**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND AUTHORITY FOR UTILITY REGULATION (THE ‘AUTHORITY’) HELD ON THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2021 BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AT 9.00 A.M.**

**Present:**

Bill Emery (Chairman), John French (Chief Executive), Jon Carlton, Teresa Perchard, David de Casseres, Claire Williams

**In attendance:**

Tanya Hedley, Roisin McLaughlin, Elaine Cassidy, Veronika Gallagher, Greg Irwin

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 The Board convened to consider one item.

1.2 An apology was received from Alex Wiseman.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
	1. None.
2. **GAS TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT**

3.1 Roisin McLaughlin introduced this item, which sought the Board’s agreement for a new Transportation Agreement (the TA) for providing Northern Ireland with direct access to the GB gas market up to 2036.

3.2 The Board discussion focused on the development of a new TA beyond 2036. The challenges and risks associated with securing agreement on a new TA, and any potential mitigations, were discussed. Uncertainties in respect of the future strategic environment for gas were considered. The need to progress engagement on a new TA in a timely manner was emphasised. In this regard a strategic review in 5 years time was also endorsed and the Board’s view was that this should be signalled in the TA agreement letter to the parties. Finally, it was recommended that it would be useful to develop a paper now setting out the longer-term issues as a reference point for the process for developing a new TA.

3.3 Board member queries in respect of governance arrangements for the new agreement and the process for the agreement of the operational provisions of the TA were clarified. An update was also provided on putting in place enduring charging arrangements relating to the Haynestown offtake from the GNI (UK) network to the GNI network in the Republic of Ireland.

3.4 In approving the new Transportation Agreement as presented, the Board thanked all those involved in reaching this milestone.

**4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

4.1 Elaine Cassidy briefed the Board on a new judicial review and associated handling arrangements.

There being no other business, the Board meeting concluded.

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