

# **DRAFT PROJECT PLAN: Transparency**



Gas Regional Initiative North West

*The Hague, May 2011*

## 1. Purpose

Transparency is a critical element in ensuring an effective functioning internal European market to overcome the current fragmentation of European gas markets.

Gas Regulation No 715/2009, effective from 3rd March 2011 includes a number of enhanced transparency requirements under Article 18 **“Transparency requirements concerning transmission system operators”** and under amended Chapter 3 of Annex 1 of the Gas regulation **“Definition of the technical information necessary for network users to gain effective access to the system, the definition of all relevant points for transparency requirements and the information to be published at the relevant points and the time schedule according to which this information should be published”**.

The proposed objectives of this project are to:

1. Monitor compliance of TSOs against the Transparency requirements outlined under Article 18 and amended Chapter 3 of Annex 1 of Gas Regulation No 715/2009.
2. Assess the quality of the data published and ask stakeholders if they deem it necessary and purposeful to investigate the need for additional data.

## 2. Background

Market participants need to know where and how to access capacity, the costs involved, what is available at a particular time, what rules apply and information on their own situation for balancing purposes. Asymmetric information leads to distortions in the market and can be a barrier to entry.

The ERGEG GRI NW has been one of the leading institutions over the past 4 years driving significant improvements in European gas market transparency on the basis of voluntary and market lead initiatives. The GRI NW transparency has in two previous projects considered both Transmission Transparency and Storage transparency. This process included consulting industry on an information wish list and finally obtaining agreement from TSOs and SSOs to publish information beyond what was required in the 2005 Gas Regulation. Market participants provided positive feedback on the improved information transparency.

Both projects heavily influenced the role out of these requirements beyond the GRI NW countries across Europe and the development of central information platforms. This experience also influenced the move from a voluntary basis to enshrining greater transparency in legislation under the 3rd Energy Package. It is important to ensure, after lengthy negotiations in agreeing greater transparency under the 3rd package, that these new transparency requirements are implemented correctly.

## 3. The proposal

The key output of this project will be a compliance assessment report. The following key steps are envisaged for this project:

<b>Key steps</b>	<b>Date</b>
Project plan agreed and project team established. Key stakeholder input on the project plan	March - April
Agree interpretation of the transparency requirements under Gas Regulation (then consult stakeholders such as EFET)	April - May
Agree information template	June
TSOs requested to populate information template	July-August
GRI NW assess/ clarify TSO responses with key stakeholder input	August/September
Publish and invite stakeholders to comment on the quality of data published	September
Publish conclusions	October/November