

TRANSCO NETWORK CODE MODIFICATION PROPOSAL No.

SHORT TITLE: Treatment of Urgent Network Repairs Following an Emergency

DATE: 30/3/99 **PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** ASAP

URGENCY: Non Urgent

NATURE OF PROPOSAL:

Urgent repairs are occasionally required following a Gas Supply Emergency. This can require that some large consumers stop taking gas for a short time. Currently there are no specific provisions in the Network Code that allow for this circumstance.

This modification proposes a new maintenance category for urgent maintenance or repairs in this situation. For this type of work, where Transco may require certain strategically important loads to temporarily reduce their offtake, Transco will give as much notice as reasonably possible to the relevant user, and in any event the notice will be at least three days unless prior agreement has been reached with the affected supply points.

Curtailment of supplies due to urgent repairs may apply equally to firm or interruptible supply points in the same way that curtailment due to planned maintenance and emergency interruption does.

PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL:

There are currently no Network Code provisions that allow Transco to ask that strategic sites stop using gas whilst urgent repairs to pipelines are carried out. There have been examples where a temporary repair has been carried out to make an emergency situation safe. The temporary repair generally needs to be made permanent within a few days, e.g. as soon as the correct fittings or specialist contractors are available. In order to safely action a permanent repair Transco may require a reduction of gas usage at one or more strategic sites. According to the Network Code, planned maintenance requires a minimum of 30 days notice and emergency interruption can only be used to prevent or alleviate an emergency. Urgent repairs do not fit comfortably in either of these categories.

The new category of urgent repairs will ensure that Transco can safely carry out permanent repairs in a timely and efficient manner and hence would aid Transco in the efficient and economic operation of the pipe line system, and therefore meets one of the relevant objectives of the Network Code.

CONSEQUENCE OF NOT MAKING THIS CHANGE:

The current situation requires Transco to either prolong emergency interruption until the permanent repair is complete, or leave a temporary repair for at least 30 days to comply with the notice period requirements. This may not always be safe for that length of time and may give rise to a risk of further emergency interruption resulting from the failure of a temporary repair. An excavation associated with the repair may also be causing inconvenience to the public or local authority.

AREA OF NETWORK CODE CONCERNED:

Section L, paragraph 4

IDENTITY OF PROPOSER'S REPRESENTATIVE: Chris Logue

PROPOSER: Tim Davis

SIGNATURE:

TL

30/3/99

POSITION: Manager Network Code

COMPANY: Transco

MODIFICATION PANEL SECRETARY'S USE ONLY

Reference Number: *0323*

Date Received: