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Dear Colleague,

Consultation on “relevant points” of a transmission system for the purposes of Article 6(4) Gas Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005

Article 6 (4) of Gas Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005 requires the competent authorities to approve, after consultation with network users, the ‘relevant points’ of a transmission system, as a consequence of which certain information must be made public.

Paragraph 3.2 of the Guidelines in the Annex of Gas Regulation (EC) 1775/2005 defines “relevant points” for transparency requirements as including at least:

- (a) all entry points to a network operated by a transmission system operator;*
- (b) the most important exit points and exit zones covering at least 50 % of total exit capacity of the network of a given transmission system operator, including all exit points or exit zones covering more than 2 % of total exit capacity of the network;*
- (c) all points connecting different networks of transmission system operators;*
- (d) all points connecting the network of a transmission system operator with an LNG terminal;*
- (e) all essential points within the network of a given transmission system operator including points connecting to gas hubs. All points are considered essential which, based on experience, are likely to experience physical congestion;*
- (f) all points connecting the network of a given transmission system operator to infrastructure necessary for providing ancillary services as defined by Article 2(14) of Directive 2003/55/EC.*

The TSOs in Northern Ireland currently make available transparency information in line with the requirements of the Regulation for number of points on the Northern Ireland network. However, the Utility Regulator has not formally designated these points as ‘relevant points’. We now propose to do so and also propose to designate Gormanston on the South-North pipeline as a relevant point.

In order to satisfy the requirements expressly to request the views of network users in relation to the designation of relevant points as required under Article 6(4) of Gas Regulation 1775/2005, NIAUR invites representations and comments from interested parties on our proposal to approve the points listed in annex 1 as relevant points.

We ask interested parties to outline in their consultation response any points which they consider should not be defined as relevant points and the reason for their exclusion, or whether there are additional points which should be defined as relevant points and the reason for their inclusion.

It should be noted that as part of the implementation of the Regulation (EC) No 1775/2009 it will be necessary for the Utility Regulator to consult on and approve the 'relevant points' on the network under that Regulation.

Responses

If you have any comments or questions on this letter, please contact Linda Beirne on +44 28 9031 6347 or Linda.Beirne@uregni.gov.uk in the first instance. Please respond to this consultation by the 3rd September 2010.

Respondents may ask for their responses, in whole or in part, not to be published, or that their identity should be withheld from public disclosure. Where either of these is the case, we will ask respondents to also supply us with the redacted version of the response that can be published.

Respondents should note that NIAUR are bound by freedom of information legislation. Therefore it is possible that all responses may be discoverable under these rules, regardless of where they are submitted. It is therefore important that respondents note these developments and in particular, when marking responses as 'confidential' or asking the Regulators to treat responses as confidential, should specify why they consider the information in question to be confidential.

Once all the responses to this consultation have been assessed, NIAUR intends to issue a further letter which will list those points that it has approved as relevant points for the purposes of Article 6.4 of Gas Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005.

Yours Sincerely



Brian McHugh
Gas Director

Annex 1: Proposed Relevant Points

Entry	Twynholm
Entry	Carrickfergus
Entry	Gormanston (South-North Entry Point)
Exit	Ballylumford
Exit	Stranraer
Exit	BGEP1 / Greater Belfast minus Lisburn 4
Exit	BGEP2&BGEP3 / Carrickfergus 5
Exit	Lisburn
Exit	Coolkeeragh
Exit	Firmus

The titles given to the relevant points above are as used by the TSOs when publishing transparency data on their websites.