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BELFAST
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Elena Ardines
Strategy Branch
The Utility Regulator
Queens House
14 Queen Street
Belfast BT1 6ED

21st December 2010

Dear Elena,

Draft Forward Work Programme (April 2011 – March 2012)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Utility Regulator's draft Forward Work Programme for 2011/12. We welcome the clarity this provides for the forthcoming year and believe that by adopting a transparent strategy, the Utility Regulator is ensuring that the most prevalent issues faced by the energy sector may be prioritised.

The scope of work to be completed by the Utility Regulator in the forthcoming financial year is challenging; the Utility Regulator will need to work alongside the Department and industry to implement the requirements of the September 2010 Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland, the proposed Energy Bill and the EU Third Internal Energy Package, as well as deliver on the requirements of the current regulatory regime e.g. progressing price controls and competition activities.

Phoenix Natural Gas and Phoenix Supply Ltd have already commented on many of the areas covered within the programme and will continue to engage with the Utility Regulator to provide as much information as we can throughout 2011/12 to ensure that the Utility Regulator has all the necessary information to develop and implement effective policies.

In the meantime if we can provide any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Abigail

Abigail McCarter
Regulatory Manager
Phoenix Natural Gas Ltd