads to TransCo, meter asset enquiries, opening reads, must reads, and invoicing, all having new file formats developed, which will see existing processes unaffected.

Appendix A of this report summarises the Data Flows associated with Unbundled Meter Reading.

Implementation Plan

The agreed timetable for delivery of the modification proposal has been modified to show the proposed date for the Shipper Trial of the new processes, data flows, and file formats. The ammended Gantt Chart can bee seen in Appendix B.

Guidance from Mod Panel

The Development Workgroup are looking to the Mod Panel for guidance on the following issues:

- The terms of reference for the Workgroup are clear, in that the Workgroup is responsible for systems specification and development. Once we have agreed File Formats and system functionality, guidance is sought as to the most appropriate approach for informing all Shippers of the changes
- OFGAS have agreed to hold an "Industry" Seminar, when substantial agreement has been reached regarding the commercial principles and necessary systems changes. The Panel should consider the timing and attendance for this seminar

APPENDIX A

Unbundled Meter Reading Data Flows

Unbundled Meter Reading

Data Flows

1. Introduction

With the advent of Unbundled Meter Reading there will be a number of changes required to the data which flows from the System User to TransCo and from TransCo to the System User. These are illustrated in the attached slides and briefly described in this document.

A pre-requisite of the development approach has been to minimise the changes required to the systems of those Shippers who decide not to adopt the Unbundled service. This is reflected in the changes so far developed.

The changes to file format or content affect six areas. These are:

Change of Meter Read Service (Paragraph 2)
Submission of Meter Reads to TransCo (Paragraph 3)
Opening Reads (Paragraph 4)
Meter Asset Information/Enquiries (Paragraph 5)
Must Reads (Paragraph 6)
Invoices (Paragraph 7)

2. Change of Meter Read Service

There are four ways in which a System User may request an Unbundled Meter Reading service from TransCo. The files used are:

S48 Current Supply Point Nomination Request
S49 New Supply Point Nomination Request
S42 Non Competitive Nomination Request
S32 Meter Read Agency Change Request

These files will remain unchanged but an additional value will be added to the MRA field to allow a Non TransCo MRA to be chosen.

TransCo will notify the System User of the additional Information needed to read meters using a new record:

U06 Meter Read Instructions.

3. Submission of Meter Reads to TransCo

System users will send their validated meter readings to TransCo using a new record:

U01 Unbundled Meter Read

This record will contain unbundled meter reads only.
Any Rejected Meter reads will be returned on another new record:

U02 Unbundled Meter Read Rejection

4. Opening Reads

The responsibility for obtaining an Opening read at transfer rests with the requesting System User. They will inform TransCo of the read using the files for meter reads described in Paragraph 3 (above)

TransCo will notify the requesting System User of the acceptance of the reading and the tolerance check information using a new record:

U03 Opening Unbundled Read Notice

TransCo will also inform the Withdrawing System User of their final read using a new record:

U04 Final Unbundled Read Notice

Estimated opening reads will also be sent to System Users on these records

System Users remaining with the Bundled Service will continue to receive these readings on MRBILLREADS.

5. Meter Asset Information/Enquiries

Information to assist in clearing any meter reads (that cannot be processed without further detail from TransCo) will be requested using a new record:

I80 Meter Point Query

Any meter asset enquiries or associated data arising from a meter read visit or any other source will also use this record.

The answer to the Query will be sent on a new record:

U05 Meter Asset Query Resolution

6. Must Reads

TransCo will inform a System User that a Must Read is due and is being progressed by TransCo. This will be via a new record:

U07 Must Read Issued Notice

Having obtained the reading this will be sent on the MRBILLREADS file. The System User will also receive notification that the read has been completed and the price charged on a new record:

U08 Must Read Completed Notice

7. Invoicing

TransCo will amend Invoices to the System Users showing a rebated charge for unbundled supply points on:

I11 CAP INV DETAIL

I19 CAP INV MTR GT 73200

I20 CAP INV MTR LT 73200

Z04 CAP INV TRAILER

Must Read Charges will appear on the Ad Hoc Invoice on:

I59 ADHOC INV ITEM DETAIL

mb: 4.6.96

MUST READS

TRANSCO

U08
COMPLETED
NOTICE

U07
MUST
READ
NOTICE

TRANSCO
MRA
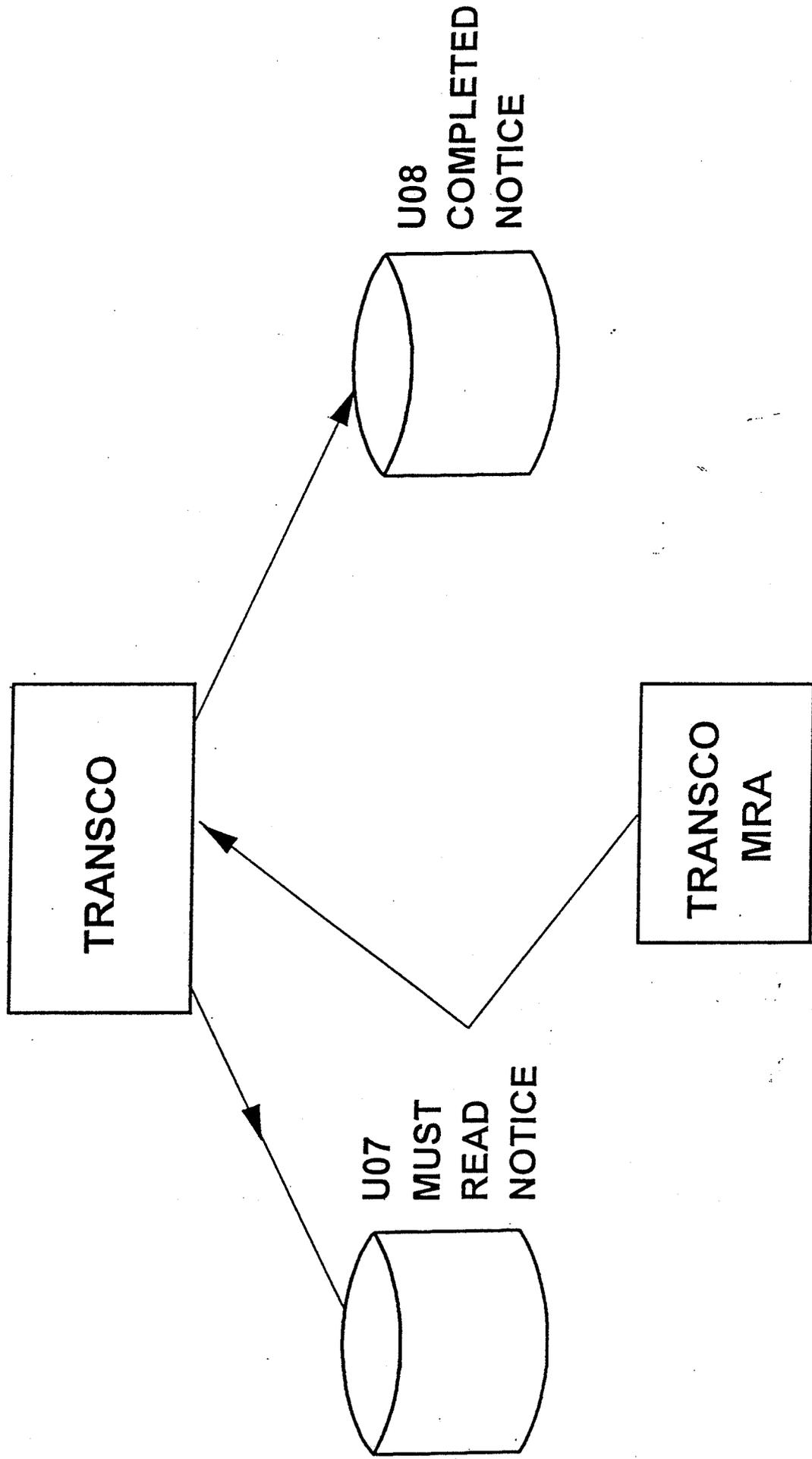
OPENING READS
ENQ'S/ASST'S

180 MTR POINT QUERY

ENQ'S

ASSET DATA

U05 MTR ASST QUERY RESOLUTION

TRANSCO

OPENING READS

U04 FINAL READ NOTICE

OLD SHIPPER

U03 OPNG READ

NEW SHIPPER

S32

S42

S49

S48

MRA CHG REQ'

NON-COMP NOM

NEW SP NOM

CURRENT SP NOM

U06
METER
READ
INSTN'S

SHIPPER

TRANSCO

U01
MTR READS,

U02
U/B MTR RD
REJECTS
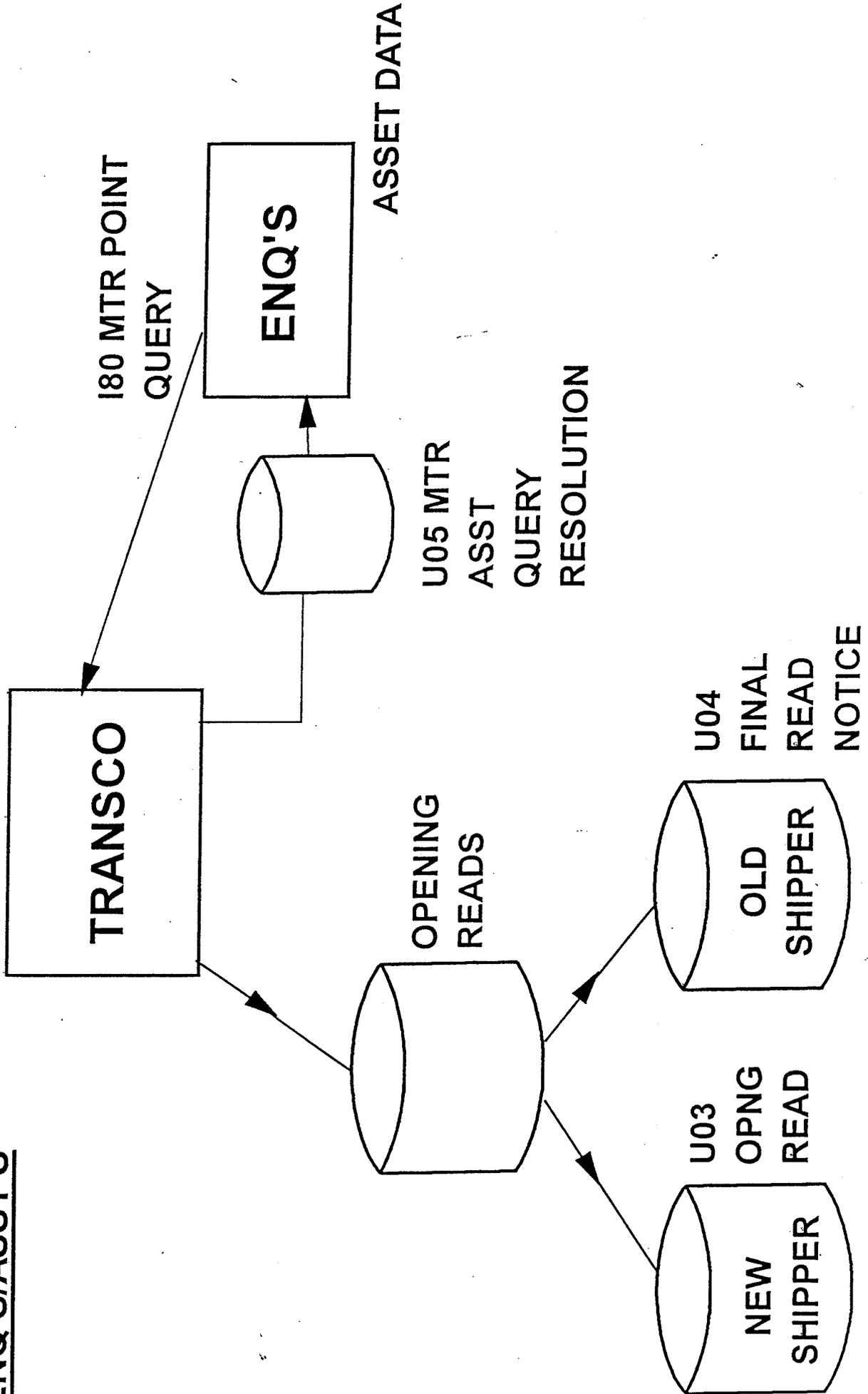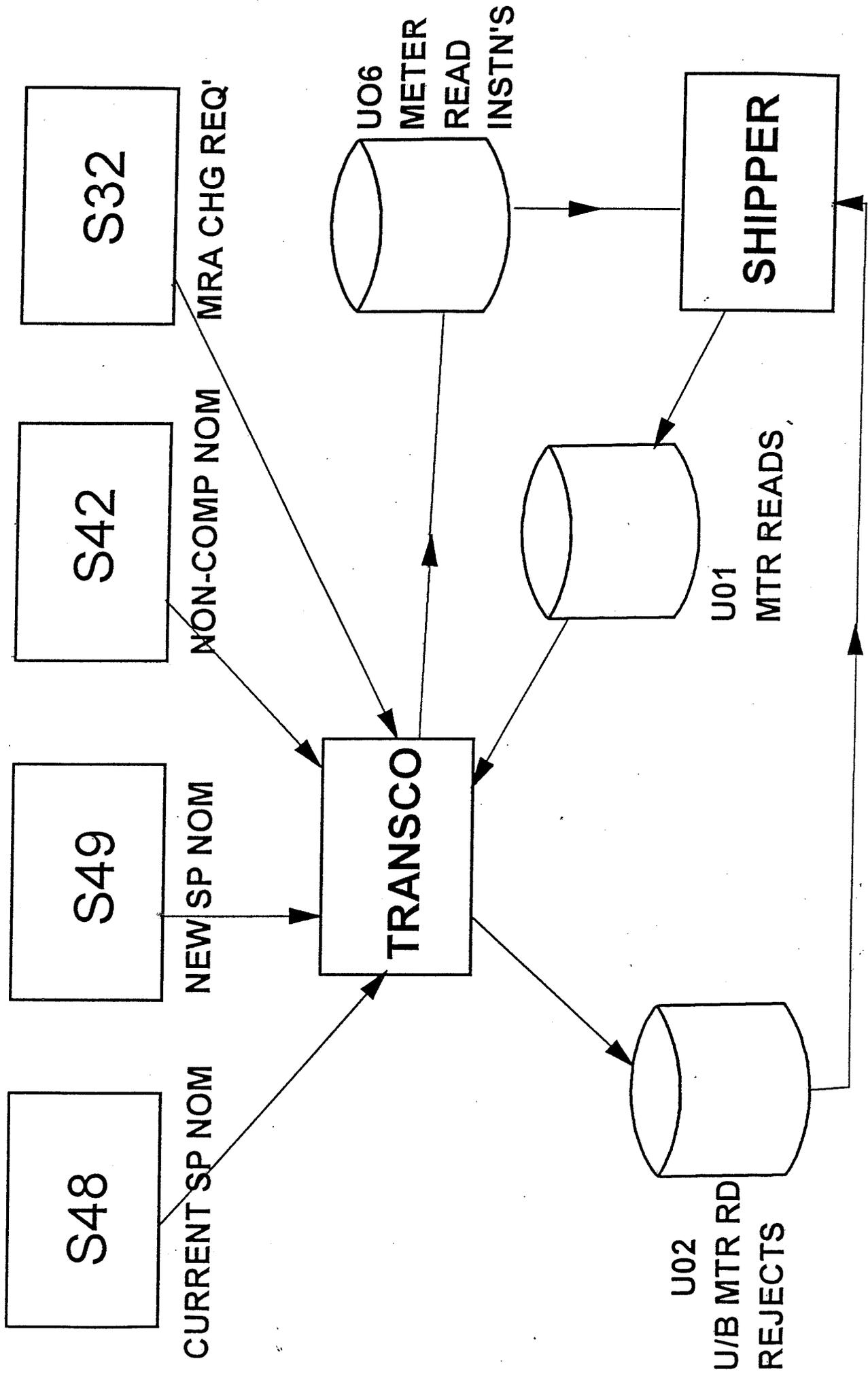
Message class	message no	message text
MRE	00400	The meter read index is invalid.
MRE	00401	The corrector uncorrected index is invalid.
MRE	00402	The corrector corrected index is invalid.
MRE	00403	The meter read source is invalid.
MRE	00404	The corrector read usable indicator is invalid.
MRE	00405	The meter read reason is invalid for an agreed meter read.
MRE	00406	The meter read source is invalid for a replacement opening read.
MRE	00407	The meter read verified indicator is invalid.
MRE	00408	The corrector read verified indicator is invalid.
MRE	00409	The corrector read verified indicator is set but no corrector corrected read has been supplied.
MRE	00410	The corrector read verified indicator is set to 'Y' but the corrector reads usable indicator is set to 'N'.
MRE	00411	The Meter Reading Organisation has not been provided for a reading of source 'M'.
MRE	00412	The Meter Reading Organisation has been provided for a read where the source is not 'M'.
MRE	00413	The meter round the clock count has not been supplied.
MRE	00414	The System User is not responsible for the Meter Point.
MRE	00415	The Meter Point is not subject to an unbundled meter reading service.
MRE	00416	The Meter Point is not subject to a Non Daily Metered Gas Nomination.
MRE	00417	The opening read is outside the permitted read window.
MRE	00418	The meter was removed on the actual read date.
MRE	00419	The meter serial number on the read does not agree with the meter serial number held on the TransCo Database.
MRE	00420	The meter read does not have the expected number of digits.
MRE	00421	A corrector serial number has been supplied where no corrector is fitted.
MRE	00422	Corrector corrected read has been supplied where no corrector is fitted.
MRE	00423	Corrector corrected read has

		been supplied where the corrector reads are unusable.
MRE	00424	The corrector serial number on the read does not agree with the corrector serial number held on the TransCo Database.
MRE	00425	The corrector corrected read does not have the expected number of digits.
MRE	00426	The corrector uncorrected read does not have the expected number of digits.
MRE	00427	The corrector corrected read has not been supplied where there is a corrector fitted and the corrector reads are usable.
MRE	00428	The corrector serial number has not been supplied where there is a corrector is fitted.
MRE	00429	The corrector round the clock count has not been supplied.
MRE	00430	The Meter Point has no previous read.
MRE	00431	The Meter Point has a missing opening read.
MRE	00432	The Meter Point already has a read for a later date.
MRE	00433	The Meter Point already has an opening read for this date.
MRE	00434	The Meter Point already has an agreed replacement opening read for this date.
MRE	00435	The Meter Point has no opening read to be replaced.
MRE	00436	The Meter Point already has a reading of the same type for this date.
MRE	00437	The meter read has a future read date.
MRE	00438	The meter read reason is invalid.
MRE	00439	The corrector uncorrected read has not been supplied where there is a corrector fitted and the corrector reads are usable.
MRE	00440	Corrector uncorrected read has been supplied where the corrector reads are unusable.
MRE	00441	Corrector uncorrected read has been supplied where no corrector is fitted.
MRE	00442	Cannot replace an unbundled meter read.
MRE	00443	Cannot add an unbundled meter read.
MRE	00444	Cannot re-enter a rejected unbundled meter read.
MRE	00445	Meter Round The Clock Count must be numeric if supplied.

MRE   00446   Corrector Round The Clock Count
                                      must be numeric if supplied.

APPENDIX B

Implementation Plan

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish
1	File formats & validation	0d	29/05/96	29/05/96
2	Agree file formats	0d	12/06/96	12/06/96
3	Finalise principles	0d	26/06/96	26/06/96
4	System changes agreed	0d	01/07/96	01/07/96
5	Circulate draft mod report to shippers	0d	19/07/96	19/07/96
6	Seminar	1d	22/07/96	22/07/96
7	Elect to go unbundled	0d	01/08/96	01/08/96
8	Responses from shippers	0d	05/08/96	05/08/96
9	Finalise mod report	0d	19/08/96	19/08/96
10	Shipper trial	94d	22/08/96	31/12/96
11	Final report to D.G.	0d	02/09/96	02/09/96
12	Implement	0d	01/10/96	01/10/96

Project: Unbundled Development Wor
Date: 05/06/96

Task	Summary
Progress	Rolled Up Task
Milestone	Rolled Up Milestone
	Rolled Up Progress

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