

**R/10**

**10 February 2006**

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENT PUBLISHED ON OFFSHORE INFORMATION**

Ofgem has published an impact assessment on a change to the rules governing the gas industry to make more information about offshore gas production available to the market. Ofgem is minded to approve the change proposed by consumer watchdog energywatch.

Ofgem recognises that this proposal is controversial with most producers against greater transparency and customer groups strongly in favour. It is therefore inviting views on its impact assessment before marking a final decision in April.

Information transparency is an important part of any effective market and Ofgem is pressing for better information on both UK offshore production and the European gas market. Despite improvements in offshore information, through a voluntary scheme between the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the offshore regulator, and the gas producers, large gas customers are still calling for more information.

The proposed change would allow customers close to real time information about gas flows into the country from the North Sea, interconnector pipelines, storage sites and Liquefied Natural Gas terminals.

**- Ends -**

### **Notes to editors:**

1. Copies of 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Proposal: Publication of near real time data at UK sub-terminals. Modification Reference Number UNC 006 are available from the Ofgem website at [www.ofgem.gov.uk](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk)

2. Ofgem is the Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets, which supports the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority, the regulator of the onshore gas and electricity industries in Great Britain. Ofgem's aim is to bring choice and value to all gas and electricity customers by promoting competition and regulating monopolies. The Authority's powers are provided for amongst others by the Gas Act 1986, the Electricity Act 1989 and the Utilities Act 2000. In this information note, the functions of the Authority under the relevant Acts are, for simplicity, described as the functions of Ofgem.

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