



taking care of the essentials

David Haldearn
Director, Scotland and Europe
Office of Gas and Electricity
Markets
9 Millbank
London
SW1P 3GE

Energy Management Group

Charter Court
50 Windsor Road
Slough
Berkshire SL1 2HA

Tel. (01753) 758156

Fax (01753) 758368

www.centrica.com

Our Ref. Betta p&op 0303

Your Ref.

23 April 2003

Dear Mr Haldearn

RE: Planning and operating standards under BETTA

Centrica welcome the opportunity to comment on the March 2003 Ofgem/DTI consultation on the planning and operating standards to apply under BETTA.

One of the core principles of BETTA is to develop a single set of trading arrangements for Great Britain. We believe a further principle is that there should be commonality of standards and services received by Users. A GB market requires a 'level playing field' to be established and we believe it is fundamental to include a consistent set of planning and operating standards from day one of BETTA.

We recognise that this aim may not be achievable in the timescales set for BETTA implementation, given the complexities of geographical, climatic and economic factors involved. Notwithstanding, Centrica encourage Ofgem/DTI to initiate the review of the appropriate standards to apply under BETTA, as proposed by the licensees, promptly. Any variations must be clearly understood and transitional, unless the appropriate derogation is received from Ofgem.

Centrica note that the differing standards may have an impact on connection and use of system charging. We agree that the differing standards faced by different users of the GB transmission system should be taken into account when the charging arrangements are developed. We strongly believe work should be undertaken to minimise these differences. We further believe that for BETTA to achieve its goal of an efficient single market, harmonised charging arrangements are required. All Users need assurance that they are competing on the same basis.

We trust these comments have been useful. Should you wish to discuss any point further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Danielle Lane
Contracts Manager

A *centrica* business

Centrica plc - The group includes British Gas Trading, British Gas Services and Accord Energy
Registered in England No.3033654. Registered Office: Millstream, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 5GD