

Regulatory reporting guidelines for gas pipeline service providers – release of draft guidelines

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has released draft *Regulatory reporting guidelines for gas pipeline service providers* for comment by interested parties. A copy is attached for your information (it will also be available from the Commission's website).

The *National Third Party Access Code for Natural Gas Pipeline Systems* (Code) requires that regulated service providers comply with a range of minimum ring fencing obligations, including that they maintain regulatory accounts that separate their regulated and unregulated activities. In particular, any shared costs must be allocated on a basis that is consistent with principles set out in section 8.1 of the Code and be otherwise fair and reasonable.

While compliance with these requirements has been mandatory since the Code was established, gas pipeline service providers have to date only been asked to attest that they have met these obligations. Reporting in accordance with the guidelines will provide a higher level of certainty about compliance with these requirements.

The purpose of issuing the draft guidelines for comment by gas pipeline service providers and other interested parties is to ensure that the finalised guidelines will be reasonable and workable for gas pipeline service providers, while at the same time allowing the Commission to fulfil its obligations under the Code.

Parties are invited to provide comments on the draft guidelines. The Commission will take these into account when finalising the guidelines.

The Commission prefers that all written submissions be publicly available to foster an informed, transparent and robust consultative process. Accordingly, submissions will be treated as public documents unless otherwise requested. Parties wishing to submit confidential information are asked to provide confidential and non-confidential versions of their submission. All non-confidential submissions will be placed on the Commission's website <http://www.accc.gov.au>.

Submissions should be addressed to:

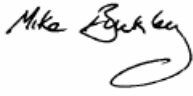
Mr Michael Walsh
Director, Gas Group
Regulatory Affairs Division
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3648
Sydney NSW 2001

Persons making submissions are requested to also provide an electronic copy of the submission to gas@acc.gov.au.

Submissions should be made to the Commission by **no later than 5.00pm, Friday 18 June 2004.**

Please direct any enquiries about the draft guideline, or about making submissions, to Michael Walsh on (02) 9230 9156.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Buckley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mike Buckley
General Manager
Regulatory Affairs – Gas

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