

Update

New Staff Members

Peter Davies joined Gas Industry Co in January as its Corporate Services Manager. He is responsible for Finance, HR, IT, Property and Administration. Peter has a background in management reporting and strategic planning, acting as an advisor to both public and private sector organisations in New Zealand and internationally. His most recent roles saw him developing a strategic planning framework for one of New Zealand's leading science & technology companies and providing financial policy advice to New Zealand Police.

Peter holds a BBS in Accounting from Massey University, an MBA with Distinction from the Massey University Graduate School of Business and is a Chartered Accountant.

Switching Rules

The Gas (Switching Arrangements) Rules 2008 ('switching rules') were gazetted by the Minister of Energy on 14 February 2008.

A copy of the rules is available at:

[http://www.gasindustry.co.nz/Downloads/Gas%20switching%20rules%2008%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.gasindustry.co.nz/Downloads/Gas%20switching%20rules%2008%20(2).pdf)

The purpose of the switching rules is to establish a set of gas switching and registry arrangements that will enable consumers to switch between competing retailers more efficiently. The rules provide for:

- appointment of a registry operator;
- establishment of a central registry of gas customers;
- management of information held by the registry; and
- a process for switching customers between retailers.

The first part of the rules (rules 1 to 50) comes into effect on 13 March 2008. Those rules provide for the appointment of the registry operator and establishment of the registry. The second part of the rules (rules 51 to 91) comes into effect on the date on which the registry is fully operational. That date is expected to be around 1 March 2009.

Selection and appointment of the registry operator is well underway. Once the registry operator is appointed, Gas Industry Co will establish a Registry Implementation Team to participate in the process of developing and populating the registry.

Bas Walker, Senior Adviser Retail and Projects, is the leader of this work stream.

Sarah Greathead joined Gas Industry Co in February. Her duties involve reception and providing secretarial support to the work stream leaders. She has a customer service background, and previously worked as a customer services representative at Inland Revenue.

Outage and Contingency Management

Submissions on the Supplementary Consultation Paper on Gas Outage and Contingency Management arrangements are available on our website at:
<http://www.gasindustry.co.nz/Consultation.php>

Transmission Access

Eight submissions were received on the October 2007 Transmission Access Framework Statement of Proposal (SoP). These are available from Gas Industry Co's website at:

http://www.gasindustry.co.nz/Previously_consulted.php

A wide range of views were expressed in the submissions, but some common themes did emerge.

Most submitters expressed a preference for a low level of regulation, and some thought that the option proposed in the SoP was too prescriptive. It was also suggested that more options needed to be considered, possibly developed through further engagement with industry participants. Although the SoP did not assume any regulatory approval of the existing codes (the Maui Pipeline Operating Code and the Vector Transmission Code), most submitters considered that to reduce uncertainty some form of approval was needed. Special mention of the issue of pipeline balancing was made by many submitters, but there was a wide scatter of opinion on how it should be treated. Some considered that balancing would be provided by the market, others considered that direct regulatory intervention was required. A number of submissions also suggested that, since the Gas Act only allows for the prescription of terms and conditions of access, it might be outside Gas Industry Co's powers to recommend the 'framework' approach proposed in the SoP.

Gas Industry Co is preparing a detailed analysis of the submissions. Because of the wide range and depth of views expressed (the longest submission was 164 pages), and the need to carefully consider and respond to these views, it is unlikely that a full submissions analysis will be available until late April 2008. It is very likely that further consultation will then be required before any recommendation can be made to the Minister.

Ian Wilson, Senior Advisor – Pipelines, is the leader of this work stream.