

Short Title: Provision of remote access to Supply Point dataloggers by Registered Users

Date: 15th March 1999

Proposed implementation date: ASAP

Urgency: Non-urgent

Justification:

This Modification proposal is being raised to provide better information on within-day demand to shippers with Sites & Meters Daily Metered (DM) customers. There are a number of benefits to the industry from making this available as an ordinarily required service to all Network Code parties:

- Provide the ability for increased accuracy shipper DM nominations. This can then be tied into reducing tolerances and increasing scheduling charges in line with BC99 discussions.
- Associated improvements in Transco's NDM nominations
- Ability to calculate Partial Interruption requirements for customers.
- Likely improvements in system safety through greater compliance with Interruption

The infrastructure for this service currently exists within Transco and has been trialled during 1997 and early 1998. The service has currently been suspended by Transco pending review of Metering Unbundling. Transco are a monopoly provider of datalogger information, as it is generally inefficient and uneconomic to install additional dataloggers and communication lines for shipper usage on most DM sites. Transco MR are making a similar service available to Transco System Control for monitoring interruption and FTI (failure to interrupt).

At present, Shippers with daily metered (DM) customers, receive daily reads from Transco. The data quality of these is often poor, but they are the only source with which to forecast consumption. Shippers are responsible for making DM nominations (forecast consumption), which are then used to apportion NDM demand within Transco's overall LDZ forecast. Therefore, the accuracy of DM nominations has a direct influence on NDM forecasts during the day, and the resultant NDM deviation after the day. DM forecast errors (whether deliberate or otherwise) impose costs across the community; from higher than necessary balancing neutrality costs through to individual shippers required to put gas in at their WACOG and being cashed out at SAP. Provision of this information is consistent with one of the BC99 aims of improving within day information. It also permits a tightening of tolerances with reduced shipper risk. The implementation date is to allow shippers to evaluate the robustness of Transco data prior to BC99 being implemented in October 1999.

Consequences of not making this change:

DM and NDM forecasts continue to be less accurate than may be possible. Good information will be suppressed from the industry, permitting "gaming", and resulting in higher than necessary balancing neutrality costs. Improvements in compliance with Interruption will not be forthcoming.

Area of Network Code concerned:

Section M 4 and M 5

Nature of Proposal:

Transco are required to make available to Registered Users on request, remote access to their DM customers' dataloggers via the Datalogger Bulletin Board (DBB). This service should be available to Registered Users with no more than seven days notice to Transco (MR).

The Registered User will be able to access their DM customers dataloggers via the DBB using a PC and modem. Access to more than three (3) records per meter per day will be on a reasonable endeavours basis. This excludes the 6am read taken by Transco.

The service is ordinarily required by Shippers as it will benefit all Relevant Shippers, not just those with DM customers. The costs of Transco providing this service will be recovered through the Transportation formula. However, in the absence of improvements in DM forecasting, Registered Users using this service should pay for the marginal costs of this service, recognising the implications for cost reflectivity and future competition.

Registered Users would undertake to provide this information to relevant customers on request on an equal access and non-discriminatory basis.

Purpose of Proposal:

The purpose of this proposal is to facilitate provision of better quality output information. This begins with giving Registered Users, remote (dial in) access to their DM customers dataloggers. Registered Users will then have the ability to better monitor customer offtake during the day to more accurately balance their portfolio. Better DM forecasts upto 1500hrs on the Gas Day will improve Transco's LDZ NDM forecasts, benefiting all Relevant Shippers.

Licence Obligations:

This proposal will ensure that Transco better meets Licence Condition 7(a) to operate its system in an efficient and economic manner. It also permits Shippers to more fully comply with their Licence Conditions 2c.

Identity of Proposer's Representative:

Proposer: Mark Dalton

Signature:

Position: Commercial Operations Manager

Company: Yorkshire Energy Limited

Modification Panel Secretary's Use Only

Reference Number: 0321

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