

Dear Sir,

I refer to the above consultation and would make the following comment as an independent person having had 50+ years in the gas industry in a considerable number of roles.

I refer to the term 'Interested parties' which appears within the document.

While much of what will be discussed when the arrangements are in place will be between the contractual / Licenced parties all of the issues determined will in some way impact the gas customer. Either in costs / costs saved or in the processes behind the scenes being changed / amended.

While these changes may be considered as out of the customer vision the trickle down factor always impacts the customer and their representatives.

While it would appear that this work is contractual between the parties and customer representation is not necessary, I would respectfully suggest that having a 'knowledgeable outsider' with a view of the customer working alongside, will help the challenge and review sessions.

I ask that to consider the opportunity of having an outsider who understands the existing and proposed processes and can take a view about what is being considered, may provide a useful addition.

Alternatively it may be worth considering for the Board to have an independent Non-Exec from outside of the main parties and to use that inclusion as an additional option to demonstrate to the industry and regulator that the processes have an independent scrutineer.

Involving an independent / customer representative in the Modification process for the UNC is seen as useful and appropriate and therefore a useful precedent is available.

Yours faithfully

Peter N Thompson