

iGT | UNC
iGT UNC Modification Proposal

Date	29 February 2008
Urgency	Non-urgent
Reference	iGT017
Status	Consultation
Title	iGT UNC Change Plan for Modification Processes
Proposer	Colette Baldwin E.ON UK on behalf of the Modification Rules Review Group
iGT UNC / Pipeline Operator	iGT UNC
Modification Proposal Dates	<i>Circulation: 29/02/2008</i> <i>Response: 25/03/2008</i> <i>Circulation of DMR: 15/04/2008</i> <i>Response to DMR: 07/05/2008</i> <i>Circulation of DFMR - 29/05/2008</i> <i>DFMR Presented to Panel - 18/06/2008</i> <i>FMR sent to authority: 27/06/08</i>

Urgency

Non-urgent

Background

Since the introduction of the iGT UNC, there have been 16 modification proposals, 6 review modification proposals and 4 sets of individual network code modification proposals. The timing of the release of the modifications to the industry for impact assessment has not been controlled in any way and has led to uncertainty over when to expect proposals for review, and unclear timescales for response or the receipt of DMRs and FMRs and at which modification Panel meeting these will be presented.

In order to ensure that there has been full consultation on proposals that affect the industry it is essential to ensure that all organisations, particularly those with limited resources, are able to target those resources effectively when participating in the modification process.

There have been a number of modifications that have been raised which have had to be considered as short notice business by the Panel, and this does not provide sufficient opportunity for review by the industry prior to the Panel meeting. Since the industry is represented at the Panel meeting by constituency representatives, short notice proposals do not give either the representatives or the parties they represent sufficient time to assess the impact and adequately brief their representatives in advance of the Panel meetings.

The Proposal

The proposal seeks to create a change plan, which will create a monthly release schedule of draft and formal modification proposals. The timetable will set out the latest date for changes to be raised so that they can be presented to the monthly Panel meeting whilst giving the industry sufficient time for impact assessment and to provide feedback to their Panel representatives. The timing of responses and presentation of DMRs and FMRs to the Panel will also be scheduled in to the change plan. The intention is to give greater certainty over when to expect documents for review and when the responses are due.

The proposal seeks to introduce the good practice that has been established in other industry codes such as SPAA, the BSC and the MRA and recognises that having a defined timetable will enable better resource planning, particularly for smaller organisations, encouraging full consultation and participation in the iGT UNC change process.

Nothing in this proposal seeks to remove the rights of parties to raise a modification that meets the urgency criteria that Ofgem is able to determine.

Suggested timescale for implementation

This change does not have any system implications and should be implemented within 2 months of Authority consent.

How will the proposal operate?

Each iGT Pipeline User and Operator will nominate a Change Administrator, and these will be notified to the iGT UNC Representative.

A change plan will be prepared annually by the iGT UNC Representative once the Panel meeting dates have been agreed for the coming year.

The change plan will be published on the iGT UNC Website, giving the dates of proposal releases, Panel meetings and response timescales, including the publication and receipt of the DMR and FMRs.

The timetable will indicate the timeline of a proposal that goes into consultation directly from the Panel.

Once a proposal is received by the iGT UNC Representatives, the proposal will be released to the industry Change Administrators by email and published to the iGT UNC website.

Should the Modification Panel determine that the modification should proceed to development, the timetable will be suspended for the agreed duration of the review group and will restart once the Panel determines that the modification is suitable for consultation following receipt of the workgroup's report.

Should it be necessary to change the timetable in view of any changes to the iGT UNC Modification Rules or changes to the published Modification Panel dates, the Modification Panel will agree and publish a new timetable.

Facilitation of the relevant objectives

This proposal will facilitate “the securing of effective competition between relevant shippers and suppliers” by ensuring that all participants have full transparency and a good degree of predictability of the modification process. It will enable smaller participants to resource-plan their participation throughout the year by having a clear timetable indicating when proposals will be released for impact assessment, which Panel meeting will manage those modifications and the planned timetable for the entire process. It will enable them to brief their Panel representatives adequately in advance of the Panel meeting enabling their views to be fully represented.

It will also ensure the “efficient administration of the network code” in that a co-ordinated release schedule of change documentation will ensure that Pipeline Operators are able to target their resources more accurately in the management of changes to the network code.

Proposed Legal Text

None

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