

## To: National Grid Gas Transmission

### Gas Act 1986 Section 23(2)

#### Notice of statutory consultation on a proposal to modify the special conditions of the gas transporter licence held by National Grid Gas Transmission (NTS)

1. The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority ('the Authority')<sup>1</sup> proposes to modify the special conditions of the gas transporter licence held by National Grid Gas Transmission granted or treated as granted under Section 7 of the Gas Act 1986 by amending:
  - Special Condition 2F: The Network Innovation Competition
  - Special Condition 1A. Definitions
2. The Funding Return Mechanism (FRM) set out in the NIC licence condition is the method by which the Authority can direct money associated with a project to be returned to customers. We propose to make changes to the NIC licence condition to widen the scope of the FRM. To do this, we propose to introduce a new category called 'Returned Project Revenues'. The proposed changes formalise practices that are already taking place and provide clarity on the arrangements for new projects.
3. There are two main reasons for the proposed modification to the NIC licence condition which are further set out in the accompanying cover letter. In summary:

**Reason 1:** The FRM should be capable of returning money to customers during, or after the end of, the relevant project, if the Funding Licensee<sup>2</sup> has acted in line with the Project Direction but has spent less than the sum provided for in the project budget. The proposed licence change would allow customers to benefit from these financial savings.

There could be occasions where the Authority considers it appropriate for a proportion of any underspent project budget to be retained by Funding Licensees (who may then redistribute it amongst parties involved in the Eligible NIC Project as appropriate).

The Funding Return Mechanism, as currently set out in the NIC licence condition, does not make this clear. Therefore, the change is intended to clarify this.

**Reason 2:** In recent NIC competitions, licensees have included innovative ways of generating money from the relevant projects (that is not Intellectual Property) that will be returned to customers eg City CNG<sup>3</sup> and OSEAIT<sup>4</sup>.

We propose that the new Returned Project Revenues category also covers the return of money generated by the Project, other than by Intellectual Property (this is already covered in the licences). The default position is for money to be returned to customers. It may however be appropriate to return some of the money generated by the relevant project to the Funding Licensee (who may then decide to redistribute it amongst parties involved in the Eligible NIC Project as appropriate). For new NIC projects it is for the licensee, in their Full Submission, to identify any revenues that could be earned from their

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<sup>1</sup> The terms "the Authority", "we" and "us" are used interchangeably in this document.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise defined, capitalised terms have the meaning given to them in the NIC licence condition.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/network-innovation-competition-2015-northern-gas-networks-decision-resubmission>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/electricity-nic-submission-national-grid-electricity-transmission-oseait>

Project that should be subject to return. This will then be recognised in the Project Direction. For projects already in force, that have identified in their Full Submissions potential sources of revenue to be returned, we will need to amend the Project Directions to recognise this revenue source. The mechanism is not intended to be used to return revenue streams identified retrospectively.

4. The effect of the proposed modifications is to:
  - enable the return of NIC funding during or at the end of a project, where the project has underspent its budget but where the Funding Licensee has acted in line with the Project Direction, to customers
  - allow the return of revenue generated by the project, other than through Intellectual Property
  - allow the Authority to direct whether money can be retained by customers and/or the Funding Licensee.
  
5. This Notice and associated documents<sup>5</sup> have been published on our website ([www.ofgem.gov.uk](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk)). Alternatively, they are available from our Research and Information Centre, 9 Millbank, London, SW1P 3GE (020 7901 7003).
  
6. Any representations with respect to the proposed licence modifications must be made on or before 25 October 2016 to: Stacy Feldmann, Office of Gas and Electricity Markets, 9 Millbank, London, SW1P 3GE or by email to [stacy.feldmann@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:stacy.feldmann@ofgem.gov.uk).
  
7. We normally publish all responses on our website. However, if you do not wish your response to be made public then please clearly mark it as not for publication. We prefer to receive responses in an electronic form so they can be placed easily on our website.
  
8. If we decide to make the proposed modifications they it will take effect not less than 56 days after the decision is published.

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**Geoffrey Randall**  
**Head of RIIO, Electricity Transmission**  
**Duly authorised on behalf of the**  
**Gas and Electricity Markets Authority 21 September 2016**

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<sup>5</sup> These are:  
- our cover letter to this statutory consultation which contains our response to stakeholders who responded to our March 2016 informal consultation on this issue,  
Notices to other network companies that have the NIC licence condition in force, to make similar changes.

## Special Condition 2F: The Network Innovation Competition

### Part C: The Funding Return Mechanism

- 2F.9 The Funding Return Mechanism provides for the recovery from the Licensee and from other gas transporter licensees, in each case to such extent (if any) as may be relevant, of:
- (a) Halted Project Revenues;
  - (b) Disallowed Expenditure;~~and~~
  - (c) Returned Royalty Income; and
  - (d) Returned Project Revenues.
- 2F.10 The Funding Return is the total amount (in respect of the Licensee and other gas transporter licensees) of any amounts arising under paragraph 2F.9.
- 2F.11 Halted Project Revenues are revenues received (whether by the Licensee or any other gas transporter licensee) under the NIC Funding Mechanism in respect of an Eligible NIC Project which have not yet been spent, or otherwise committed, at the time that the Authority requires that project to be halted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the NIC Governance Document or the terms of the relevant Project Direction.
- 2F.12 Disallowed Expenditure is revenue received (whether by the Licensee or any other gas transporter licensee) under the NIC Funding Mechanism that the Authority determines has not been spent in accordance with the applicable provisions of the NIC Governance Document or the terms of the relevant Project Direction.
- 2F.13 Returned Royalty Income is revenue earned from intellectual property generated through Eligible NIC Projects (whether undertaken by the Licensee or any other gas transporter licensee), less Directly Attributable Costs, and that is payable to customers under the NIC Funding Mechanism, as calculated in accordance with the provisions of the NIC Governance Document.
- 2F.14 For the purposes of paragraph 2F.13, Directly Attributable Costs are costs relating to the maintenance and management of intellectual property generated through Eligible NIC Projects (whether undertaken by the Licensee or other gas transporter licensee) that have not been otherwise remunerated by the charges listed in Part B of Special Condition 11C (Services treated as Excluded Services), Excluded Services, or the NIC Funding Mechanism.
- 2F.15 Returned Project Revenues are:
- (a) revenues received (whether by the Licensee or any other gas transporter licensee) under the NIC Funding Mechanism in respect of an Eligible NIC Project that the Authority determines have not been spent, and where the Project has been carried out in accordance with the applicable provisions of the NIC Governance Document and/or the terms of the relevant Project Direction; or
  - (b) revenues earned from Eligible NIC Projects (whether undertaken by the Licensee or any other gas transporter licensee) other than Returned Royalty Income that the Authority determines are payable to customers.
- 2F.16 The Authority may direct how the relevant revenues under paragraphs (a) and (b) above should be paid to customers through the Funding Return Mechanism, or where the

Authority considers it to be appropriate, how they should be retained by the licensee, or distributed by the licensee to other parties involved in the Eligible NIC Project.

### **Special Condition 1A. Definitions**

[For clarity, we only show the new or modified definitions to be inserted in alphabetical order within this condition]

**Returned Project Revenues**      has the meaning given to that term in Part C of Special Condition 2F (The Network Innovation Competition).