iGT | UNC

iGT UNC / iGT INC Draft Final Modification Report

Date	15 April 2008
Reference	iGT015VV
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	*Circulation: 18/01/2008* *Response: 08/02/2008* *Circulation of DMR:07/03/2008* *Response to DMR: 25/03/2008* *DFMR Published: 16/04/2008* *DFMR Presented to Panel: 21/05/2008* *FMR sent to authority: 02/06/2008*

The Proposal

(Including reference to any Alternative)

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.

The cyclic Meter Non-Daily Metered (NDM) file formats are:

RT_UO1_UNBUNDLED _METER_READ
RT_U1O_UNBUNDLED_ACCEPTED_READ_NOTIFICATION
RT_UO2_UNBUNDLED _READ_REJECTION
RT_S72_REJECTION_DETAIL

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. 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.

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 are used for all files sent between Operators and Users.

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.

Variation

The Proposer raised a Variation request to iGT015V on 3 March 2008. The Variation places the file formats into an iGT UNC Ancillary Document rather than as an Appendix to the iGT UNC. The iGT UNC Modification Panel were asked whether they considered this variation to be immaterial on 5 March. The Panel agreed unanimously by Written Resolution that this variation is immaterial. iGT015V is therefore withdrawn and replaced by this Modification iGT015VV which continues through the modification procedures on the same timetable.

Proposer's suggested timescale for implementation

6 months from notice of implementation being received from the Authority in accordance with Part L 19.2(c) of the iGT UNC.

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 calculated 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.

Implementation issues

One Operator commented that as the modification will require extensive system development we will require at least 6 months development time.

Respondents' views

Individual responses can be viewed here.

Respondee	Response to Consultation	Response to DMR
E.ON UK	None	Support
IPL/QPL	None	Support
RWE Npower	Support	None
SSE Energy Supplies	None	Support
SSE Pipelines	None	Support
Scottish Power	None	Support

View of affected Operators on whether or not the Proposal should be implemented

The views of the operators are available here.

Other information

None

Proposed Legal Text

iGT UNC Section E – Meter Reading

Insert new definition (NB if iGT013VV is implemented before or at the same time as iGT015 this will not be required).

2.20 (i) **"SPAA MDD"** means the Market Domain Data (MDD) listed in Schedule 18 to the Supply Point Administration Agreement.

In Part M add (NB if iGT013VV is implemented before or at the same time as iGT015 this will not be required).

"SPAA MDD" shall have the meaning in Part E 2.20(i)

Insert New Clause E3.6 (NB if iGT013VV is implemented this will 3.7)

3.6 The Pipeline User will submit cyclic Meter Readings to the Pipeline Operators using the UO1 file formats as detailed in the iGT UNC Ancillary Document Use of Unbundled Meter Readings File Format and Response Files for Cyclic Meter Readings. Upon receipt of these notifications, the Pipeline Operator will respond to the receipt of the UO1 file within 2 business days by sending either the U10 acceptance, or if necessary the U02 rejection accompanied with the S72 with details of the rejections.

Add Use of Unbundled Meter Readings File Format and Response Files for Cyclic Meter Readings to Appendix K2.

Publish a new iGT UNC Ancillary Document - Use of Unbundled Meter Readings File Format and Response Files for Cyclic Meter Readings.

iGT UNC Ancillary Document - Use of Unbundled Meter Readings File Format and Response Files for Cyclic Meter Readings

The following file formats are to be used for unbundled Meter Readings and responses for cyclic Meter Readings.

Standard Header and Trailer

A header and trailer are too used for all files sent between Operators and Users.

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.

HD_A00_STANDARD_HEADER

Record/Field Name	OPT	DOM	LNG	DEC	DESCRIPTION
TRANSACTION_TYPE	M	T	3	0	A code identifying the type of request that this record represents. VALUE : A00
ORGANISATION_ID	M	N	10	0	An reference which uniquely identifies a System User / Organisation.
FILE_TYPE	M	T	3	0	An application specific code used to identify the structure and the usage of the file.
CREATION_DATE	M	D	8	0	The date on which the file was generated. FORMAT : YYYYMMDD
CREATION_TIME	M	M	6	0	The time at which the file was generated (within the Creation Date). FORMAT : HHMMSS
GENERATION_NUMBER	M	N	6	0	A sequence number which represents an issue of a file from the System User (indicated by the organisation id), and, of the file type (indicated by file type) e.g. The first Nominations file from an System User will have the number 1, the second, number 2 etc. Each file sent either from a System User to Transco or from Transco to a System User within one file type must have consecutive numbers.
			36		

RT_S72_REJECTION_DETAIL
(Reasons for the rejection of the request)

Record/Field Name	OPT	DOM	LNG	DEC	DESCRIPTION
TRANSACTION_TYPE	M	T	3	0	A code identifying the type of request that this record represents. VALUE : S72
REJECTION_REASON	M	T	8	0	A reason for the rejection of the original input request
			11		

RT_U10_UNBUNDLED_ACCEPTED_READ_NOTIFICATION

Record/Field Name	OPT	DOM	LNG	DEC	DESCRIPTION
TRANSACTION_TYPE	M	T	3	0	DEFINITION: A code identifying the type of information that this record contains.
METER_POINT_REFERENCE	M	N	10	0	DEFINITION: A unique identifier for the point at which a meter is, has been or will be connected to the gas network.
ACTUAL_READ_DATE	M	D	8	0	DEFINITION: The date on which the read was taken. Format:YYYYMMDD
METER_READING_SOURCE	M	T	1	0	DEFINITION: The source from which the read was taken. VALUES: M - Meter Read Organisation E - Supplied by the End User A - Agreed Opening Read R – Remote Reading Equipment Read Q – Shipper Provided Estimated Read G – Gas Card Read P – Point of Sale Read
METER_READING_REASON	M	T	1	0	DEFINITION: The Reason why the read was taken. VALUES: O - Opening Read R - Replacement Read N – Non Opening Read
METER_SERIAL NUMBER	M	T	14	0	DEFINITION: The Manufacturer's meter serial number. CONTEXT: The serial number of the meter from which the read was taken.
METER_READING	M	T	12	0	DEFINITION: This is the actual index read from the meter. As identified by the System User. It will contain the actual number of digits/dials present on the meter. Where necessary these digits/dials will be represented by leading zeros. If the read has less than 12 digits, all missing digits will be replaced by leading

					spaces. The read will be right aligned, e.g. for a 4 digit dial the read will be formatted as '0012'.
SERIAL_NUMBER_MATCH	M	T	1	0	DEFINITION: Indicates which METER _SERIAL_NUMBER matching routine was used to compare the Shipper supplied SERIAL_NUMBER against the value held on the Sites & Meters database. Set according to the result of the METER_SERIAL_NUMBER matching routine, part of the Unbundled METER_READ validation process. VALUES: E - The supplied value used the Exact match logic. F – The supplied value used the Fuzzy match logic.
MET_SERIAL_NUMBER_TRANSCO	O	T	14	0	DEFINITION: Serial number of meter for which read was taken, as held on system. This will be populated only when Fuzzy match was used. If Met_Serial_Number_Update is set to Y then Met_Serial_Number_Transco is MSN following update.
MET_SERIAL_NUMBER_UPDATE	O	T	1	0	DEFINITION: Indicates whether Sites & Meters has been updated as a result of the meter_serial_number_data supplied on the U01 by the system user. VALUES: Y = S&M Updated N = No S&M Update
			65		

RT_U01_UNBUNDLED_METER_READ

Record/Field Name	OPT	DOM	LNG	DEC	DESCRIPTION
TRANSACTION_TYPE	M	T	3	0	DEFINITION: A code identifying the type of information that this record contains. VALUE: U01
METER_POINT_REFERENCE	M	N	10	0	DEFINITION: A unique identifier for the point at which a meter is, has been or will be connected to the gas network. These references are less volatile than meter or service identifiers and do not change if the meter is replaced or the service is relayed to the same position.

					New Meter Point References will only be created for new services or when a service is related to a different position. CONTEXT: The reference of the Meter Point which the meter / corrector reads relate to.
ACTUAL_READ_DATE	M	D	8	0	DEFINITION: The date on which the read was taken. Format:YYYYMMDD
METER_READING_SOURCE	M	T	1	0	DEFINITION: The source from which the read was taken. VALUES: M - Meter Read Organisation E - Supplied by the End User A - Agreed Opening Read R – Remote Reading Equipment Read Q – Shipper Provided Estimated Read G – Gas Card Read P – Point of Sale Read
METER_READING_REASON	M	T	1	0	DEFINITION: The reason why the read was taken. VALUES: O - Opening Read R - Replacement Read N - Non Opening Read VALIDATION: Meter Reading Reason of R with Meter Reading Source of M or E will be treated as a Shipper Replacement Read for Unbundled Cyclic Reads. Meter Reading Source of A with Reason R will be treated as a Replacement Opening Read. Must be O or R if the METER READING SOURCE is A. Meter Reading Reason of O may not be provided with Meter Reading Sources of P. Meter Reading Reason of N may not be provided with Meter Reading Source of A, G or Q. Meter Reading Sources not acceptable as Non-Opening Reads will not be acceptable for Replacement of Non-Opening Reads.
METER_SERIAL NUMBER	M	T	14	0	DEFINITION: The Manufacturer's meter serial number. CONTEXT: The serial number of the meter from which the read was taken.
METER_READING	M	T	12	0	DEFINITION: The actual index read from the meter. FORMAT: The index should be right justified and be the same length as the

					number of digits/dials present on the meter. This may mean the index provided is left padded with zeros to equate the length of the values to the actual number of digits/dials. Where the number of digits/dials is less than 12 the remaining characters should be set to spaces e.g. for a 4 digit dial display the index would be formatted as ' 0012'
METER_ROUND_THE_CLOCK_COUNT	O	T	2	0	DEFINITION: Number of times the meter has gone round the clock i.e. through the zeros. VALUES: blank, -9 through to 99 VALIDATION: Must be supplied when a Meter Reading source is A. Must be supplied when a Meter Reading Reason is N or R, unless the Meter Reading Source is P.
METER_READ_VERIFIED	O	T	1	0	DEFINITION: Indicates whether the meter read has failed the System User tolerance checking but is being accepted. VALUES: Y or blank
CORRECTOR_SERIAL_NUMBER	O	T	14	0	DEFINITION: The manufacturers corrector serial number. CONTEXT: The serial number of the corrector from which the corrector reads were taken.
CORRECTOR_UNCORRECTED_READING	O	T	12	0	DEFINITION: The uncorrected index taken from the corrector. FORMAT: The index should be right justified and be the same length as the number of digits/dials present on the meter. This may mean the index provided is left padded with zeros to equate the length of the values to the actual number of digits/dials. Where the number of digits/dials is less than 12 the remaining characters should be set to spaces e.g. for a 7 digit dial display the index would be formatted as ' 0012345'
CORRECTOR_CORRECTED_READING	O	T	12	0	DEFINITION: The corrected index taken from the corrector. FORMAT: The index should be right justified and be the same length as the number of digits/dials present on the meter. This may mean the index provided is left padded with zeros to equate the length of the values to the actual number of digits/dials. Where

					the number of digits/dials is less than 12 the remaining characters should be set to spaces e.g. for a 7 digit dial display the index would be formatted as'0012345'
CORRECTOR_ROUND_THE_CLOCK_COUNT	O	T	2	0	DEFINITION: The number of times the corrector has gone round the clock i.e. through the zeros. VALUES: blank, -9 through to 99 VALIDATION: Must be supplied when Meter Reading Source is 'A' and a corrector is fitted. Must be supplied when a Meter Reading Reason is N or R and a Corrector is fitted, unless the Meter Reading Source is P.
CORRECTOR_USABLE_IND	O	T	1	0	DEFINITION: Indicates whether the corrector reads are usable for billing purposes. VALUES: Y, N or blank. If blank and corrector is fitted, Y will be assumed. Must be blank if no corrector fitted.
CORRECTOR_READ_VERIFIED	O	T	1	0	DEFINITION: Indicates whether the corrector read has failed the System User tolerance checking but is being accepted. VALUES: Y or blank
			94		

RT_U02_UNBUNDLED READ REJECTION

Record/Field Name	OPT	DOM	LNG	DEC	DESCRIPTION
TRANSACTIO_TYPE	M	T	3	0	DEFINITION: A code identifying the type of transaction that this record represents. VALUE: U02
METER_POINT_REFERENCE	M	N	10	0	DEFINITION: A unique identifier for the point at which a meter is, has been or will be connected to the gas network. These references are less volatile than meter or service identifiers and do not change if the meter is replaced or the service is relayed to the same position. New Meter Point References will only be created for new services or when a service is related to a different position. CONTEXT: The reference of the Meter Point which the meter / corrector reads relate to.

ACTUAL_READ_DATE	M	D	8	0	DEFINITION: The date on which the read was taken. FORMAT: YYYYMMDD
METER_READING_SOURCE	M	T	1	0	DEFINITION: The source from which the read was taken. VALUES: M - Meter Read Organisation E - Supplied by the End User A - Agreed Opening Read R – Remote Reading Equipment Read Q – Shipper Provided Estimated Read G – Gas Card Read P – Point of Sale Read
METER_READING_REASON	M	T	1	0	DEFINITION: The reason why the read was taken. VALUES: O - Opening Read R – Replacement Read N - Non Opening Read
METER_SERIAL_NUMBER	M	T	14	0	DEFINITION: The manufacturers meter serial number. CONTEXT: The serial number of the meter from which the meter read was taken.
METER_READING	M	T	12	0	DEFINITION: The actual index read from the meter. FORMAT: The index should be right justified and be the same length as the number of digits/dials present on the meter. This may mean the index provided is left padded with zeros to equate the length of the values to the actual number of digits/dials. Where the number of digits/dials is less than 12 the remaining characters should be set to spaces e.g. for a 4 digit dial display the index would be formatted as ' 0012'
METER_ROUND_THE_CLOCK_COUNT	O	T	2	0	DEFINITION: Number of times the meter has gone round the clock i.e. through the zeros. VALUES: blank, -9 through to 99
METER_READ_VERIFIED	O	T	1	0	DEFINITION: Indicates whether the meter read has failed the System User tolerance checking but is being accepted. VALUES: Y or blank
CORRECTOR_SERIAL_NUMBER	O	T	14	0	DEFINITION: The manufacturers corrector serial number. CONTEXT: The serial number of the corrector from which the corrector

					reads were taken.
CORRECTOR_UNCORRECTED_READING	O	T	12	0	DEFINITION: The uncorrected index taken from the corrector. FORMAT: The index should be right justified and be the same length as the number of digits/dials present on the meter. This may mean the index provided is left padded with zeros to equate the length of the values to the actual number of digits/dials. Where the number of digits/dials is less than 12 the remaining characters should be set to spaces e.g. for a 7 digit dial display the index would be formatted as ' 0012345'
CORRECTOR_CORRECTED_READING	O	T	12	0	DEFINITION: The corrected index taken from the corrector. FORMAT: The index should be right justified and be the same length as the number of digits/dials present on the meter. This may mean the index provided is left padded with zeros to equate the length of the values to the actual number of digits/dials. Where the number of digits/dials is less than 12 the remaining characters should be set to spaces e.g. for a 7 digit dial display the index would be formatted as ' 0012345'
CORRECTOR_ROUND_THE_CLOCK_COUNT	O	T	2	0	DEFINITION: The number of times the corrector has gone round the clock i.e. through the zeros. VALUES: blank, -9 through to 99
CORRECTOR_USABLE_IND	O	T	1	0	DEFINITION: Indicates whether the corrector reads are usable for billing purposes. VALUES: Y, N or blank. If blank and corrector is fitted, Y will be assumed. Must be blank if no corrector fitted.
CORRECTOR_READ_VERIFIED	O	T	1	0	DEFINITION: Indicates whether the corrector read has failed the System User tolerance checking but is being accepted. VALUES: Y or blank
SERIAL_NUMBER_MATCH	M	T	1	0	DEFINITION: Indicates which METER_SERIAL_NUMBER matching routine was used to compare the shipper supplied SERIAL_NUMBER against the value held on the Sites & Meters database. Set according to the result of the

					METER_SERIAL_NUMBER matching routine, part of the Unbundled METER_READ validation process. VALUES: E - The supplied value used the Exact match logic. F - The supplied value used the Fuzzy match logic. R - The SERIAL_NUMBER match failed. N – The Serial Number validation was not performed.
MET_SERIAL_NUMBER_TRANSCO	O	T	14	0	DEFINITION: Serial number of meter for which read was taken, as held on system. This will be populated when Fuzzy match was used or when SERIAL_NUMBER_MATCH failed.
PREV_MET_SERIAL_NUMBER	O	T	14	0	DEFINITION: This field will be populated by TRANSCO only if the reading is rejected due to the shipper MSN being a previous one. The field contains the Previous MSN as on the S&M database
			123		

TR_Z99_STANDARD_TRAILER

Record/Field Name	OPT	DOM	LNG	DEC	DESCRIPTION
TRANSACTION_TYPE	M	T	3	0	DEF:A code identifying the type of information that this record contains. VALUE:Z99
RECORD_COUNT	M	N	10	0	DEF:The number of detail records contained within the file. This should not include the standard header and the standard trailer but should include any file specific headers if specified for this file ie: only A00 and Z99 records excluded.
			13		
			247		