TRANSCO NETWORK CODE MODIFICATION PROPOSAL No. 0683

"Acceptance by the Gas Transporter of Reads obtained remotely as Valid Reads"
Version 1.0

Date: 03/03/2004

Proposed Implementation Date: 01/06/2004

Urgency: Non-Urgent

Justification

The use of, and access to, cost effective remote reading methods is allowing market participants access to meter reading information from an increasing number of customers. These reads are of high quality and the requirement to procure access to the site to facilitate the collection of meter reads is removed. Additionally, the human errors associated with physical reading of the meters can be reduced or removed entirely.

The introduction of the Climate Change Levy (CCL) and Metering Assets Managers (MAMs) have introduced the benefits of carrying out Remote Meter Reading via Energy Management Systems (EMS) and Automated Meter Reading (AMR) solutions. In addition, the positive use of such methods supports the continuing innovation in the metering market, to the end-consumer's benefit.

The requirement to "inspect" metering equipment is considered a separate obligation from the obligation in Network Code to obtain readings and each obligation is facilitated by separate file flows. Thus, this proposal introduces no change in the existing Network Code obligations in respect of inspection of the on site equipment.

The precedent exists for the Transporter to accept remote reads as valid reads in the Daily Metered (DM) market. In considering the unbundling of such a market no concerns were raised in relation to third party provision of data nor any concerning inspection of the meter installation.

Nature of Proposal

To allow reads obtained via remote reading equipment to be considered valid reads by the Gas Transporter.

Purpose of Proposal

To increase the volume and accuracy of meter reads provided to the Gas Transporter.

To reduce the number of meter readings not provided to the Gas Transporter due to problems with the meter reader gaining access to the meter to obtain a reading.

Consequence of not making this change

The development of innovative meter reading solutions could be inhibited.

Additional accurate information would continue to be unavailable to the Gas Transporter to support processes such as the COS process and the AQ review process.

The industry as a whole will lose sight of valuable data that could be utilized to improve performance.

Financial

A greater degree of accurate meter reading information can only assist the efficient operation of the Network Code reconciliation processes.

Area of Network Code Concerned

Section M 3.1.4

Proposer's Representative

Beverly Ord (Bp Gas Ltd)

Proposer

Beverly Ord (Bp Gas Ltd)

Signature

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