



Notice

17 September 2014

Proposed Revised Access Arrangement for the Mid-West and South-West Gas Distribution Systems

CALCULATION OF TIME FOR PUBLICATION OF A FINAL DECISION

The Economic Regulation Authority (**Authority**) is required to publish a final decision on the revisions proposed by ATCO Gas Australia Pty Ltd (**ATCO**) to the Mid-West and South-West Gas Distribution Systems within a six month period unless it extends the time allowed or disregards time as permitted by the National Gas Rules (**NGR**). The Authority has decided to disregard time and as a result the final decision must now be published before 8 January 2015 (subject to any further disregarded periods).

For the purpose of calculating the time by which a final decision on ATCO's proposed revised access arrangement is to be published, the periods of time to be disregarded are:

- The period provided to ATCO from 20 March 2014 to 25 March 2014 to re-submit its proposed revised access arrangement to correct deficiencies found in its initial proposal.
- The public submission period on ATCO's proposed revised access arrangement from 4 April 2014 to 21 May 2014.
- The period provided to ATCO from 4 July 2014 to 1 September 2014 to submit information and revise its tariff models and tables relating to the access arrangement information with respect to a revised forecast for unaccounted for gas, the carbon tax legislation repeal and its revised forecast IT expenditure following a decision to change its IT service provider.

It is anticipated that the Authority's draft decision on ATCO's proposed revised access arrangement will be published in late September or early October 2014. A subsequent public submission period, and if required a period for ATCO to revise its access arrangement proposal, will also be considered as disregarded time under rule 11 of the NGR. The date of the publication of the final decision will depend on the timing of this process.

Background

ATCO lodged proposed revisions to its access arrangement on 17 March 2014. As a result, without any extension of time or disregarding of time, the NGR would require a final decision to be published today.

Rule 11 of the NGR lists the periods of time that may be disregarded, which include:

- any period allowed for the proponent to correct or revise the proposal (rule 11(1)(a); and



Notice

- any period allowed for public submissions on the proposal or the Authority's draft decision (rule 11(1)(c)).

Pursuant to rule 13(2) of the NGR, there is an overall time limit of 13 months between the date on which a service provider submits an access arrangement proposal and the date for the publication of a final decision. The Authority's final decision must therefore be published by 17 April 2015.

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