

**Transmission Planning Code
Consultation Report**

September 2012

Introduction

National Grid Gas (NTS) has an obligation to prepare and consult on a Transmission Planning Code under Special Condition C11 of its Gas Transporter (GT) Licence in respect of the NTS (“the Licence”).

The Licence requires that the Transmission Planning Code (TPC) contains a description of the main technical factors that affect the planning and development of the NTS and includes a methodology to determine the physical capability of the NTS.

The Licence also requires National Grid Gas (NTS) to maintain the TPC and periodically review it at least once every two years. National Grid Gas (NTS) shall consult on any proposed changes to the TPC and submit the findings of the review, any proposed amendments and any representations received during the consultation to the Authority for approval.

In line with the above Licence obligations, National Grid Gas (NTS) has undertaken a review of the TPC and is proposing amendments to the document. This report seeks approval from the Authority to amend the TPC (in accordance with Licence Special Condition C11 5(a)) and as such contains the outcome of the review, details of the consultation and is submitted together with the proposed amendments and representations.

Summary of the Proposed Changes to the TPC

National Grid Gas (NTS) presented on the TPC consultation process during the Uniform Network Code (UNC) Transmission Workgroup¹ on 3rd May 2012 and invited the industry to submit issues for review. Subsequently, National Grid Gas (NTS) received no issues.

National Grid Gas (NTS) reviewed the TPC and identified a number of proposed changes. For clarification, the proposed changes have been predominantly driven by legislation relating to the Planning Act 2008, Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) and European Union Third Package.

The TPC was updated with the proposed changes (v2.1) and together with a consultation covering letter both documents were published on the National Grid Gas (NTS) website². An industry consultation on the proposed changes was issued on 29 June 2012 and the closing date for responses was 03 August 2012. National Grid Gas (NTS) received one response (see below for details).

¹ <http://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/tx/030512>

² <http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/TYS/TPC/>

We are aware that ongoing developments relating to the RIIO-T1 price control may also introduce the need for additional changes in the future. The potential impact of these is explicitly excluded from this review and will be considered in future reviews of the TPC when there is more certainty.

Responses to TPC Consultation

Only one response to the TPC Consultation was received which was from BG Group. They expressed concerns over what they considered to be excessive timescales associated with delivering projects under the Planning Act processes. They stated the “one size fits all” approach was not their preferred approach given material differences in projects.

National Grid Gas (NTS) felt it was appropriate to introduce a new paragraph under the “Impact of the Planning Act” section (2.6.3) of the TPC (v2.2) to help provide clarification on the key points raised by BG Group.

The new paragraph states that whilst the quoted seven year planning process timeline is considered to be generic, we consider it to be representative of the timeline for a typical major linear infrastructure project; however, this timeline is not fixed and will vary on a case by case basis according to each project’s individual requirements. National Grid Gas (NTS) also states that it will endeavour to improve upon these timescales wherever possible whilst maintaining the required quality of consultation and ensuring compliance with the Planning Act.

Submission of TPC for Authority Approval

The amended version of the TPC (v2.2) was submitted to the Authority for approval on 30 August 2012. In light of further comments received, minor errors and changes were identified and corrected and a revised version of the TPC (2.3) was re-submitted to the Authority for approval on 26 September 2012.

Conclusion

National Grid Gas (NTS) considers that the proposed changes to the TPC document meet the Licence requirements.