

NOTICE

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

ON THE PROPOSED HAULAGE CONTRACT BETWEEN ALINTAGAS NETWORKS PTY LTD AND ALINTAGAS SALES PTY LTD

This is to notify that the proposed Associate Contract between AlintaGas Networks Pty Ltd and AlintaGas Sales Pty Ltd for access to the Mid-West and South-West Gas Distribution Systems has been lodged with the Independent Gas Access Regulator, pursuant to Section 7.1 of the *National Third Party Access Code for Natural Gas Pipeline Systems* (the Code).

The proposed Associate Contract sets out the terms and conditions under which AlintaGas Sales Pty Ltd will be given access to the gas distribution systems operated by AlintaGas Networks Pty Ltd.

Section 7.1 of the Code requires that:

“A Service Provider must not enter into an Associate Contract without first obtaining the approval of the Relevant Regulator. The Relevant Regulator must not refuse to approve a proposed Associate Contract unless it considers that the contract would have the effect, or would be likely to have the effect, of substantially lessening, preventing or hindering competition in a market.”

Because the proposed Associate Contract provides AlintaGas Sales Pty Ltd with access to the gas distribution systems at tariffs other than the Access Arrangement reference tariffs, section 7.3 of the Code requires that an appropriate public consultation process be undertaken.

An issues paper has been prepared to assist interested parties with their submissions on the proposed Associate Contract. It outlines matters that I will take into account in assessing the proposed Associate Contract pursuant to section 7.1 of the Code.

Invitation to Comment

Accordingly, I invite comments from interested parties on the proposed Associate Contract. Specifically, comments are invited in relation to whether the proposed Haulage Contract would have the effect, or would be likely to have the effect, of substantially lessening, preventing or hindering competition in a market.

Questions regarding this invitation for submissions should be directed to Mr Robert Pullella whose contact details are given below.



Submissions and comments on the proposed Associate Contract must be received by 5:00pm Tuesday 3 April 2001 Western Standard Time. Due to the time constraints imposed by the Code it will be important that parties making submissions are able to meet this time requirement.

Available Documentation

The issues paper is available from the Office of Gas Access Regulation (*OffGAR*) web site (www.offgar.wa.gov.au). Printed copies of the issues paper are also available and may be obtained at a fee of \$20 including GST by contacting:

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Confidentiality

In general, all submissions from interested parties will be treated as in the public domain and placed on the *OffGAR* web site. My receipt and publication of any submission lodged for the purposes of the Code shall not be taken as indicating that I have formed an opinion as to whether or not any particular submission contains any information of a confidential nature.

Where an interested party wishes to make a submission in confidence, it should clearly indicate the parts of the submission in respect of which confidentiality is claimed. I will consider any claim of confidentiality in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 7 of the Code.

Format of Submissions

Submissions with comments on the proposed Associate Contract should be in both hardcopy and electronic form and addressed to Mr. Robert Pullella at the address above.

KEN MICHAEL
GAS ACCESS REGULATOR
13 March 2001