TRANSCO NETWORK CODE MODIFICATION PROPOSAL No. 0689

"Acceptance by Gas Transporter of valid estimated domestic prepayment reads at change of Supplier, based on existing previous prepayment meter reads"
Version 1.0

Date: 16/03/2004

Proposed Implementation Date: 01/06/2004

Urgency: Non-Urgent

Justification

The gas card used by a domestic gas customer with a prepayment meter transfers data in both directions between the meter and the electronic terminal in the retail outlet at which customer credit is purchased. Data received by the terminal is passed by the terminal's network service provider to Siemens who operate the Quantum service on behalf of domestic gas Suppliers. One piece of data collected by Siemens is the meter reading collected by the gas card. This meter reading is in turn passed by Siemens to the gas Supplier.

To improve the customer transfer process we consider that a gas meter estimated reading should be acceptable to the Gas Transporter as an opening meter reading at change of Supplier. This estimate would be provided by Siemens and based on meter readings provided by the gas card in the period immediately before the change of Supplier event. The reads provided via a gas card are of high quality and should be used to calculate an estimated opening read where it has not been possible to gain access to the customer's premises to read the meter during the opening read window. Additionally, the human errors associated with physical reading of the meters can be reduced or removed entirely.

The requirement to "inspect" metering equipment is considered to be 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 metering equipment.

Nature of Proposal

To allow an estimated opening meter read calculated using meter reads provided via domestic prepayment gas card during the period immediately before the change of Supplier event to be considered a valid read 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 opening meter readings not provided to the Gas Transporter due to problems with the meter reader gaining access to the meter to obtain a reading.

To reduce reliance on change of supplier estimated meter readings provided by Transco where the Supplier does not provide a valid meter reading to the Gas Transporter.

Consequence of not making this change

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

Proposer's Representative

Hazel Morrison (EDF Energy)

Proposer

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Signature

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