

**TRANSCO NETWORK CODE MODIFICATION PROPOSAL No. 0522**  
"Deferral of Maintenance Information Publication Obligation"  
Version 1.0

**Date:** 11/01/2002

**Proposed Implementation Date:** 31/01/2002

**Urgency:** Urgent

**Justification**

The Network Code presently requires Transco to publish its Summer Maintenance Plan for 2002 by 31 January 2002. For reasons stated below, Transco believes it would be prudent to delay publication this year in line with this Proposal and Urgent treatment is necessary to effect these changes before 31 January 2002.

The development and publication of maintenance information will potentially prevent Transco refining its maintenance activity in response to emerging market signals. It is therefore appropriate to await confirmation of the arrangements to apply for the summer before a decision on the extent of information release is made.

**Nature of Proposal**

The purpose of this proposal is to defer the Network Code commitment upon Transco to publish information relating to the Maintenance Programme associated with the summer of 2002.

The NTS SO Incentive framework to apply for the forthcoming summer has not been agreed, but Transco believes Ofgem's proposals are consistent with a view that the relevant objectives would be better served if Transco is incentivised to take decisions about network management in the light of market signals. This suggests that the Maintenance Plan should not be finalised until market signals about the value Users place on capacity at different times and locations has been revealed, and that care should be taken to ensure that information released to the market is not potentially misleading and hence distortionary.

Recent Workstream opinion has supported the view that it may not be appropriate for Transco to continue to have to publish the Maintenance Programme, particularly in respect of the expected capability of specific entry points when affected by maintenance work.

Transco therefore believes that it is appropriate to defer the timescales associated with the Maintenance Programme obligations for this summer. The proposed changes which would be introduced into the Transitional Section of the Network Code to delay obligations in respect of the Summer 2002 Maintenance Programme are:

Publication of draft maintenance programme 31st March

Annual Maintenance Meeting held in April

Maintenance Programme published 1st May

This timetable is anticipated to allow sufficient time for the SO Incentive arrangements to be defined and further consideration to be given to how the ongoing obligation, if any, to publish Maintenance Programme information should be structured.

### **Purpose of Proposal**

To ensure that information is not released that might increase the risks of high constraint costs before the SO incentive arrangements to apply for the summer are established. Having established the arrangements the issue of Maintenance Programme information release can be considered in the context of the possible impact on Users and Transco.

It is envisaged that a subsequent Network Code Modification Proposal will be necessary if the current obligations are to be removed or amended.

### **Consequence of not making this change**

Increased risk of economically inefficient maintenance and consequently relatively high constraint management costs.

### **Area of Network Code Concerned**

### **Proposer's Representative**

Nigel K Sisman (Transco)

### **Proposer**

Tim M Davis (Transco)

### **Signature**

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