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value for all customers

The Joint Office, relevant Gas
Transporters and other interested
parties

Our Ref: Net/Cod/Mod/UNC122
Email: industrycodes@ofgem.gov.uk

6 November 2006

Dear Colleague,

Request for urgent status for modification proposal UNC122: '*Restriction of invoice billing period to Price Control*'

Following consideration of the request that modification proposal 122: '*Restriction of invoice billing period to Price Control*' follows urgent modification procedures, we have today agreed to that request.

In reaching our decision on granting urgent status we have considered the details of the modification proposal and the Proposer's justification for urgency. Ofgem considers that this proposal satisfies the criteria for granting urgent status to a modification proposal, as set out in its published guidelines.¹ In particular we consider that the proposal is linked to both:

- A specific date related event; being the earliest date that an invoice can be issued to include a reconciliation of the significant South East Local Distribution Zone metering error, recently notified to the industry; and,
- A real likelihood of significant commercial impact upon GTs, shippers or consumers if the proposal is not granted urgency.

Urgency Timetable

The granting of urgent status and adherence to the timetable set out below would ensure that the proposal can be decided upon and if appropriate, implemented at the earliest opportunity.

Ofgem grant urgent status	06/11/06
Proposal issued for consultation	06/11/06
Close out for representations	27/11/06
Final Modification Report to UNC Modification Panel	30/11/06
UNC Modification Panel recommendation (specially convened)	07/12/06
Ofgem decision expected week commencing	11/12/06

¹ www.ofgem.gov.uk/temp/ofgem/cache/cmsattach/11700_Urgency_Criteria.pdf

This timetable assumes that the UNC Modification Panel will be able to convene following the transmission workstream of 07 December 2006 in order to provide its recommendation, which we hope can be achieved. We also consider that the consultation period can appropriately extend beyond the next meeting of the Billing Operations Forum, which we understand should take place 24 November, in order that respondents can have regard to any discussions and/or decisions made by that group prior to submitting their representations. Subsequent dates remain in line with those suggested by the proposer.

In accepting this request for urgency, we have made no assessment of the merits of the modification proposal and nothing in this letter fetters the discretion of the Authority in respect of this or any other modification proposal.

If you have any queries in relation to the issues raised in this letter, please feel free to email industrycodes@ofgem.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Simpson', written over a horizontal line.

Nick Simpson,
Director, Industry Codes and Licensing