



Notice

29 April 2015

Proposed revised access arrangement for the Goldfields Gas Pipeline

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL DECISION

The Economic Regulation Authority (**ERA**) has extended the time limit in which it is required to publish a final decision on the revisions proposed by Goldfields Gas Transmission Pty Ltd (**GGT**) to the Goldfields Gas Pipeline (**GGP**) access arrangement, as permitted by the National Gas Rules (**NGR**) by two months to 30 June 2015.

This extension of time is needed because of the complexity of the issues involved in this review, including issues identified in late submissions from GGT and BHP Billiton Limited dealing with the costs allocated to the covered pipeline, which require detailed consideration.

The NGR does not prescribe a time limit for publishing a draft decision. A time limit is only prescribed for when a final decision must be published. Normally a final decision is required to be published within a six month period unless the time allowed is extended as permitted under rule 62(8) of the NGR, or time is disregarded in accordance with the NGR provisions. This notice gives effect to the extension permitted by rule 62(8) of the NGR.

The ERA has previously disregarded time for the public consultation period relating to GGT's proposal. After the publication of the draft decision, the time that will be allowed for GGT to revise its proposal (if required) and the period allowed for public submissions on the draft decision will also be disregarded. Therefore, the due date for the final decision will again be revised when a draft decision is published to disregard the time associated with further consultation.

A notice of extension has also been published in The West Australian and The Australian newspapers, to satisfy the requirements of rule 12(3) of the NGR.

Background

GGT lodged proposed revisions to its access arrangement on 15 August 2014. Without an extension or disregarding time, the NGR would have required a final decision to be published by 15 February 2015 (i.e. six months after lodgement).

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

The ERA notice published on 13 February 2015, advised that it would disregard certain periods of time as allowed under rule 11 of the NGR extending the time limit for publishing the final decision to 30 April 2015.

Pursuant to rule 13 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. This overall time limit is unaffected by time to be disregarded and cannot be extended. The ERA's final decision must therefore be published, at the latest, by 15 September 2015.

For further information contact:

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