

Mr Stephen English
Gas Market Operator (NI),
Fourth Floor,
The Arena Building,
85 Ormeau Road,
Belfast,
BT7 1SH

Ref: NET/G/TH/300

21 December 2020

Dear Stephen,

RE : NI Network Gas Transmission Code Modification No 10 – Arrangements for the ROI System Exit Point

Thank you for your submission of the Final Modification Report (FMR) in respect of the above named proposal, submitted on 30 September 2020.

The purpose of the proposed modification is to enable the operation of a new exit point to a local transmission pipeline owned and operated by GNI in the Republic of Ireland (ROI). This will be done by adding relevant reference to the ROI System Exit Point and to the relevant inter-operator agreements including a Use of System agreement between GNI (UK) and GNI. The exit point is intended to serve the Haynestown area in the ROI.

Authority review and conclusions

The Utility Regulator has considered the information provided in this FMR. We note that one response was received during the consultation period. The respondent welcomed the fact that charges for the exit point will reduce the amounts that need to be recovered from other Shippers. The respondent highlighted the need for transparency with that respect. The respondent also noted the governance challenges associated with the inter-dependencies between the two concurrent Code Modifications No 7 and No 10.

The Utility Regulator is aware that the proposed modification is contingent upon Code Modification No 7 being approved and notes that the approval of Code Modification No 7 has been made.

We note the consideration by the GMO NI of the impact of the proposed modification on the networks of the Designated Pipeline Operators and Adjacent Transporters.

We also note that the proposed modification has been drafted on the basis that there are joint emergency procedures in place between the Northern Ireland Network Emergency Coordinator (NINEC) and the National Gas Emergency Manager (NGEM) in respect of the South Section of the NI Gas Transmission Network and the South North Interconnection Point. You have confirmed that such joint emergency procedures have been agreed.

We note furthermore that the modification has been drafted on the basis that the Use of System Agreement agreed between GNI and GNI (UK) which will provide for the transportation of gas by GNI (UK) on behalf of GNI from the South North IP to the ROI System Exit Point has been approved by the Utility Regulator. We engaged with GNI (UK) and CRU as this agreement was developed however, it is not clear that we have the viries to approve the agreement at present.

We are content that the proposed modification would better facilitate the 'Relevant Objective' as it will support the safe and efficient operation of the NI Gas Transmission Network by ensuring that the Code reflects the arrangements between GNI (UK) and GNI in respect of the ROI System Exit Point.

Decision

As provided for in condition 2.4D.9(c) of the relevant licences we direct the Transporter to implement the modification as set out in FMR No 10 dated 30 September 2020. The modification shall become effective on 22 December 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Tanya Hedley
Director of Networks
For and on behalf of NIAUR

Copy to:

Karen Trant (CRU)
Con O'Donnell (GNI (UK))