

**To: National Grid Gas plc**

**Gas Act 1986  
Section 23(1)(a)**

**Modification of the special conditions of the gas transporter licence held by  
National Grid Gas plc**

1. National Grid Gas plc is the holder of a gas transporter licence in respect of the national transmission system ('the Licence') granted or treated as granted under section 7 of the Gas Act 1986 ('the Act').
2. Under section 23(2) of the Act the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority ('the Authority')<sup>1</sup> gave notice<sup>2</sup> on 21 September 2016 ('the Notice') that we propose to modify the following conditions of the Licence:
  - Special Condition 2F: The Network Innovation Competition
  - Special Condition 1A: Definitions

We stated that any representations to the modification proposal must be made on, or before 25 October 2016.

3. A copy of the Notice was sent to the Secretary of State in accordance with section 23(4)(b) of the Act, and we have not received a direction that the change should not be made.
4. We received six responses to the Notice, which we carefully considered. We have placed all non-confidential responses on our website.<sup>2</sup> Our response to the comments made by the respondents is set out in our accompanying letter.<sup>3</sup>
5. It is necessary to make a number of minor alterations to the modifications set out in the Notice. These alterations are shown in yellow highlight in Schedule 1 below. The reasons for any differences between the modifications set out in the Notice and the modifications reflected in Schedule 1 are to correct an inconsistency between our policy position set out in the consultation document and the Licence drafting and to show consequential changes to paragraph numbers and referencing. Our reasons are set out in more detail in our accompanying letter.
6. The Funding Return Mechanism ('FRM'), set out in Special Condition 2F of the Licence, is the method by which the Authority can direct money associated with Network Innovation Competition ('NIC') projects to be returned to customers. We have made changes to widen the scope of the FRM.
7. The reasons and effects for the modifications are set out below and in our accompanying letter.
8. We are making these licence changes because:

**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>4</sup> has acted in line with the

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/proposed-modification-funding-return-mechanism-network-innovation-competition-and-low-carbon-networks-fund-licence-conditions>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/decision-modify-funding-return-mechanism-network-innovation-competition-nic-and-low-carbon-networks-fund-lcnf-licence-conditions>

Project Direction but has spent less than the sum provided for in the project budget. Our licence change will allow customers to benefit from these financial savings.

The default position will be that any revenues earned will be returned to customers and network licensees will need to justify any deviation from this. We consider there may 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 FRM, as currently set out in the NIC licence condition, does not make this clear. Therefore, the changes are intended to clarify this.

**Reason 2:** In recent NIC competitions, licensees have included innovative ways of generating money from relevant projects (that is not Intellectual Property) that will be returned to customers eg the City CNG<sup>5</sup> and OSEAIT<sup>6</sup> NIC projects.

The new Returned Project Revenues category covers the return of money generated by a Project, other than Intellectual Property, which this is already dealt with in the relevant licence conditions. For new NIC projects it is for the licensee, in their Full Submission, to identify any revenues that could be earned from their Project that should be subject to return. This will be recognised in the Project Direction. For existing projects, that have identified in their Full Submissions potential sources of revenue to be returned, we will amend the Project Directions to recognise this revenue source. The mechanism is not intended to be used to return revenue streams identified retrospectively.

9. The effect of the modifications will be 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 a Project, other than through Intellectual Property
- allow the Authority to direct whether money can be retained by customers and/or the Funding Licensee.

10. Where an application for permission to appeal our decision is made to the Competition and Markets Authority ('CMA') under section 23B of the Act, Rule 5.7 of the CMA's Energy Licence Modification Appeals Rules<sup>7</sup> requires that the appellant must send to any relevant licence holders who are not parties to the appeal a non-confidential notice setting out the matters required in Rule 5.2. National Grid Gas plc is the relevant licence holder in relation to this modification. Section 23(10) of the Act sets out the meaning of 'relevant licence holder'.

Under the powers set out in section 23(1)(a) of the Act, we hereby modify special conditions 1A and 2F of the Licence of National Grid Gas plc, in the manner specified in attached Schedule 1. This decision will take effect from 11 March 2017.

This document is notice of the reasons for the decision to modify the gas transporter licence held by National Grid Gas plc required by section 38A of the Act.

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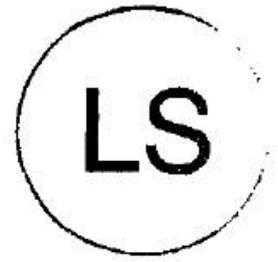
<sup>4</sup> Unless otherwise defined, capitalised terms have the meaning given to them in the NIC licence condition.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/network-innovation-competition-2015-northern-gas-networks-decision-resubmission>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/electricity-nic-submission-national-grid-electricity-transmission-oseait>

<sup>7</sup> The rules were published by the Competition Commission in September 2012. On 1 April 2014, the Competition Commission was abolished and its functions transferred to the CMA.

**The Official Seal of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority  
here affixed is authenticated by the signature of**



.....  
**Geoffrey Randall**  
**Head of RIIO Electricity Transmission**  
**Duly authorised on behalf of the**  
**Gas and Electricity Markets Authority**

**13 January 2017**

## Schedule 1

### 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.

#### **Part D: Determination of the amount of the NICF term**

2F.17 2F.15 The NICF term is the amount for Formula Year  $t$  that is to be recovered by the Licensee on behalf of gas transporter licensees, as determined by the Authority under paragraph 2F.16-18 in relation to:

- (a) the NIC Funding specified for that year; and
- (b) any Funding Return specified for that year.

2F.18 2F.16 In each Formula Year  $t$ , as provided for by the NIC Governance Document, the Authority will calculate and, by direction given to the Licensee and other gas transporter licensees specify, in accordance with the appropriate provisions set out in the NIC Governance Document:

- (a) the value for NICF for the Licensee (being the amount, if any, to be recovered by the Licensee in order to contribute to its own and other gas transporter licensees' NIC Funding for that Formula Year);
- (b) the net amounts that are to be transferred between the Licensee and other gas transporter licensees in order to ensure that each gas transporter licensee receives an amount (if any) equal to the proportion of the NIC Funding for that Formula Year that is attributable to its Eligible NIC Projects (adjusted to take into account the amount of any Funding Return); and
- (c) the manner in which and the timescale over which the net amounts referred to in paragraph (b) are to be transferred.

2F.19 2F.17 The Licensee must comply, to the extent that is applicable to it, with any direction issued by the Authority under paragraph 2F.16-18.

#### **Part E: The NIC Governance Document**

2F.20 2F.18 The Authority will issue, and may from time to time revise, a document, to be known as the NIC Governance Document, for purposes connected with the regulation, governance, and administration of the NIC.

2F.21 2F.19 The NIC Governance Document may, without limitation, make appropriate provision about or impose requirements in respect of:

- (a) the eligibility criteria to be applied by, and information to be provided to, the Authority in relation to the assessment and approval of proposed NIC Projects;
- (b) the evaluation criteria against which the funding of such projects will be assessed and approved (where necessary);
- (c) the process and procedures that will be in place for the assessment, approval, and financing of such projects' funding (where necessary);
- (d) arrangements to ensure that relevant matters the Licensee has learned from the implementation of Eligible NIC Projects can be captured and disseminated by the Licensee to other gas transporter licensees;
- (e) the nature of the reporting obligations in respect of such projects (which may include reporting in respect of the funding and the completion of such projects, as

well as reporting on compliance with this condition and the provisions of the NIC Governance Document);

- (f) arrangements relating to the treatment of intellectual property rights including Returned Royalty Income in respect of Eligible NIC Projects; and
- (g) any other matters relating to the regulation, governance, or administration of the NIC.

2F.22 ~~2F.20~~ Where provisions of the NIC Governance Document require the compliance of the Licensee, the Licensee must comply with the those provisions of the NIC Governance Document as if the NIC Governance Document were part of this condition.

## **Part F: Procedure for issuing and revising the NIC Governance Document**

2F.23 ~~2F.21~~ Before issuing the NIC Governance Document under this condition, the Authority, by notice given to the Licensee and all other gas transporter licensees with a condition of similar effect to this condition in their licence, will:

- (a) state that it proposes to issue the NIC Governance Document, and specify the date on which it proposes that the document should take effect;
- (b) set out the text of the NIC Governance Document and the Authority's reasons for proposing to issue it; and
- (c) specify the date (which will not be less than a period of 28 days from the date of the notice) within which representations with respect to the proposed NIC Governance Document may be made.

2F.24 ~~2F.22~~ The Authority will consider any representations that are duly made and not withdrawn.

2F.25 ~~2F.23~~ The requirements of paragraphs 2F.~~21~~ ~~23~~ and 2F.~~22~~ ~~24~~ may be satisfied by action taken before, as well as by action taken after, the commencement of this condition.

2F.26 ~~2F.24~~ In paragraph 2F.~~22~~ ~~23~~, "issuing and revising the NIC Governance Document" includes issuing any revision of it, and the procedure provided for under that paragraph will apply to any such revision.

## **Part G: Interpretation**

2F.27 ~~2F.25~~ Defined terms in this condition and in Special Condition 1A (Definitions) are to be read and given effect subject to any further clarification that might be set out in the NIC Governance Document in relation to such terms.

## Special Condition 1A. Definitions

[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).