

Direct line: 07971 152430

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Date 24 September 2004

Dear Ian,

Title: 'Appeal Response' – MRA Forum Decision regarding MCP 144

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the appeal by British Gas Trading to reverse the decision of the MRA Forum to approve MCP 144. This response represents the views of EDF Energy, which includes the supplier Ids LOND, SEEB and SWEB . I confirm that our response can be treated as non-confidential and may therefore be placed on your website.

MCP 144 was originally raised by Opus Energy and included in the May MRA Development Board Change Proposal Pack (MDB_CPP 04_05). Our position to reject the proposal was reflected in our initial response to the change pack, our vote at the MDB meeting held on 27 May 2004 and our subsequent vote at the MRA Forum on 29 July 2004.

The reasons for our rejection of MCP 144 have been given in earlier submissions under the MRA process and are summarised briefly as follows:

- The ability to object in defined circumstances, e.g. for debt, in relation to non-domestic deemed contracts enables a supplier to mitigate the risk of supplying customers who may not have been subject to assessment via usual credit vetting procedures;
- Deemed contract objections enable debt to be managed and offer a controlled and deliberate customer experience;
- Without the ability to object for debt, alternative means of recovery would need to be employed, resulting in additional costs and potentially adversely affecting the customer experience;

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We are therefore supportive of the appeal raised by British Gas Trading and would recommend that the MRA Forum decision is not upheld.

We will be responding separately to the wider consultation on deemed contract objections.

If you have any queries on this response please contact me on 07971 152430.

Yours sincerely

Paul Waite
Market Governance Manager