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Carl Hashim
The Utility Regulator
Queens House
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16 February 2010

Dear Carl

ALIGNING THE PRICE CONTROL REVIEWS OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S GAS DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Utility Regulator's (UReg's) above consultation.

Our existing price control expires at the end of 2011 with the firmus price control expiring at the end of 2013 and we understand UReg's various arguments for aligning the price controls of Northern Ireland's Gas Distribution Networks.

We have reviewed the three options presented by UReg to achieve alignment and accept UReg's minded to position to carry out "mini price control" on PNG to cover the two year period from 2012 to 2013 on the following basis:

- PNG and UReg agree the timeframes and the aspects of expenditure which will be reviewed as part of the "mini price control"
- The amount of work proposed for the two-year control is reasonable and reflective of the shorter timeframes
- The "mini price control" is completed in a timely fashion and is in place before the commencement of the two-year price control period

PNG is willing to work alongside UReg to discuss the format of the "mini price control" and engage in discussions over the coming weeks to formalise and agree processes as soon as practicable.

I trust that the above comments are useful and if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Abigail

Abigail McCarter
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