

iGT | UNC

iGT UNC Modification Proposal

Date	22 January 2008
Urgency	Non-urgent
Reference	iGT015V
Status	For Consultation
Title	Use of Unbundled Meter Readings File Format and Response Files for Cyclic Meter Readings
Proposer	Marie Clark - ScottishPower Energy Management Limited
iGT UNC / Pipeline Operator	iGT UNC
Modification Proposal Dates	<i>Circulation: 18/01/2008</i> <i>Response: 08/02/2008</i> <i>Circulation of DMR: 29/02/2008</i> <i>Response to DMR: 25/03/2008</i> <i>DFMR Published: 15/04/2008</i> <i>DFMR Presented to Panel: 16/04/2008</i> <i>FMR sent to authority: 23/04/2008</i>

Urgency

Non-urgent

Background

In October 2003, a document "iGT Meter Reading (Cyclical Reads Only) & Meter Inspection File Formats" was produced following work undertaken by the Gas Forum iGT Workgroup recommending for iGT purposes that Shippers adopt the unbundled meter reading file formats for transmitting meter reads and inspection notifications to iGTs. In addition, iGTs would adopt unbundled meter read responses files. Representatives from iGTs and Shippers actively engaged in the development of this document and the resulting recommended approach.

Details of the Cyclic Meter Non-Daily Metered (NDM) file formats are noted below:

RT_UO1_UNBUNDLED _METER_READ
RT_U10_UNBUNDLED_ACCEPTED_READ_NOTIFICATION
RT_UO2_UNBUNDLED _READ_REJECTION
RT_S72_REJECTION_DETAIL

A copy of the above mentioned file formats are attached for information. In addition the Proposer can provide a working example of each file with populated data as additional supplementary information if required.

The Proposal

At present, cyclic meter readings are provided to Operators by the Proposer utilising a modified version of the U01 file format. Confirmation of receipt and acceptance of these reading reads is not presently received from all Operators. At this time only one Operator provides response files. This causes a number of difficulties for the Proposer and indeed Operators generally.

The iGT UNC outlines specific obligations in relation to the frequency of procurement and thereafter the submission of meter readings by Users to Operators. There is evidence of cyclic meter readings being sent by the Proposer, which have not been recorded within Operators' systems. This has resulted in Operators seeking to undertake Must Reads for customers where readings have previously been submitted. As a consequence additional work and cost have been incurred by both the Proposer and Operators seeking firstly to reconcile the information previously submitted and secondly to identify the actual number of Must Reads due. The Proposer believes that this Modification Proposal, if implemented, will assist both Operators and Users in overcoming some of the aforementioned problems and will permit resources to be focused on those sites requiring Must Reads.

The timely submission of valid meter readings is required in order to support a number of Industry processes including the AQ Review and performance of I&C reconciliations. By mandating the use of the unbundled meter reading file formats for cyclic meter readings will increase certainty for both Users and Operators. Operators will receive data within a consistent format and this should minimise the resources and costs required in managing the input of this information into their systems. Users will provide cyclic reading to Operators in a manner consistent with that provided to other Gas Transporters. The use of response files will provide Users with confidence that the information provided has been accepted and thereafter recorded by Operators.

It should be noted that the Proposer has raised a separate Modification seeking to introduce standard validation rules for cyclic meter readings.

Variation

Standard Header and Trailer

As recommended within the "iGT Meter Reading (Cyclical Reads Only) & Meter Inspection File Formats" it is proposed that a Header and Trailer is used for all files sent between iGTs and Shippers. A copy of the header and trailer file formats is attached (HD_A00_Standard_Header and TR_Z99_Standard_Trailer).

File Naming Convention

The organisation sending the file should always use their 3-character organisation ID as set out in SPAA MDD. Also it should be for the relevant organisation within the group, for example Pipeline Users must use the reference organisation ID for the shipper licence that is responsible for the supply point.

The generation number must always be sequential, per file type and per recipient. For example, Pipeline User sends file, generation number xxxx(x).file type. The next file of the same type for the same recipient must therefore be sequential.

Suggested timescale for implementation

6 months from notice of implementation being received from the Authority

How will the proposal operate?

Pipeline Users will be mandated to use the U01 (Unbundled Meter Read) for submission of Cyclic Meter Readings to Operators. Operators will be required to respond to the receipt of the U01 within 2 Business Days by sending either:

- U10 acceptance, or if necessary the
- U02 rejection accompanied by S72 with details of the rejection.

Facilitation of the relevant objectives

The Proposer believes that implementation of this Modification will further the following code relevant objectives:

Standard Condition 9 (d): so far as is consistent with sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) the securing of effective competition:

- (i) between relevant shippers;
- (ii) between relevant suppliers;

Standard Condition 9 (f): so far as is consistent with sub-paragraphs (a) to (e), the promotion of efficiency in the implementation and administration of the network code and/or the uniform network code;

The use of a common file formats will increase certainty for all Parties. Operators will receive cyclic meter reading data from Users within a consistent format. This will minimise the resources and costs required in managing the input of this information into Operators' systems. Operators have commented that meter readings are not consistently received from all Users. Allowing Users to send meter readings using the Unbundled Meter Reading File Formats will allow them to manage iGT meter readings in a consistent manner with those submitted to other Gas Transporters.

The Proposer believes that consequential benefits will be gained by Pipeline Operators in relation to the performance of the AQ Review, the ability to undertake I&C reconciliations, will increase meter reading history to enable Operators to calculate more accurate estimated readings and increase certainty in identifying Meter Points that require Must Reads.

For Users, receipt of a response file acknowledging acceptance/rejection of meter readings will allow them to appropriately target resources at Meter Points where data is inaccurate or meter readings have failed. Increased accuracy in AQ calculations and performance of I&C reconciliations will ensure that costs are targeted at the appropriate market sector therefore promoting competition between Shippers and their Suppliers.

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Section(s) of the Code Concerned

Part E

Proposed Legal Text

Completed forms should be returned to the iGT UNC Representative, Gemserv Ltd
at iGT-UNC@gemserv.com or faxed to 020 7090 1001