

Deliberation of CRE dated 18 September 2008 concerning the creation of a discussion group on the rules governing transportation by the gas transmission networks

1. Background

Over the last few years, the two French transmission system operators (TSO), GRTgaz and TIGF, have set up, upon request by the French Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) or upon their own initiative, discussion groups on transportation by their gas transmission networks.

Several discussion and exchange groups are currently working on various themes:

- periodic meetings organised by GRTgaz and TIGF attended by the shippers active on their network (various subjects);
- the TIGF and GRTgaz Balancing discussions (requested by CRE in its deliberation on 21 June 2006);
- the Consumer Discussion on Gas Transmission Network Committee (3CTG) which deals with consumer-related issues;
- the "*Club CCGT*" which tackles various issues related to gas power plants.

In this context, several transmission network users asked CRE to create a formal discussion group on the rules governing transportation by the gas transmission networks.

2. CRE analysis

CRE observes that the rules governing transportation by the gas transmission networks are likely to experience significant changes on several issues such as:

- the overall structure of gas transmission, in particular the number of balancing zones, the processing of any requests for new transits across France and the development of new interconnection or link capacities between zones;
- the rules governing capacities' marketing on the transmission network;
- the rules applicable to gas power plants;
- the methods used by the large industrial consumers to have access to the Gas Exchange Points;
- the rules applicable to the gas exchange;
- the balancing system.

The discussion groups set up by GRTgaz and TIGF, as mentioned in paragraph 1, have improved the transparency and the level of information provided to the gas transmission networks users. However, the various issues must be dealt with homogeneously and the method used by each operator to conduct its own discussion meetings must not lead to unjustified differences in the rules governing transportation between the two networks.

3. CRE decision

To meet these objectives, a discussion group will be set up to deal with the rules governing transportation by the gas transmission networks. The operating and organisation principles are as follows:

- the plenary committee controls and defines the work program. The parties concerned must be properly represented in this committee. It will be chaired by the TSOs;
- the working groups, designated by the plenary committee and moderated by the TSOs, deal with the themes identified by the committee and report their findings;
- the plenary committee submits proposals produced by the working groups to CRE. When the issues lies within the scope of its authority, according to the article 37-1 of law No. 2000-108 dated 10 February 2000, CRE sets the rules governing transportation by the gas transmission networks. CRE may also deliberate on other matters submitted by the plenary committee.

By participating in the plenary committee and the working groups, CRE guarantees:

- good representation of the market players;
- consistency of the work program and the works carried out for the entire French gas system;
- progress of the various work sites according to the work program and to the French gas system requirements.

The gas working group retains full authority, in particular over the issues concerning distribution and interfaces between the distribution networks and the transmission networks.

The transmission discussion group has authority over issues concerning transmission and interfaces with gas infrastructures other than the distribution networks.

GRTgaz and TIGF will prepare and organise the first plenary committee meeting on 31 October 2008 at the latest, according to the principles defined above.

Signed in Paris, 18 September 2008.

For the Energy Regulatory Commission,
The President,

Philippe de LADOUCKETTE