

DRAFT GAS GOVERNANCE (BALANCING) RULES (UPDATED @ 15 DECEMBER 2009)

1. Title

These rules are the Gas Governance (Balancing) Rules 2009.

2. Commencement

2.1 Rules 6 to 11 and Part 2 come into force, if the industry body publishes a statement in the Gazette in accordance with rule 33.1 or 46.2, -

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2.1.1 on a date that is before the 25th of the month, on the 1st day of the month following the month in which the statement is published; or

2.1.2 on a date that is the 25th, or after the 25th, of a month, on the 1st day of the 2nd month after the month in which the statement is published.

2.2 The rest of these rules come into force on the 28th day after the date of their notification in the Gazette.

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3. Purpose

The purpose of these rules is to achieve an efficient, unified balancing arrangement for managing imbalance in the transmission system.

4. Outline

4.1 These rules provide for –

4.1.1 the appointment of a single balancing agent and development of a unified balancing plan (to be approved by the industry body) by transmission system owners; or

4.1.2 in certain circumstances, the appointment of a single balancing agent and development of a unified balancing plan by the industry body; and

4.1.3 the powers and functions of the balancing agent to manage linepack in the transmission system and allocate gas and costs associated with that management; and

4.1.4 the rights and obligations of users and transmission system owners in relation to the balancing agent's functions.

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Part 1. General provisions

5. Interpretation

5.1 In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires -

Act means the Gas Act 1992

balance has the meaning in rule 5.2

balancing action means one or more transactions to sell or purchase balancing gas committed at the same time for the purposes of managing linepack under [rule 15.1](#) or [15.2](#)

balancing agent means—

- (a) the person appointed as the balancing agent by the transmission system owners under rule 28.1.3; or
- (b) if subpart 2 of Part 3 applies, the person appointed as the balancing agent by the industry body under rule 42

balancing gas means gas that is [sold or purchased as part of a balancing action](#).

balancing market means the market established or [accessed](#) by the balancing agent to comply with rule 16.1

balancing plan—

- (a) means the plan –
 - (i) approved by the industry body under rule 32; or
 - (ii) if subpart 2 of Part 3 applies, set and approved by the industry body under rule 45; and
- (b) includes any amendment to the plan approved [by the industry body](#) under

[\(i\) rule 36; or](#)

[\(ii\) rule 48.5 or 50.1](#)

balancing zone means a part of the transmission system defined as a balancing zone in the balancing plan

business day means any day of the week except—

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- (a) Saturday and Sunday; and
- (b) any day that Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day, the Sovereign's birthday, Labour Day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, the day after New Year's Day, or Waitangi Day are observed for statutory holiday purposes; and
- (c) any other day that the industry body has determined not to be a business day as published by the industry body

cash-out amount, in relation to a balancing action, means the product of the cash-out price for balancing gas allocated to a user in the balancing action and the quantity of balancing gas allocated to the user

cash-out price means the price determined by the balancing agent under rule 20.1.2 in respect of the sale or purchase of balancing gas allocated to a user

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clearing price means, -

(a) in relation to the purchase of balancing gas by the balancing agent in a single balancing action, the highest sum of-

- Deleted:** means

(i) the offer price for any balancing gas accepted in that balancing action, plus

(ii) any transmission charges payable by the balancing agent to transmit that balancing gas to the reference location; and

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(b) in relation to the sale of balancing gas by the balancing agent in a single balancing action, the lowest sum of-

(i) the offer price for any balancing gas accepted in that balancing action, less

(ii) any transmission charges payable by the balancing agent to transmit that balancing gas from the reference location.

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commencement date means the date referred to in rule 2.2

directly managed, in relation to a balancing zone, means managed directly through the sale and purchase of balancing gas

- Deleted:** cost, in relation to allocation of balancing gas cost, includes allocation of the proceeds of sale of balancing gas ¶

go-live date means the day rules 6 to 11 and Part 2 come into force under rule 2.1

imbalance has the meaning in rule 5.2

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indirectly managed, in relation to a balancing zone, means managed via management of a directly managed balancing zone, for example, by pressure regulator

industry body means—

- (a) the industry body approved by Order in Council under section 43ZL of the Act; or
- (b) in the event that the approval of the industry body is revoked under section 43ZM of the Act and no other industry body is approved, the Energy Commission to be established under section 43ZZH of the Act

information exchange means –

- (a) any online open access transmission information system that is used to facilitate information exchange in respect of access to transmission pipelines; and
- (b) includes OATIS, the online interactive open access transmission information system that is used to facilitate information exchange in respect of the open access regime under MPOC and VTC

interconnected party means any person who is a party to an interconnection agreement with a transmission system owner

interconnection agreement means any agreement or customary arrangement between a transmission system owner and another person relating to the receipt of gas into or delivery of gas out of the transmission system

linepack means the quantity of gas in any part of the transmission system at any time

Maui Pipeline Operating Code or MPOC means the code, issued by the owners of that part of the transmission system identified as the Maui pipeline on the map published in accordance with rule 12, covering operation of the Maui pipeline, as amended from time to time

publish, in respect of information to be published by a person, means to make that information available on the person's website

reference location means the location or balancing zone used by the balancing agent to evaluate balancing gas offers in respect of a proposed balancing action

shipper means a person who is a party to an agreement with a transmission system owner to have gas transmitted through all or part of the transmission system

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(a) . the industry body approved by Order in Council under section 43ZL of the Act; or¶
(b) . in the event that the approval of the industry body is revoked under section 43ZM of the Act and no other industry body is approved, the Energy Commission to be established under section 43ZZH of the Act¶

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(a) . where an interconnected party connects to the transmission system; or ¶
(b) . 2 parts of the transmission system connect, as those points are identified on the map published by the industry body in accordance with rule 12¶

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positive imbalance means an imbalance that increases linepack¶

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target linepack, in relation to a balancing zone, means the target quantity of linepack for the balancing zone as specified in or determined in accordance with the balancing plan

trader means a person who buys or sells gas within the transmission system

transmit in relation to gas, includes to receive a quantity of gas at one point on the transmission system and deliver an equivalent quantity of gas to another point on the transmission system

transmission system arrangements means the rules of access to and use of a part of the transmission system, and includes –

- (a) a transmission system code;
- (b) any arrangements entered into under a transmission system code (for example, a gas transfer agreement); and
- (c) any bilateral agreements relating to access to and use of a part of the transmission system

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transmission system code means MPOC, VTC, and any other multilateral agreements relating to access to and use of a part of the transmission system

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transmission system means the system of interconnected high pressure open access gas transmission pipelines depicted on the map published by the industry body in accordance with rule 12

transmission system owner means a person who owns all or any part of the transmission system

user –

(a) means –

- (i) a shipper, or
- (ii) a trader; or
- (iii) an interconnected party; or
- (iv) a transmission system owner in relation to –

(A) its activities as a shipper, trader, or interconnected party; and

(B) its obligation to ensure that the line pack of a part of the transmission system owned by it matches the aggregate of the

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target linepack, all other users' imbalances; and any balancing gas allocated to a transmission system owner under rule 19.3 and not yet settled by the balancing agent under rule 23

(b) does not include –

(i) the balancing agent in relation to the performance of the balancing agent's functions; or

(ii) a transmission system owner in respect of balancing gas allocated to that transmission system owner under rule 19.3.

Vector Transmission Code or VTC means the code, issued by the owners of that part of the transmission system identified as the Vector pipeline on the map published in accordance with rule 12, covering operation of the Vector pipeline, as amended from time to time.

5.2 For the purposes of these rules, –

balance means, in relation to –

(a) a shipper, to ensure that the receipts and deliveries of gas allocated to the shipper under relevant transmission system arrangements match; and

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(b) a trader, to ensure that the quantities of gas purchased and sold allocated to the trader under relevant transmission system arrangements match; and

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(c) an interconnected party, to ensure that the same quantity of gas as agreed or scheduled under the terms of an interconnection agreement with the relevant transmission system owner is taken from or injected by that party into the transmission system; and

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(d) a transmission system owner (other than in regard to its activities as a shipper, trader, or interconnected party), to ensure that the linepack in a part of the transmission system owned by that owner matches the aggregate of the following;

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(i) the target linepack of that part of the system;

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(ii) all other users' imbalances in that part of the system;

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(iii) any balancing gas allocated to transmission system owners under rule 19.3 in respect of that part of the system and not yet settled under rule 23; and

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imbalance means, in relation to -

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(i) a shipper, the amount by which receipts and deliveries of gas allocated to the shipper under relevant transmission system arrangements do not match; and **Deleted:** means

(ii) a trader, the amount by which the quantities of gas purchased and sold allocated to the trader under relevant transmission system arrangements do not match; and **Deleted:** means

(iii) an interconnected party, the amount by which the quantity of gas taken from or injected into the transmission system by that party differs from that agreed or scheduled under the terms of an interconnection agreement; and **Deleted:** means

(iv) a transmission system owner (other than in regard to its activities as a shipper, trader, or interconnected party), the amount by which the linepack of a part of the transmission system owned by that person differs from the aggregate of the following: **Deleted:** means

(A) the target linepack of that part of the system; **Deleted:** actual

(B) all other users' **imbalances** in that part of the system; **Deleted:** ; and

(C) any balancing gas allocated to transmission system owners under rule 19.3 in respect of that part of the system and not yet settled under rule 23; and **Deleted:** ; and

(v) a balancing zone, the aggregate net imbalance of all users in that zone. **Deleted:** the balancing agent

Users' obligations

6. Users' obligation in relation to balancing

6.1 Subject to rule 6.5, a **user** must use reasonable endeavours – **Deleted:** means

6.1.1 to **balance** within each **balancing zone**; and **Deleted:** ; and

6.1.2 if, despite rule 6.1.1, the **user** has an **imbalance** in any **balancing zone**, to return the **user's imbalance** to zero. **Deleted:** (b) includes - ¶
(i) a positive imbalance; and ¶
(ii) a negative imbalance. ¶

6.2 If a **user** has an **imbalance** in a **balancing zone** – **Deleted:** 4

6.2.1 the allocation of gas in the **transmission system** to the **user** under relevant transmission system arrangements is subject to adjustment to reflect any **balancing gas purchased or sold** by the **balancing agent** and allocated to that user in accordance with these rules; and **Deleted:** paragraph (a)

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6.2.2 the user is –

- (a) liable to pay to the balancing agent the cash-out amount of any balancing gas purchased by the balancing agent and allocated to the user in accordance with these rules; or
- (b) entitled to receive from the balancing agent the cash-out amount of any balancing gas sold by the balancing agent and allocated to the user in accordance with these rules.

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6.3 Despite anything in these rules, if 2 or more transmission system owners own parts of the transmission system that are within a single balancing zone, those transmission system owners are –

Deleted: a transmission system owner is only required to ensure that the linepack matches the target linepack, other users' imbalances, and any balancing gas allocated to the balancing agent under rule 19.3 in a part of the transmission system owned by that transmission system owner; and ¶

6.3.1 jointly responsible to use reasonable endeavours to ensure –

- (a) that the linepack in the balancing zone matches the aggregate of the following:
 - (i) the target linepack for that balancing zone;
 - (ii) the imbalance of all shippers, traders, and interconnected parties in that balancing zone (including the imbalance of the transmission system owners in those capacities);
 - (iii) any balancing gas allocated to transmission system owners under rule 19.3 in relation to the balancing zone and not yet settled under rule 23; and
- (b) any amount by which the linepack of the balancing zone differs from the aggregate of the matters listed in paragraph (a)(i) to (iii) is returned to zero.

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6.3.2 jointly liable or entitled, as the case may be, to be allocated balancing gas by the balancing agent in respect of any imbalance that has arisen from the failure of the transmission system owners to ensure that the linepack in the balancing zone matches the aggregate of the matters listed in rule 6.3.1(a)(i) to (iii); and

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6.3.3 jointly liable to pay or entitled to receive the cash-out amount of any balancing gas allocated to them in accordance with rule 6.3.2.

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6.4 The provisions of these rules and the balancing plan apply with any necessary modifications in the circumstances specified in rule 6.3 as if the 2 or more transmission system owners were a single transmission system owner, and the definitions of balance, imbalance and user in rule 5 were read in light of the joint obligations in rule 6.3.1.

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6.5 Rules 6.1 and 6.3.1 do not apply in relation to a balancing zone during any period where a critical contingency has been declared and not terminated under the Gas Governance (Critical Contingency Management) Regulations 2008 in respect of a part of the transmission system that falls within the balancing zone.

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6.6 To avoid doubt, for the purposes of rule 6.1, an interconnected party who is entitled under the terms of an interconnection agreement to receive gas from or deliver gas into the transmission system at any point on demand, is to be treated as being balanced in respect of the gas received or delivered by that person at that point in accordance with that agreement.

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7. Users' obligation to provide information

7.1 A user must, if requested by the balancing agent, provide such information to the balancing agent –

7.1.1 that is in its possession, or over which it has control; and

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7.1.2 that is reasonably necessary to enable the balancing agent to carry out its functions.

Transmission system owners' obligations

8. Transmission system owners' obligation to facilitate balancing

8.1 Each transmission system owner must use reasonable endeavours to ensure that its operating procedures and contractual arrangements are consistent with and do not unreasonably prevent users complying with the obligations in rule 6.1.

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8.2 However, nothing in rule 8.1, or in rule 10 or 11.1.1 requires a transmission system owner to take any action that would unreasonably interfere with the transmission of gas in a part of the transmission system that is owned by that transmission system owner.

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9. Transmission system owners to provide transmission system information

9.1 Each transmission system owner must ensure that, if reasonably required by the balancing agent for the performance of its functions under these rules, any of the following information is made available to the balancing agent in relation to any of the parts of the transmission system owned by the transmission system owner, whether via an **information exchange** or otherwise:

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9.1.1 information about the threshold(s) specified in the **transmission system owner's** critical contingency management plan under the

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- 9.1.2 information about **linepack**:
- 9.1.3 information about the pressure at each of the measurement points specified in the **balancing plan**:
- 9.1.4 information necessary to confirm that **balancing gas** transactions have been carried out:

9.1.5 information about the **imbalance** in each **balancing zone** including a breakdown of the **imbalance** per **user** in sufficient detail to enable the **balancing agent** to **allocate balancing gas** and its associated cash-out price under these rules;

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9.1.6 historical **imbalance**, **linepack**, or pressure data:

9.1.7 metering (or other equipment) data on the amount of gas received into or taken from each balancing zone:

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(a) .

9.1.8 the quantity of gas agreed between the **transmission system owner** and an **interconnected party**, or otherwise expected or scheduled, to pass between each balancing zone:

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(b) . each

9.1.9 any notices issued in accordance with a **transmission system code** by the **transmission system owner**:

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9.1.10 any other information reasonably requested by the **balancing agent** for the purpose of carrying out its functions under these rules.

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(a) . through each interconnection point; and¶
(b) .

9.2 The information provided under rule 9.1 must be the best information available (including real time information if applicable) that, in the particular circumstances, is in the **transmission system owner's** possession or can be obtained or derived by the transmission system owner without unreasonable difficulty or expense.

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10. **Transmission system owners to provide transmission services for balancing gas**

10.1 Each **transmission system owner** must provide the **balancing agent** with transmission services for the transmission of **balancing gas** on terms and conditions which include:

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10.1.1 fully variable pricing; and

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10.1.2 priority access to pipeline capacity not already committed (for example, to approved nominations).

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11. **Other obligations of transmission system owners in relation to balancing**

11.1 Each **transmission system owner** must –

11.1.1 cooperate with and facilitate the **balancing agent** in the performance of the **balancing agent**'s functions with a view to minimising the quantity of **balancing gas** sold and purchased through **balancing actions**, and in particular by ensuring that none of the following actions by the **transmission system owner** cause unnecessary or uncoordinated **balancing actions** –

- (a) operation of compressors;
- (b) use of curtailment;
- (c) intervention for safety or maintenance; and

11.1.2 give access to the **balancing agent** to any **information exchange** provided by the **transmission system owner** on reasonable terms and conditions; and

11.1.3 ensure **users**' allocations of gas under the relevant transmission system arrangements are adjusted to reflect allocations made by the **balancing agent** under rule 19 and notified to the transmission system owner under rule 20; and

11.1.4 **publish** –

- (a) its current compressor operation policy; and
- (b) as soon as practicable, any written operational communications between the **transmission system owner** and the **balancing agent** that impact on how the **balancing agent** carries out its functions.

11.2 A **transmission system owner** may, but is not required to, give the **balancing agent** the right to control any compressor to assist in the **balancing agent** carrying out its functions.

12. **Publication of transmission system**

12.1 No later than 5 **business days** after the **commencement date**, each person who owns any part of New Zealand's system of interconnected high pressure open access gas transmission pipelines must provide the **industry body** with the information specified in clause 1(2) of Part 5 of Schedule 1 of the Gas (Information Disclosure) Regulations 1997.

12.2 As soon as practicable after receiving the information described in rule 12.1, the **industry body** must consult with the persons who have

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Deleted: <#>Nothing in this rule requires a **transmission system owner** to take an action that would unreasonably interfere with the transmission of gas in a part of the **transmission system**. ¶

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submitted the information on a draft map depicting the **transmission system** for the purposes of these rules.

- 12.3 As soon as practicable after that consultation and no later than the **go-live date**, the **industry body** must **publish** a map depicting the **transmission system**.
- 12.4 A **transmission system owner** must give notice to the **industry body** of any error or change in the boundaries of, and pipelines comprising, the **transmission system owner's** part of the **transmission system** as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the error or change.
- 12.5 The **industry body** may amend or update the boundaries of, and pipelines comprising, the **transmission system** in response to any notice given by a **transmission system owner** under [rule 12.4](#) and, where applicable, must **publish** an updated map depicting the **transmission system**.

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Part 2. Balancing

Balancing agent functions

13. Functions of the balancing agent

13.1 The primary functions of the **balancing agent** are to –

13.1.1 manage the **linepack** of the **transmission system** by –

- (a) buying or selling **balancing gas** to manage **linepack** in **balancing zones** that are **directly managed** [in accordance with rule 15](#); or
- (b) taking any other action provided for in the **balancing plan**, to [manage linepack in an indirectly managed balancing zone](#); and

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13.1.2 enter into transmission agreements in relation to the transmission of **balancing gas** to and from the **reference location** [\(or for the purposes of rule 23\)](#); and

13.1.3 **allocate balancing gas** and [its associated cash-out amount in accordance with this Part in respect of](#) each **balancing** action taken by the **balancing agent**; and

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13.1.4 notify the relevant **transmission system owner** [or owners](#) of any adjustments required to be made [under transmission system](#)

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arrangements to users' (or, under rule 19.3 to transmission system owners') allocations of gas in the **transmission system** to reflect allocation of **balancing gas** by the **balancing agent** in accordance with this Part.

14. Functions to be carried out independently

14.1 The **balancing agent** must carry out its functions under these rules-

14.1.1 independently of any other functions carried out by that person; and

14.1.2 if the agent is, or is related to, a **user** or **transmission system owner**, at arm's length from the other business operated by that **user** or **transmission system owner**.

14.2 The **balancing agent** must use information provided to it under these rules only for the purpose of performing its functions under these rules.

15. Management of linepack

15.1 If the **linepack** of a **balancing zone** that is **directly managed** falls below, or in the **balancing agent's** reasonable opinion is likely to fall below, the lower threshold specified in the balancing plan for the zone if **balancing action** is not taken, the **balancing agent** must—

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15.1.1 use reasonable endeavours to purchase the amount of gas that, in the balancing agent's opinion, is necessary to return the **linepack** to, or close to, the threshold, or prevent the linepack falling below the threshold; and

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15.1.2 if necessary, ensure that the **balancing gas** purchased is transmitted to the relevant **balancing zone**.

15.2 If the **linepack** of a **balancing zone** that is **directly managed** exceeds, or in the **balancing agent's** reasonable opinion is likely to exceed, the upper threshold specified in the balancing plan for the zone if **balancing action** is not taken, the **balancing agent** must—

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15.2.1 use reasonable endeavours to sell the amount of gas that, in the balancing agent's opinion, is necessary to return the **linepack** to, or close to, the threshold, or prevent the linepack exceeding the threshold; and

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15.2.2 if necessary, ensure that the **balancing gas** sold is transmitted from the relevant **balancing zone**.

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15.3 If there is insufficient gas available for sale or purchase within the price thresholds specified in the **balancing plan** to return the **linepack** in a

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balancing zone to, or close to, the relevant threshold (or to stop it falling below or exceeding the threshold, as the case may be), then the **balancing agent** must immediately notify –

15.3.1 the **transmission system owner** or owners who own the part or parts of the **transmission system** covered by the affected **balancing zone**; and

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15.3.2 the critical contingency operator appointed under the Gas Governance (Critical Contingency Management) Regulations 2008.

15.4 For the purposes of buying and selling **balancing gas** under rules 15.1 and 15.2, the **balancing agent** is the agent of each and every **user** and may–

15.4.1 purchase gas on behalf of the **users** to whom the **balancing agent** later allocates the **balancing gas** purchased under rule 19.1; and

15.4.2 sell gas on behalf of the **users** to whom the **balancing agent** later allocates the **balancing gas** sold under rule 19.1.

15.5 The liability of a **user** as principal under rule 15.4.1 is limited to the obligation to pay the **cash-out amount** of the **balancing gas** allocated to that **user** to the **balancing agent**.

Balancing market

16. Rules for transactions relating to balancing gas market

16.1 The **balancing agent** must establish or access the services of a market for buying and selling **balancing gas**.

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16.2 The **balancing market** must be open to any person who –

16.2.1 has gas available for sale, or who wishes to purchase gas, no matter where on the **transmission system** the gas is made available or where on the **transmission system** the person wishes to take the gas from, so long as the gas is able to be transmitted to or from the required **balancing zone**; and

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16.2.2 meets any technical requirements relating to procurement of **balancing gas** specified in the **balancing plan**; and

16.2.3 meets and agrees to be bound by the reasonable terms and conditions for the sale and purchase of **balancing gas published** by the **balancing agent** under rule 18.

16.3 Subject to rule 17, the **balancing agent** must purchase or sell **balancing gas** only through the **balancing market**.

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16.4 Subject to rule 16.6, when purchasing **balancing gas** through the **balancing market** the **balancing agent** must –

16.4.1 ~~accept offers to sell gas, or changes to offers to sell gas, as close as is reasonably practicable to the time of the **balancing action**; and~~

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16.4.2 ~~accept, or partially accept, the lowest priced offers necessary to meet the balancing agent's obligation under section 15.1 or, if necessary, offers available, (where each offer price is first increased by any transmission charges that will be incurred by the **balancing agent** in the course of transmission of that gas from its receipt point to the **reference location**); and~~

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16.4.3 ~~pay the same **clearing price** to each person whose offer to sell gas is fully or partially accepted as part of a **balancing action**, less any transmission charges incurred by the **balancing agent** for transmission of that gas from its receipt point to the **reference location**.~~

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16.5 Subject to rule 16.6, when selling **balancing gas** through the **balancing market** the **balancing agent** must –

16.5.1 ~~accept offers to purchase gas, or changes to offers to purchase gas, as close as is reasonably practicable to the time of the **balancing action**; and~~

16.5.2 ~~accept, or partially accept, the highest priced offers necessary to meet the balancing agent's obligation under section 15.2, (where each offer price is first decreased by any transmission charges that will be incurred by the **balancing agent** in the course of transmission of that gas from the reference location to its delivery point); and~~

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16.5.3 ~~require the payment of the same **clearing price** from each person whose offer to purchase gas is fully or partially accepted as part of a **balancing action**, plus any transmission charges incurred by the **balancing agent** for transmission of that gas from the **reference location to the delivery point**.~~

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16.6 The **balancing agent** must not accept any offer to sell or purchase **balancing gas** where the resulting **clearing price** would be, -

16.6.1 in the case of purchase of gas, higher than the maximum purchase price specified in the **balancing plan**; or

16.6.2 in the case of sale of gas, lower than the minimum sale price specified in the **balancing plan**.

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17. Rules for transactions outside balancing gas market

17.1 The **balancing agent** may, for the purposes of rule 15, sell or purchase gas other than through the **balancing market** if the **industry body** has given notice to the **balancing agent** that in its opinion the **balancing market** is not meeting the purpose of these rules, which notice must include reasons for that opinion.

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17.2 If rule 17.1 applies, the **industry body**, in consultation with the balancing agent, must determine how the **balancing agent** will purchase and sell **balancing gas** until the industry body notifies the balancing agent that in its opinion the balancing market meets the purpose of these rules, which notice must include reasons for that opinion.

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17.3 If the balancing agent receives a notice from the industry body under rule 17.2, the balancing agent must purchase or sell **balancing gas** only through the **balancing market**, until given a further notice by the **industry body** under rule 17.1.

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18. Terms of balancing gas transactions

18.1 The **balancing agent** must **publish** the terms and conditions on which it will purchase or sell gas for the purposes of meeting its obligations under rule 15, which—

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18.1.1 must be consistent with the intent of rule 16.2 to allow the **balancing market** to be as inclusive as possible; and

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18.1.2 must reflect reasonable commercial practice; and

18.1.3 may include a condition that the balancing agent will only pay the seller of balancing gas for that gas or for any part of that gas, following receipt of the cash out amount of the gas from users to whom the balancing gas is allocated under rule 19.

Allocation

19. Rules for allocation of balancing gas

19.1 The **balancing agent** must in respect of each **balancing action** taken by the agent, **allocate** the **balancing gas** sold or purchased to users—

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19.1.1 in accordance with the allocation model specified in the **balancing plan**; and

19.1.2 as soon as practicable after the taking of the **balancing action**.

19.2 In applying the allocation model, the **balancing agent** must have regard to the best information available to the balancing agent.

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19.3 In the event that the **balancing agent** is unable to allocate any **balancing gas** to a **user** under the allocation model the **balancing agent** must allocate the unallocated **balancing gas** to the transmission system owner or owners who own the part or parts of the transmission system within the balancing zone in respect of which the **balancing gas** is unable to be allocated.

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19.4 Title to balancing gas sold or purchased by the balancing agent on behalf of a user (or allocated to a transmission system owner under rule 19.3) is deemed to have passed at the time of the balancing action.

20. Notification of allocations and cash-out price of balancing gas

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20.1 As soon as practicable after allocating **balancing gas** in respect of a **balancing action**, the **balancing agent** must –

20.1.1 notify the **transmission system owners** of any adjustments to be made to **users’** allocations under transmission system arrangements to reflect the **balancing agent’s** allocation of the gas (including allocation of **balancing gas** to a transmission system owner under rule 19.3); and

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20.1.2 determine the cash-out price for the **balancing gas** allocated to each **user** which –

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(a) in relation to the purchase of **balancing gas**, is the sum of–

(i) the **clearing price** for the gas; and

(ii) any transmission charges incurred by the **balancing agent** in transmitting the **balancing gas** from the **reference location** to the location of the **user’s imbalance**, and

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(b) in relation to the sale of **balancing gas**, is–

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(i) the **clearing price** for the gas; less

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(ii) any transmission charges incurred by the **balancing agent** in transmitting the **balancing gas** from the location of the **user’s imbalance** to the **reference location**, and

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(i) . the overheads or other fixed costs of the **balancing agent**; or¶
(ii) . profit; and ¶

20.1.3 notify –

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(a) each affected user, of the amount of balancing gas from the balancing action that the balancing agent has allocated to

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that user, and the associated cash-out price of that balancing gas; and

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- (b) if balancing gas has been allocated to a transmission system owner under rule 19.3, the transmission system owner of the amount of balancing gas from the balancing action that the balancing agent has allocated to the transmission system owner under that rule.

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21. Payment for balancing gas purchased

- 21.1 As soon as possible after the end of each month in which balancing gas is purchased (the balancing action month), the balancing agent must issue an invoice to each affected user –

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21.1.1 for the total cash-out amount of balancing gas purchased that the balancing agent has allocated to the affected user during or in respect of the balancing action month; and

21.1.2 which itemises the quantity and cash-out amount of the purchased balancing gas allocated to the user during or in respect of the balancing action month by reference to each balancing action.

- 21.2 Each affected user must pay the total amount stated in the invoice issued under rule 21.1 to the balancing agent –

21.2.1 if the invoice is received before the 10th of the month, no later than the 20th of the month in which the invoice was issued; or

21.2.2 if the invoice is received on or after the 10th of the month, no later than 10 days after the invoice was received.

22. Payment of proceeds of sales of balancing gas

- 22.1 As soon as possible after the end of each month in which balancing gas is sold (the balancing action month), the balancing agent must issue a credit note to each affected user –

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22.1.1 for the total cash-out amount of balancing gas sold that was allocated to the affected user during or in respect of the balancing action month; and

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22.1.2 which itemises the quantity and cash-out amount of the sold balancing gas allocated to the user during or in respect of the balancing action month by reference to each balancing action.

- 22.2 The balancing agent must, in relation to each balancing action recorded in the credit note issued under rule 22.1, pay the affected user the amount calculated in accordance with the following formula as soon as possible after the beginning of the month following the month in which the credit

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note was issued (and if necessary the beginning of each month following that):

$$P = R \times (C/\Sigma C)$$

where

P is the total amount in dollars to be paid to the **user** in respect of the **balancing action** for the preceding month

R is the total amount of money in dollars received by the **balancing agent** in the preceding month from purchasers of the **balancing gas** sold in the **balancing action** (“the sold balancing gas”)

C is the **cash-out amount** of the **sold balancing gas** allocated to the **user** in respect of the **balancing action**

ΣC is the total **cash-out amount** of the **sold balancing gas** allocated to **users** in respect of the **balancing action**

22.3 Subject to rule 22.4, the **balancing agent** must make subsequent payments to **users** calculated in accordance with rule 22.2 so that the amount stated in the credit note is fully paid out to those **users**.

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22.4 The **balancing agent** -

22.4.1 is not required to pay out an amount greater than the total amount of payments received for **balancing gas** sold in a **balancing action**; but

22.4.2 must use reasonable endeavours to pursue each purchaser of **balancing gas** for any outstanding monies relating to **balancing gas** purchased by that person.

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23. **Balancing agent must settle any balancing gas allocated to the **transmission system owners** under rule 19.3**

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23.1 The **balancing agent** must –

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23.1.1 keep a separate record of any **balancing gas** allocated to a **transmission system owner** under rule 19.3 **and the balancing action** to which the **balancing gas** relates; and

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23.1.2 sell any purchased **balancing gas** allocated to a **transmission system owner** under rule 19.3 on behalf of that owner regularly on the New Zealand Gas Exchange, or any other market, with a view

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to minimising any losses or maximising any gains in relation to the gas; and

23.1.3 purchase regularly on behalf of each **transmission system owner** to whom sold **balancing gas** is allocated under rule 19.3 sufficient gas to reimburse the **transmission system owner** for the **balancing gas** sold, with a view to minimising any losses or maximising any gains in relation to the gas.

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23.2 For the purposes of rule 23.1 –

23.2.1 the **balancing agent** is the agent of each **transmission system owner** to whom **balancing gas** is allocated under rule 19.3; and

23.2.2 the **balancing agent** must pay the proceeds of any gas sold under rule 23.1.2, less any transmission charges, to the relevant **transmission system owner**; and

23.2.3 a **transmission system owner** on whose behalf the **balancing agent** purchases gas under rule 23.1.3 is liable to pay the **balancing agent** for the price of that gas, plus any transmission charges.

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23.3 The liability of a **transmission system owner** as principal under rule 23.2 is limited to the obligation under rule 23.2.3.

24. Records of transactions

24.1 The **balancing agent** must maintain a separate record -

24.1.1 in relation to each **balancing gas** transaction of -

- (a) the offer and final prices;
- (b) the quantity;
- (c) the counterparty
- (d) the transmission charges (if any); and
- (e) the **balancing action** with which the transaction is associated; and

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24.1.2 in relation to each **balancing action** of –

- (a) the time the balancing action was committed to;
- (b) the **clearing price**;
- (c) the total quantity of **balancing gas** purchased or sold; and

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(d) the balancing zone or zones to which the balancing gas purchased or sold is allocated, and in relation to each user to whom balancing gas is allocated in respect of that balancing zone—

(i) the quantity of balancing gas allocated to the user; and

(ii) the cash-out price of the balancing gas allocated to the user.

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24.1.3 of any other details of the transactions associated with balancing actions that the balancing agent considers desirable.

24.2 The balancing agent must publish in respect of each balancing action taken, -

24.2.1 the total quantity of balancing gas sold or purchased; and

24.2.2 the clearing price for the gas; and

24.2.3 details of any balancing gas allocated to a transmission system owner under rule 19.3; and

24.2.4 the transmission charges for any balancing gas transmission services used by the balancing agent.

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24.3 The balancing agent must publish in relation to each quantity of gas sold or purchased on behalf of a transmission system owner under rule 23.1.2 or 23.1.3—

24.3.1 the quantity of that gas that related to each balancing action, the balancing zone to which the balancing action related, and the clearing price received or paid for the gas;

24.3.2 the details of the price received or paid on the New Zealand Gas Exchange, or other market.

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24.4 The balancing agent must keep the records referred to in rule 24.1 for at least 5 years following the relevant balancing action.

25. Errors in allocations

25.1 If a user who has been allocated balancing gas under rule 19 (or a transmission system owner who has been allocated balancing gas under rule 19.3) considers that the allocation of balancing gas or the determination of its associated cash-out amount was calculated in error, the person must advise the balancing agent of the error as soon as possible.

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25.2 If the **balancing agent** considers that an error has occurred and has resulted in a materially different allocation of **balancing gas** or a materially different cash-out amount than would have resulted had the error not occurred, the **balancing agent**–

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25.2.1 must assess the difference between the amount of **balancing gas allocated**, and the amount that should have been **allocated or the amount of the cash-out amount that was determined for the balancing gas, and the amount that should have been determined**, and must make a new allocation of **balancing gas or determine a new cash-out amount** that reflects the difference between the two amounts; and

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25.2.2 must give notice of the error and the new allocation or the new cash-out amount to -

(a) affected **users**; and

(b) the relevant **transmission system owner** or owners; and

25.2.3 if an invoice or credit note has already been issued in relation to the original allocation of balancing gas, the cash-out amount associated with the new allocation or the new determination of the correct cash-out amount, must be included in the next invoice or credit notice sent to the affected **user**.

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25.3 A **transmission system owner** who is notified under rule 25.2 of a new allocation, must ensure the affected **users'** (or where balancing gas has been allocated under rule 19.3 the transmission system owner's) allocations of gas under the relevant transmission system arrangements are adjusted to reflect the new allocation.

25.4 The **balancing agent** –

25.4.1 must make a decision in relation to any errors advised to it as soon as practicable after receiving the advice; and

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25.4.2 may not make a new allocation of **balancing gas or a new determination of a cash-out amount** under rule 25.2 unless the **balancing agent** has received notification of the error within 6 months after the date of notification of the allocation and its associated cash-out amount to **users (or a transmission system owner)** under rule 20.1.3.

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Reporting

26. Monthly reports

- 26.1** The **balancing agent** must, within 10 **business days** of the end of each month, provide a written report to the **industry body** and to the **transmission system owners** that sets out the following information -
- 26.1.1** a summary of the information referred to in rule 24.2 for the month; and
- 26.1.2** any breaches of these rules by the **balancing agent** or any other person of which the **balancing agent** is aware at the date of the report and which have not previously been notified in a report.
- 26.2** The **industry body** may **publish** the information in the monthly report that is provided under rule 26.1.1 and such information that is provided under rule 26.1.2 as in its opinion is desirable.

Part 3. Appointment of balancing agent, development of balancing plan, and funding

Subpart 1

Appointment of balancing agent by joint transmission system owners

27. Application of subpart

- 27.1** This subpart applies subject to subpart 2.

28. Joint obligations of transmission system owners in relation to appointment of balancing agent and preparation of balancing plan

- 28.1** If this subpart applies, all **transmission system owners** must together –
- 28.1.1** attempt to agree on –
- (a) the identity of a person to act as the **balancing agent** under these rules; and
 - (b) the contents of a draft balancing plan; and
- 28.1.2** if they agree on the identity of a **balancing agent** and on a draft balancing plan, consult upon and seek approval of that plan from the **industry body** in accordance with the procedure in rule 31; and

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28.1.3 if the **balancing plan** is approved by the **industry body** under rule 32, as soon as practicable following receipt of such approval, appoint the person named in the **balancing plan** to act as the **balancing agent** for the purposes of these rules; and

28.1.4 if they cannot agree on the identity of a **balancing agent** or on a draft balancing plan within 60 **business days** from the **commencement date**, notify the **industry body** accordingly, together with information about the status of their negotiations.

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28.2 If the **transmission system owners** have appointed a **balancing agent** and the **industry body** has approved a **balancing plan** under rule 32 then, subject to rule 39, the **transmission system owners** must use their best endeavours to ensure that there remains at all times a **balancing agent** appointed by the **transmission system owners**.

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29. Terms of appointment of balancing agent

29.1 The terms and conditions of appointment of a **balancing agent** by the **transmission system owners** may provide for -

29.1.1 reasonable remuneration to be paid to the **balancing agent** by the **transmission system owners**; and

29.1.2 an indemnity by the **transmission system owners** of any costs incurred by the **balancing agent** that are unable to be recovered from -

(a) **users** under rule 6.2.2(a); or

(b) contracting parties in relation to the purchase and sale of **balancing gas**; and

29.1.3 any other terms and conditions not inconsistent with these rules.

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29.2 The **transmission system owners** must **publish** -

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29.2.1 the terms and conditions of appointment of any **balancing agent** appointed by them; and

29.2.2 any amendment to or replacement terms and conditions of appointment of any **balancing agent** appointed by them.

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29.3 To avoid doubt, only one person must be appointed as **balancing agent** in respect of the whole **transmission system**.

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30. Contents of draft balancing plan

30.1 The draft balancing plan must –

- 30.1.1 ~~comply with the requirements in the Schedule; and~~
- 30.1.2 be consistent with the purpose of these rules, including by containing processes and procedures that support a unified regime for **balancing** the whole **transmission system**; and
- 30.1.3 be consistent with the Gas Governance (Critical Contingency Management) Regulations 2008; and
- 30.1.4 be consistent with **MPOC, VTC**, or any other **transmission system code** except to the extent necessary to comply with these rules.

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Process for approval of **balancing plan**

31. Procedure for approval of balancing plan

31.1 If the **transmission system owners** agree on a draft balancing plan, the owners must -

- 31.1.1 provide a copy of the draft balancing plan to the **industry body**; and
- 31.1.2 consult on the draft balancing plan with persons that the **transmission system owners** consider are representative of the interests of persons likely to be substantially affected by the draft balancing plan; and
- 31.1.3 give persons consulted with under rule 31.1.2 at least 20 **business days** to make submissions to the **transmission system owners** on the draft balancing plan; and
- 31.1.4 provide copies of the submissions to the **industry body** and publish the submissions as soon as practicable after those submissions have been received.

31.2 The **industry body** must **publish** the draft balancing plan.

31.3 After the consultation required by rule 31.1, the **transmission system owners** may amend the draft balancing plan and –

- 31.3.1 if the amendment does not materially impact on the contents of the draft balancing plan, may submit a proposed final **balancing plan** to the **industry body** for approval; or

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31.3.2 if the amendment materially impacts on the contents of the draft balancing plan, must produce a new draft balancing plan, provide it to the **industry body**, and consult on it again in accordance with rule 31.1, (however, in this circumstance, the minimum number of days for the making of submissions is **10 business days**).

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31.4 This rule 31 applies with any necessary modifications to a new draft balancing plan.

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32. Approval of balancing plan

32.1 The **industry body** must, within 20 working days, approve a proposed **balancing plan** submitted under rule 31.3.1 if it is satisfied that it meets the requirements of rule 30.

32.2 If the **industry body** declines to approve the proposed **balancing plan** –

32.2.1 it must give reasons; and

32.2.2 it may propose any amendments to the plan; and

32.2.3 the **transmission system owners** must consider the reasons and any proposed amendments and may amend the proposed **balancing plan** accordingly, and –

(a) if the amendment does not materially impact on the contents of the plan, may resubmit the proposed **balancing plan** to the **industry body** for approval; or

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(b) if the amendment materially impacts on the contents of the plan, must produce a new draft balancing plan, provide it to the **industry body**, and consult on it again in accordance with rule 31.1 (however, in this circumstance, the minimum number of days for the making of submissions is **10 business days**).

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32.3 Rule 31.2 and 31.3 apply to the new draft balancing plan referred to in rule 32.2.3.

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33. Publication of initial balancing plan

33.1 As soon as practicable after the **industry body** has approved a **balancing plan** under rule 32, the **industry body** must –

33.1.1 notify the transmission system owners that the plan has been approved; and

33.1.2 **publish** the approved **balancing plan**; and

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33.1.3 publish, both in the *Gazette* and on the **industry body's** website, a statement specifying—

- (a) that it has approved a **balancing plan**; and
- (b) the go-live date on which, in accordance with rule 2, rules 6 to 11 and Part 2 come into force.

33.2 No later than 5 **business days** after the **industry body** publishes a statement under rule 33.1, the **transmission system owners** must **publish** the **balancing plan** on all relevant **information exchanges**.

Amendment to balancing plan

34. Process for amendment to approved balancing plan

34.1 A **balancing plan** that has been approved by the **industry body** may be amended at any time in accordance with the procedure in this rule [34](#).

34.2 An amendment to the **balancing plan** may be proposed by –

34.2.1 all **transmission system owners** together; or

34.2.2 the **industry body**.

34.3 The **transmission system owners** may submit a proposed amendment directly to the **industry body** without complying with rule 35 if the proposed amendment—

34.3.1 is minor and technical; or

34.3.2 in the **transmission system owners'** [opinion](#), needs to be made urgently.

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34.4 A proposed amendment submitted under rule 34.3 must be accompanied by an explanation as to –

34.4.1 the reasons for the proposed amendment; and

34.4.2 the reasons why the proposed amendment is considered to fit within the scope of rule 34.3.

34.5 The **industry body** must approve an amendment under rule 36 if the **industry body** agrees that the amendment fits within the scope of rule 34.3 and complies with rule 30.

34.6 ~~If an amendment is proposed by the **industry body**, [and the amendment is not, in the **industry body's** opinion minor and technical and does not need](#)~~

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to be made urgently, the **industry body** must submit the proposed amendment to the **transmission system owners**, together with an explanation for the proposed amendment.

34.7 If an amendment is proposed by the **industry body**, and the amendment is in the **industry body**'s opinion minor and technical or needs to be made urgently, the **industry body** –

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34.7.1 may approve the amendment if it complies with rule 30; but

34.7.2 must in the case of an amendment that is, in its opinion, urgent but not minor and technical, also submit the amendment to the **transmission system owners**, together with an explanation for the proposed amendment.

34.8 One or more **transmission system owners** or other **users** may request the **industry body** to propose an amendment under this rule, and for that purpose may submit a suggested amendment to the **industry body**, who may, if the proposed amendment complies with rule 30, in its discretion decide whether or not to take up the suggested amendment.

35. Consultation on proposed amendment to balancing plan

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35.1 This rule applies if the **transmission system owners**–

35.1.1 receive a proposed amendment or approved urgent amendment to the **balancing plan** from the **industry body**; or

35.1.2 wish to propose an amendment that does not fall within rule 34.3 (including one which was proposed to the **industry body** under that rule, but which the **industry body** has advised the **transmission system owners** it does not agree falls within the scope of that rule); or

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35.1.3 have proposed an amendment under rule 34.3.2, whether or not it has been approved by the **industry body**.

35.2 If this rule applies, the **transmission system owners** must–

35.2.1 unless the amendment is an approved urgent amendment, provide the proposed amendment to the **industry body** together with an explanation for the proposed amendment; and

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35.2.2 consult on the proposed amendment (or approved urgent amendment) to the **balancing plan** with persons that the **transmission system owners** consider are representative of the interests of persons likely to be substantially affected by the proposed amendment; and

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35.2.3 give persons consulted with under rule 35.2.1 at least 20 **business days** to make submissions to the **transmission system owners** on the proposed amendment; and

35.2.4 provide copies of the submissions to the **industry body** and **publish the submissions** as soon as practicable after those submissions have been received; and

35.2.5 consider the submissions made and, –

(a) if the **transmission system owners** wish (in conjunction with the **industry body** if it is the proposer), may make any minor amendment to the proposed, **or approved urgent**, amendment that the **transmission system owners** consider necessary, and submit the proposed amendment to the **industry body** for approval; or

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(b) .

(b) if the **transmission system owners** wish to make any material amendment to the proposed, **or approved urgent**, amendment, must propose a new amendment and follow the procedure in this rule again (however, in this circumstance, the minimum number of days for the making of submissions is 10 **business days**).

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35.3 The **industry body** must **publish** each proposed amendment to the **balancing plan**, together with the explanation by the proposer.

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36. Approval of amendment to balancing plan

36.1 If the **industry body** receives a proposed amendment under rule 34.3 or 35.2.4(a), the **industry body** must approve (or, in the circumstances in rule 38, confirm) the amendment if it is satisfied that it meets the requirements of rule **30**.

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36.2 If the **industry body** declines to approve the proposed amendment to the **balancing plan** –

36.2.1 it must give reasons; and

36.2.2 may propose **any** amendments to the **balancing plan** amendment; and

36.2.3 the **transmission system owners** must consider the reasons and any proposed amendments, and may amend the proposed amendment to the **balancing plan** **accordingly** and –

(a) if the amendment does not materially impact on the contents of the **balancing plan** amendment, may resubmit the proposed **balancing plan** amendment for approval; or

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(b) if the amendment materially impacts on the contents of the **balancing plan** amendment, must produce a new **balancing plan** amendment, and consult on it again in accordance with rule 35.2.

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36.2.4 Rule 35.3 applies to any new balancing plan amendment referred to in rule 36.2.3(b).

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37. Publication of amended balancing plan

37.1 The **industry body** must as soon as practicable after approving an amendment to the **balancing plan** –

37.1.1 notify the **transmission system owners** that the amendment has been approved; and

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37.1.2 **publish** the amended **balancing plan**,

37.2 The **transmission system owners** must as soon as practicable following receipt of notification under rule 37.1, **publish** the amended **balancing plan** on all relevant **information exchanges**.

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37.3 An amendment to the **balancing plan**, that is approved by the **industry body**–

37.3.1 on a date that is before the 25th of a month, comes into force on the 1st day of the month following the month in which the amended plan is **published** in accordance with rule 37.1.2; or

37.3.2 on a date that is the 25th, or after the 25th, of a month, comes into force on the 1st day of the 2nd month after the month in which the amended plan is **published** in accordance with rule 37.1.2.

37.4 Despite rule 37.3 an urgent amendment to the **balancing plan** comes into force on the date it is notified to the **transmission system owners** under 37.1.

38. Expiry of urgent amendments

38.1 An amendment to the **balancing plan** that is, in the industry body's opinion urgent, but not minor and technical, and that is approved by the industry body under rule 34.6.2 or 36.1 prior to consultation expires after 60 **business days** unless by that date, -

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38.1.1 the amendment has been consulted upon by the **transmission system owners** under rule 35; and

38.1.2 confirmed by the **industry body** under rule 36.1.

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38.2 If an urgent amendment expires, the industry body must –

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38.2.1 notify the **transmission system owners** that the amendment has expired; and

38.2.2 **publish** the **balancing plan** as it was before the urgent amendment,

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38.3 The **transmission system owners** must as soon as practicable following receipt of notification under rule 38.2.1, **publish the balancing plan** as it was before the urgent amendment on all relevant **information exchanges**.

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Subpart 2

Appointment of balancing agent by industry body

39. Application of this Part

39.1 This subpart applies if –

39.1.1 the **transmission system owners** have failed to submit a proposed final **balancing plan** to the **industry body** under rule 31.3.1 within 60 **business days** of the **commencement date** and in the **industry body**'s opinion the process in rules 28 to 33 –

(a) is deadlocked; or

(b) is unlikely to be completed in a timely manner; or

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39.1.2 there is no **balancing agent** appointed by the **transmission system owners** carrying out the functions in Part 2 following the **go-live date**; or

39.1.3 in the industry body's opinion, the **balancing agent** appointed by the **transmission system owners** under subpart 1 is failing to carry out its functions in accordance with these rules.

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39.2 To avoid doubt, no person is required to comply with this subpart unless it applies.

40. Industry body's duties if subpart applies

40.1 If this subpart applies, the **industry body** must –

40.1.1 give the **transmission system owners** written notice that, subject to any submissions it may receive under rule 40.1.2, from a date specified in the notice it will –

(a) appoint a **balancing agent** in accordance with rule 42; and

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(b) set and approve a **balancing plan** under rule 45; and

40.1.2 give the **transmission system owners** **15 business days** to make submissions to the **industry body** in response to the notice given under rule 40.1.1; and

40.1.3 if not satisfied after receiving any submissions from the **transmission system owners** that by the date specified in the notice given under rule 40.1.1 there will be a **balancing agent** appointed by the **transmission system owners** in place who is carrying out functions in accordance with these rules, -

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(a) prepare and approve a **balancing plan** under rule 45; and

(b) appoint a **balancing agent** in accordance with rule 42 to carry out the functions in Part 2 from the date the **balancing plan** comes into force under rule 46 or 47; and

(c) notify the transmission system owners accordingly.

40.2 The date specified in the notice under rule 40.1.1 must not be earlier than **30 business days** from the date of the notice.

41. Consequences of appointment of balancing agent and setting of balancing plan by industry body

41.1 If the **industry body** appoints a **balancing agent** under rule 42, and publishes a **balancing plan** under rule 46 or 47 then, subject to rule 41.4 on the date the balancing plan comes into force -

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41.1.1 the appointment of any person as balancing agent by the **transmission system owners** under subpart 1 is terminated and ceases to have effect; and

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41.1.2 any **balancing plan** approved by the **industry body** under subpart 1 ceases to apply; and

41.1.3 the following provisions of these rules expire and are deemed to be revoked -

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(a) subpart 1:

(b) paragraph (a) of the definition of balancing agent in rule 5.1; and

(c) paragraphs (a)(i) and (b)(i) of the definition of balancing plan in rule 5.1.

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41.2 A **balancing agent** whose appointment is terminated under rule 41.1.1 must –

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41.2.1 cooperate with the **balancing agent** appointed by the **industry body**; and

41.2.2 provide copies of all records kept under rule 24 to the **balancing agent** appointed by the **industry body**; and

41.2.3 provide copies of all other relevant documents held by the **balancing agent** that relate the **balancing agent's** functions to the **balancing agent** appointed by the **industry body**.

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41.3 The **industry body** must pay the former **balancing agent** reasonable costs associated with the transfer of the **balancing agent** function, including if agreed between the relevant parties, any transitional arrangements necessary in relation to balancing gas transactions and payment for balancing gas that have been entered into by the balancing agent before termination of the appointment,

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41.4 Despite rule 41.1.1, and subject to any contractual arrangements entered into with the industry body under rule 41.3, the balancing agent whose appointment is terminated by operation of that rule –

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41.4.1 may exercise the powers of the balancing agent under Part 2 in relation to any balancing actions undertaken before the termination of the balancing agent's appointment; and

41.4.2 remains liable in respect of any breaches of these rules, or obligations incurred by the balancing agent, on or before the date of termination (including, in relation to any balancing gas transactions undertaken, the obligation to pay the cash-out price of any sold balancing gas allocated to affected users in accordance with rule 22); and

41.4.3 remains entitled to be paid the cash-out amount of any balancing gas allocated to users on or before the termination date.

Appointment of balancing agent

42. Appointment of balancing agent by industry body

42.1 If this subpart applies, the **industry body** may by agreement with any person appoint that person to act as the **balancing agent** under these rules.

42.2 In determining whether to appoint a person under rule 42.1, the **industry body** must have regard to –

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42.2.1 the person's capacity to carry out the functions of a **balancing agent** under these rules; and

42.2.2 any other matter that in the **industry body's** opinion is relevant to the appointment.

42.3 To avoid doubt if a **balancing agent** is appointed by the **industry body** at a time when a **balancing agent** appointed by the **transmission system owners** is carrying out functions under these rules, the **balancing agent** appointed by the **industry body** is not required to carry out functions under Part 2 until the date the other **balancing agent's** appointment is terminated under rule 41.1 1.

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43. Terms of appointment of balancing agent by industry body

43.1 The **industry body** and the person proposed to be appointed as the **balancing agent** under rule 42 must –

43.1.1 agree the terms and conditions of the **balancing agent's** appointment under rule 42; and

43.1.2 record those terms and conditions in a **balancing agent** service provider agreement.

43.2 The terms and conditions of the **balancing agent** service provider agreement–

43.2.1 may not be inconsistent with the obligations of the **balancing agent** under these rules; and

43.2.2 may provide for—

(a) reasonable remuneration to be paid to the **balancing agent** by the **industry body**; and

(b) the **industry body** to indemnify the **balancing agent** for any costs incurred by the **balancing agent** that are unable to be recovered from –

(i) **users** under rule 6.2.2(a); or

(ii) contracting parties in relation to the purchase and sale of **balancing gas**; and

(c) any other terms and conditions not inconsistent with these rules.

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43.3 The **industry body** may at any time terminate, or change the appointment of, or reappoint, any person as the **balancing agent**, subject to the terms of the **balancing agent** service provider agreement.

44. **Publication of balancing agent service provider agreement**

44.1 The **industry body** must **publish** –

44.1.1 any **balancing agent** service provider agreement entered into by the **industry body**; and

44.1.2 any amendment to any **balancing agent** service provider agreement.

Balancing plan

45. **Balancing plan**

45.1 If this subpart applies, the **industry body** must –

45.1.1 prepare and **publish** a draft balancing plan that complies with rule 30; and

45.1.2 consult on the draft balancing plan with the **transmission system owners** and other persons that the **industry body** considers are representative of the interests of persons likely to be substantially affected by the proposed balancing plan; and

45.1.3 give persons consulted with under rule 45.1.2 at least 20 **business days** to make submissions to the **industry body** on the draft balancing plan and publish those submissions; and

45.1.4 consider the submissions made and make any amendment to the draft balancing plan that the **industry body** considers necessary.

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45.2 After following the procedure in rule 45.1, the **industry body** may set and approve the final **balancing plan**.

45.3 Despite anything in these rules, if a draft balancing plan has been consulted upon by the **transmission system owners** under rule 31, but the **transmission system owners** are unable to agree on the final **balancing plan** to be submitted to the **industry body**, or the **industry body** considers that further consultation is unnecessary, the **industry body** may set and approve a **balancing plan** under rule 45.2 without following the procedure in rules 45.1.2 to 45.1.4.

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46. Publication of initial balancing plan

46.1 This rule applies if the **balancing plan** approved by the **industry body** under rule 45 is the first **balancing plan** approved by the **industry body** under these rules.

46.2 If this rule applies, as soon as practicable after the **industry body** has approved the **balancing plan**, it must –

46.2.1 **publish**, in the *Gazette* and on the **industry body's** website, a statement specifying—

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- (a) that it has approved a **balancing plan**; and
- (b) the **go-live date** on which, in accordance with rule 2, rules 6 to 11 and Part 2 come into force; and

46.2.2 **publish** the approved **balancing plan**,

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46.3 No later than 5 **business days** after the **industry body publishes** a statement under rule 46.2.1, the **transmission system owners** must **publish** the **balancing plan** on all relevant **information exchanges**.

47. Publication of approved balancing plan

47.1 If rule 46 does not apply, -

47.1.1 the **industry body** must **publish** the plan approved under rule 45 as soon as practicable; and

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47.1.2 the **transmission system owners** must within 5 **business days** of approval of the **balancing plan** under rule 45 **publish** the **balancing plan** on all relevant **information exchanges**; and

47.1.3 the **balancing plan** approved under rule 45 comes into force, if the plan is **published** under rule 47.1.1 -

- (a) on a date that is before the 25th of a month, on the 1st day of the month following the month in which the plan is **published**; or
- (b) on a date that is the 25th, or after the 25th, of a month, on the 1st day of the 2nd month after the month in which the plan is **published**.

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Amendment to balancing plan

48. Process for amendment to approved balancing plan

48.1 A balancing plan that has been approved by the industry body under rule 45 may be amended at any time in accordance with the procedure in this rule 48.

48.2 An amendment to the balancing plan may be proposed by –

48.2.1 all transmission system owners together; or

48.2.2 the industry body.

48.3 If the transmission system owners submit a proposed amendment to the industry body they may also submit that the amendment–

48.3.1 is minor and technical; or

48.3.2 in the transmission system owners' opinion, needs to be made urgently.

48.4 A proposed amendment submitted by the transmission system owners must be accompanied by an explanation as to –

48.4.1 the reasons for the proposed amendment; and

48.4.2 if relevant, the reasons why the proposed amendment is considered to fit within the scope of rule 48.3.

48.5 The industry body may immediately approve an amendment to the balancing plan if in the industry body's opinion the amendment (whether proposed by the industry body or the transmission system owners) complies with rule 30 and -

48.5.1 is minor and technical; or

48.5.2 needs to be made urgently.

48.6 One or more transmission system owners or other users may request the industry body to propose an amendment under this rule, and for that purpose may submit a suggested amendment to the industry body, who may, if the proposed amendment complies with rule 30, in its discretion decide whether or not to take up the suggested amendment.

49. Consultation on proposed amendment to balancing plan

49.1 This rule applies if the industry body –

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49.1.1 receives a proposed amendment to the **balancing plan** from the **transmission system owners** that is not, in the industry body's opinion minor and technical; or

49.1.2 wishes to propose itself an amendment that is not, in its opinion, minor and technical; or

49.1.3 has approved an amendment in accordance with rule 48.5.2, which is not, in the industry body's opinion minor and technical .

49.2 If this rule applies, the **industry body** must-

49.2.1 consult on the proposed amendment (or approved urgent amendment) to the **balancing plan** with persons that the **industry body** consider are representative of the interests of persons likely to be substantially affected by the proposed amendment; and

49.2.2 give persons consulted with under rule 49.2.1 at least 20 **business days** to make submissions to the **industry body** on the proposed amendment; and

49.2.3 **publish** the submissions as soon as practicable after those submissions have been received; and

49.2.4 consider the submissions made and, following such consideration,
=

(a) may make any minor amendment to the proposed amendment or urgent approved amendment to the **balancing plan** and approve or confirm the amended balancing plan under rule 50; or

(b) if the **industry body** wishes to make any material amendment to the proposed amendment or urgent approved amendment to the **balancing plan**, and -

(i) the **industry body** proposed the amendment, must amend the proposed amendment and follow the procedure in this rule 49.2 again (however, in this circumstance, the minimum number of days for the making of submissions is 10 **business days**); or

(ii) the **transmission system owners** proposed the amendment, must consult the **transmission system owners** on any amendment, amend the proposed amendment and follow the procedure in this rule 49.2 again (however, in this circumstance, the

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minimum number of days for the making of submissions is 10 **business days**).

49.3 The **industry body** must **publish** each proposed amendment to the **balancing plan**, together with an explanation by the proposer.

50. Approval of amendment to balancing plan

50.1 The **industry body** may approve (or, in the circumstances in rule 51, confirm) an amendment to the **balancing plan** if the industry body –

50.1.1 has followed the process in rule 49; and

50.1.2 is satisfied that the amendment meets the requirements of rule 30.

50.2 The **industry body** must as soon as practicable after approving an amendment to the **balancing plan** under rule 48.5 or 50.1–

50.2.1 notify the **transmission system owners** that the amendment has been approved; and

50.2.2 **publish** the amended **balancing plan**.

50.3 The **transmission system owners** must as soon as practicable following receipt of notification under rule 50.2.1, **publish** the amended **balancing plan** on all relevant **information exchanges**.

50.4 An amendment to the **balancing plan**, that is approved by the **industry body**–

50.4.1 on a date that is before the 25th of a month, comes into force on the 1st day of the month following the month in which the amended plan is **published** in accordance with rule 50.2.2; or

50.4.2 on a date that is the 25th, or after the 25th, of a month, comes into force on the 1st day of the 2nd month after the month in which the amended plan is **published** in accordance with rule 50.2.2.

50.5 Despite rule 50.4 an urgent amendment to the **balancing plan** comes into force on the date it is notified to the **transmission system owners** under 50.2.1.

51. Expiry of urgent amendments

51.1 An amendment to the **balancing plan** approved under rule 48.5 expires after 60 **business days**, unless by that date, -

51.1.1 the amendment has been consulted upon by the **industry body** under rule 49; and

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51.1.2 confirmed by the **industry body** under rule 50.1.

51.2 If an urgent amendment expires, the **balancing agent** must –

51.2.1 notify the **transmission system owners** that the amendment has expired; and

51.2.2 publish the **balancing plan** as it was before the urgent amendment.

51.3 The **transmission system owners** must as soon as practicable following receipt of notification under rule 51.2.1, publish the **balancing plan** as it was before the urgent amendment on all relevant **information exchanges**.

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<#>The **industry body** may approve amendments to a **balancing plan** approved under rule 45 or 46.
<#>However, unless the proposed amendment is minor and technical or in the **industry body**'s view needs to be made urgently, the **industry body** must follow the procedure in rule 45 before approving the amendment (and in such case rule 45 applies with any necessary modifications as if the proposed amendment to the **balancing plan** were a draft balancing plan).
<#>The **industry body** may follow the procedure in rule 45 in relation to an urgent amendment but, to avoid doubt, the amendment does not automatically expire.
<#>One or more **transmission system owners** or other users may suggest amendments to the **balancing plan** to the **industry body**, and the **industry body** may, in its discretion decide whether or not to take up the suggested amendment.
<#>If the **industry body** approves an amendment to a **balancing plan** approved under rule 45 or 46, -
<#>the **industry body** must notify the **transmission system owners** of the amendment as soon as practicable and **publish** the amended **balancing plan** on its website; and
<#>the **transmission system owners** must within 5 **business days** of approval of the amendment **publish** the amended **balancing plan** on all relevant **information exchanges**; and
<#>the amendment to the **balancing plan** comes into force, if the amended **balancing plan** is **published** under rule 48.5.1 -
(a) . on a date that is before the 25th of a month, on the 1st day of the month following the month in which the plan is **published**; or
(b) . on a date that is the 25th, or after the 25th, of a month, on the 1st day of the 2nd month after the month in which the plan is **published**.
<#>Despite rule 48.5, an urgent amendment to the **balancing plan** comes into force on the date it is notified to the **transmission system owners** under rule 48.1.

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Subpart 3 Funding

52. Development fee

52.1 The development fee is a fee to meet the balancing regime development costs.

52.2 The balancing regime development costs are—

52.2.1 if subpart 1 applies, -

- (a) the costs of the **industry body** associated with reviewing and approving a **balancing plan** under subpart 1; and
- (b) the costs of the **industry body** in connection with the development and establishment of the balancing arrangements under subpart 1; and

52.2.2 if subpart 2 applies-

- (a) the costs of the **industry body** associated with the appointment of the **balancing agent** under subpart 2; and
- (b) the costs (if any) payable by the **industry body** to the **balancing agent** to be appointed under subpart 2 before the **go-live date** in respect of the development and establishment of any balancing arrangements required under these rules; and
- (c) the costs of the **industry body** in connection with the development and consultation on the **balancing plan** under subpart 2; and

(d) the costs payable by the industry body to any balancing agent appointed under subpart 1 under rule 41.3,

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52.3 A person who—

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52.3.1 is a **transmission system owner at the commencement date**, is liable to pay the development fee referred to in rule 52.2.1; and.

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52.3.2 is a **transmission system owner at the** date a **balancing plan** approved under subpart 2 comes into force is liable to pay the development fee referred to in 52.2.2.

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52.4 To avoid doubt, -

52.4.1 the balancing regime development costs do not include costs incurred before the **commencement date**; and

52.4.2 if a development fee is payable in relation to the costs in rules 52.2.1 and 52.2.2, the same costs may not be included in both fees;

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52.4.3 a **transmission system owner** may be liable to pay a development fee under both rules 52.3.1 and 52.3.2.

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53. How and when development fee must be paid

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53.1 A development fee is payable to the **industry body**.

53.2 Every person to whom –

53.2.1 rule 52.3.1 applies must supply to the **industry body** a return as at a date that is as soon as practicable after the **commencement date** and no later than 38 days after the **commencement date**; and

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53.2.2 rule 52.3.2 applies must supply to the **industry body** a return as at a date that is as soon as practicable after the date a **balancing plan** published under rule 46 or 47 comes into force and no later than 38 days after that date (in each case “the deadline for supplying returns”)

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53.3 A return under rule 53.2 must state—

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53.3.1 the total number of gigajoules of gas that were injected or received into any part of the **transmission system** owned by the **transmission system owner** that did not come from another part of the **transmission system**, during the 12 months prior to the month in which the deadline for supplying returns occurred; and

53.3.2 the total number of gigajoules of gas that were taken out of any part of the **transmission system** owned by the **transmission system**

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owner, other than into another part of the **transmission system**, during the 12 months prior to the month in which the deadline for supplying returns occurred.

53.4 As soon as practicable after the deadline for supplying returns, the **industry body** must determine and **publish** a breakdown of the estimated **balancing** regime development costs.

53.5 As soon as practicable after the deadline for supplying returns, the **industry body** must invoice every **transmission system owner** to whom the relevant paragraph of rule **52.3** applies for that **transmission system owner's** share of the estimated **balancing** regime development costs calculated in accordance with the following formula:

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$$S = A \times B/C$$

where—

A is the estimated balancing regime development costs

B is the sum of –

(a) the total quantity of gas injected or received into the **transmission system owner's** part of the **transmission system** that did not come from another part of the **transmission system** during the 12 month period covered by the return; and

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(b) the total quantity of gas taken out of the **transmission system owner's** part of the **transmission system**, other than into another part of the **transmission system**, during the 12 month period covered by the return; and

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C is the sum of –

(a) the total quantity of gas injected or received into all parts of the **transmission system** that did not come from another part of the **transmission system** during the 12 month period covered by the return; and

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(b) the total quantity of gas taken out of all parts of the **transmission system**, other than into another part of the **transmission system**, during the 12 month period covered by the return; and

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S is the amount that must be invoiced to the **transmission system owner**

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53.6 As soon as practicable after each of the following dates, the **industry body** must determine and **publish** the actual balancing regime development costs—

53.6.1 the **go-live date**; and

53.6.2 if subpart 2 applies and the **balancing plan** approved under rule 45 is not the first **balancing plan** approved by the **industry body**, the date the **balancing plan** comes into force under rule 47.

53.7 No less than 10 **business days** after publication of the actual **balancing** regime development costs, the **industry body** must invoice or issue a credit note to every person to whom rule [52.3.1](#), or if relevant [52.3.2](#) applies for the difference between—

53.7.1 that person's share of the actual **balancing** regime development costs calculated in accordance with the formula in rule [53.5](#), with the necessary modifications; and

53.7.2 the amount of the estimated **balancing** regime development costs invoiced to that person under rule 53.5.

53.8 To avoid doubt, revocation of subpart 1 does not affect the liability of a transmission system owner to pay a development fee under rule 52.3.1.

54. Ongoing fees

54.1 The ongoing fees are monthly fees to meet the balancing regime ongoing costs.

54.2 The balancing regime ongoing costs are—

54.2.1 in respect of any period in a year in which a **balancing agent** appointed by the **transmission system owners** is carrying out the functions in Part 2 -

(a) the costs of the **industry body** associated with its obligations under these rules, including in relation to any **balancing plan** amendments, during that year; and

(b) the costs payable to any auditor appointed by the **industry body** under rule [58](#); and

54.2.2 in respect of any period in a year in which a **balancing agent** appointed by the **industry body** is carrying out the functions in Part 2 -

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- (a) the costs payable by the **industry body** to the **balancing agent** in respect of that year under the balancing agent service provider agreement; and
- (b) the costs payable to any auditor appointed by the **industry body** under rule 58; and
- (c) any other costs of the **industry body** associated with its obligations under these rules, including in relation to any **balancing plan** amendments, during that year.

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54.3 Each person who is a **transmission system owner** in a month is liable to pay ongoing fees for that month in accordance with these rules.

54.4 In this rule and rules 55 and 56, **year** means the financial year of the **industry body** unless the context otherwise requires.

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55. How and when estimated ongoing fees payable

55.1 The estimated ongoing fees are payable to the **industry body**.

55.2 Rule 55.3 applies to each month after (and including the month of) the **go-live date**.

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55.3 Every person to whom rule 54.3 applies must supply to the **industry body** a return no later than the tenth day of each month, unless otherwise agreed by the **industry body**.

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55.4 The return must state—

55.4.1 the total number of gigajoules of gas that were injected or received into any part of the **transmission system** owned by the **transmission system owner**, other than from another part of the **transmission system**, during the preceding month; and

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55.4.2 the total number of gigajoules of gas that were taken out of any part of the **transmission system** owned by the **transmission system owner**, other than into another part of the **transmission system**, during the preceding month.

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55.5 As soon as practicable after the **go-live date**, the **industry body** must determine and **publish** a breakdown of the estimated balancing regime ongoing costs for the first year or part year of operation of the **balancing plan**.

55.6 As soon as practicable after the publication of those estimated balancing regime ongoing costs, the **industry body** must notify every transmission system owner to whom rule 54.3 applies of the estimated balancing

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regime ongoing costs, and that ongoing fees will be payable by that person in that year or part year in accordance with the following formula:

$$S = A \times B/C$$

where—

A is the estimated balancing regime ongoing costs, divided by the number of months in the applicable year or part year

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B is the sum of –

(a) the total quantity of gas injected or received into the transmission system owner's part of the **transmission system**, other than from another part of the **transmission system** during the month before the month in which the relevant invoice is issued under rule 55.8; and

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(b) the total quantity of gas taken out of the transmission system owner's part of the **transmission system**, other than into another part of the **transmission system** during the month before the month in which the relevant invoice is issued under rule 55.8; and

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C is the sum of –

(a) the total quantity of gas injected or received into all parts of the **transmission system** that did not come from another part of the **transmission system** during the month before the month in which the relevant invoice is issued under rule 55.8; and

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(b) the total quantity of gas taken out of all parts of the **transmission system**, other than into another part of the **transmission system**, during the month before the month in which the relevant invoice is issued under rule 55.8; and

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S is the amount that must be invoiced to the **transmission system owner** for the month

55.7 For each year following the first year or part year of operation, the **industry body** must—

55.7.1 estimate and **publish**, at least 2 months before the beginning of the year, a breakdown of the estimated balancing regime ongoing costs for that year; and

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55.7.2 as soon as practicable after publication of those estimated balancing regime ongoing costs, notify every person to whom rule 54.3 applies of the estimated balancing regime ongoing costs, and that ongoing fees will be payable by that person in that year calculated in accordance with the formula in rule 55.6.

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55.8 On the first **business day** of each month following the notification in rule 55.6, the **industry body** must invoice every person to whom rule 54.3 applies for that person's share of the estimated **balancing** regime ongoing costs payable during that month, calculated in accordance with the formula in rule 55.6.

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55.9 If during a year a **balancing agent** appointed by the **transmission system owners** under rule 28.1.3 ceases to carry out functions under these rules and a **balancing agent** appointed by the **industry body** commences to carry out functions, the **industry body** must, in respect of the remainder of the year—

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55.9.1 estimate and **publish**, as soon as practicable, a breakdown of the estimated balancing regime ongoing costs for the remainder of the year; and

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55.9.2 as soon as practicable after publication of those estimated balancing regime ongoing costs, notify every person to whom rule 54.3 applies of the estimated balancing regime ongoing costs, and that ongoing fees will be payable by that person in that year calculated in accordance with the formula in rule 55.6 using those estimated balancing regime ongoing costs.

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56. How and when actual ongoing fees payable

56.1 The actual ongoing fees are payable to the **industry body**.

56.2 As soon as practicable after the end of each year of operation, the **industry body** must determine and **publish** a breakdown of the actual balancing regime ongoing costs for that year.

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56.3 No less than 10 **business days** after publication of those actual balancing regime ongoing costs, the **industry body** must invoice, or issue a credit note, to each person who has paid estimated balancing regime ongoing costs during the year for the difference between—

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56.3.1 that person's share of the actual balancing regime ongoing costs calculated in accordance with the formula in rule 55.6, with the necessary modifications; and

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56.3.2 the amount of the estimated balancing regime ongoing costs invoiced to that person in respect of the year.

56.4 To avoid doubt, revocation of subpart 1 does not affect the liability of a transmission system owner to pay an ongoing fee in respect of a period referred to in rule 54.2.1.

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57. General provisions regarding fees

57.1 The due date for the payment of any invoice or refund of any credit under this subpart is—

57.1.1 the 20th day of the month in which the invoice or credit note was received; or

57.1.2 if the day referred to in rule 57.1.1 is not a **business day**, the following **business day**.

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57.2 The fees payable under rules 52 to 56 are exclusive of any goods and services tax payable under the Goods and Services Tax Act 1985, and goods and service tax on those fees (if any) must be added to the invoices or credit notes issued under rules 52 to 56.

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57.3 The **industry body** must ensure that all information and returns that are supplied under rules 52 to 56 are used only for the purposes of collecting the development fee or fees and ongoing fees.

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57.4 A transmission system owner who passes on the cost of any fees payable under these rules to users of its part of the transmission system, must do so in proportion to the quantities of gas transmitted by that user through the transmission system owner's part of the transmission system or on such other basis as may be agreed by the industry body.

Part 4

Miscellaneous

Audit of Balancing Agent's Performance

58. Industry body to commission performance audits

58.1 The **industry body** may, from time to time, arrange performance audits of the **balancing agent**.

58.2 The purpose of a performance audit is to assess—

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58.2.1 the performance of the **balancing agent** in terms of compliance with these rules; and

58.2.2 the systems and processes of the **balancing agent** that have been put in place to enable compliance with these rules.

58.3 The **industry body** must appoint as auditor a person who –

58.3.1 is independent of and not in a position of conflict of interest with the **balancing agent** or a **transmission system owner**; and

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58.3.2 is not an officer or employee of the **industry body**.

58.4 In conducting an audit under this rule, the auditor must not consider any action, circumstance, event, or inaction that occurred 30 months or more before the date the audit was requested by the **industry body**.

59. Provision of information to auditor

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59.1 In conducting an audit under rule 58, the auditor may:

59.1.1 request any information from the **balancing agent**, the **industry body** and any **transmission system owner**; and

59.1.2 request to examine any processes, systems and data of the **balancing agent**, provided such processes, systems and data are directly relevant to the performance of the **balancing agent** in terms of compliance with these rules.

59.2 Any request under rule 59.1 must be reasonable and strictly for the purposes of the audit.

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59.3 The **balancing agent**, the **industry body** and every **transmission system owner** must comply with a request under 59.1 but nothing in this rule limits any claim for legal professional privilege.

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59.4 In providing information to the auditor, a **transmission system owner** or the **balancing agent** may indicate to the auditor where such information is considered to be confidential.

60. Auditor to prepare draft audit report

60.1 The auditor must prepare, in writing, a draft audit report on the conclusions reached and recommendations formulated as a result of conducting an audit under rule 58.

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60.2 Subject to rule 62, the auditor must give a copy of the draft audit report to

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60.2.1 the **balancing agent**; and

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60.2.2 ~~each~~ transmission system owner; and

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60.2.3 the industry body.

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60.3 The persons referred to in rule 60.2, have 10 business days from the date the report is received to provide the auditor with comments on the report.

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61. Auditor to prepare final audit report

61.1 Before the auditor prepares a final audit report on the conclusions reached and recommendations formulated as a result of conducting an audit under rule 58, the auditor must take into account any comments received on the draft audit report.

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61.2 The final audit report must be in writing and, if so requested by the balancing agent, must include as an appendix any comments from the balancing agent on the draft audit report.

61.3 The auditor must give a copy of the final audit report to –

61.3.1 the balancing agent; and

61.3.2 any transmission system owner who the auditor considers has a material interest in the report; and

61.3.3 the industry body.

61.4 Subject to rule 63, once the auditor has given a final audit report under this rule, the report may not be altered in any way.

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62. Confidential information in audit reports

62.1 In providing a draft audit report or final audit report, the auditor must provide a complete version to the industry body.

62.2 However, at the discretion of the auditor, the versions of the draft audit report and the final audit report provided to any other person or published under these rules may exclude any confidential information obtained in the conduct of the audit.

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However the industry body must not publish a version of the final audit report that

63. Publication of final audit reports

63.1 The industry body must publish a version of each final audit report received under rule 62 that does not contain confidential information obtained in the conduct of the audit.

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64. Use of final audit reports

64.1 To avoid doubt, a final audit report may be used –

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64.1.1 for the purposes of the Gas Governance (Compliance) Regulations 2008;

64.1.2 for the purposes of considering any amendment to these rules;

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64.1.3 by the **industry body** -

- (a) for the purpose of reviewing the performance of the **balancing agent** under these rules, or under the **balancing agent** service provider agreement;
- (b) for the purpose of reviewing the performance of an auditor; and
- (c) for any other purposes that it considers necessary.

Notices

65. Giving of ordinary notices

65.1 If these rules require any notice to be given, the notice must be in writing and be—

65.1.1 delivered by hand to the nominated office of the addressee; or

65.1.2 sent by post to the nominated postal address of the addressee; or

65.1.3 sent by fax to the nominated fax number of the addressee; or

65.1.4 sent by electronic transmission or any other similar method of electronic communication to the appropriate nominated electronic address of the addressee.

65.2 Despite rule 65.1, it is sufficient notice for the purposes of these rules if notice to **users** of the **balancing agent's** allocation of **balancing gas** and **cost** is notified via an **information exchange** accessible to the **user**.

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65.3 This rule does not apply to the giving of urgent notices, but does apply to the confirmation of urgent notices under rule 67.

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66. When ordinary notices taken to be given

66.1 In the absence of proof to the contrary, notices are taken to be given,—

66.1.1 in the case of notices delivered by hand to a person, when actually received at that person's address:

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66.1.2 in the case of notices sent by post, at the time when the notice would in the ordinary course of post be delivered, and in proving the delivery, it is sufficient to prove that the notice was properly addressed and posted:

66.1.3 in the case of notices sent by fax, at the time indicated on a record of its successful transmission:

66.1.4 in the case of notices sent by electronic transmission or any other similar method of electronic communication, including via an **information exchange** —

(a) at the time the computer system used to transmit the notice has received an acknowledgment or receipt to the electronic address of the person transmitting the notice; or

(b) at the time the person who gave the notice proves the notice was transmitted by computer system to the electronic address provided by the addressee.

66.2 This rule does not apply to the giving of urgent notices, but does apply to the confirmation of urgent notices under rule 67.

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67. Urgent notices

67.1 Despite rule 65 and 66, an urgent notice may be given orally where the person issuing a notice considers that the urgency of the situation means the notice should not be given in writing.

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67.2 If an urgent notice is given orally under rule 67.1 the person who gave that notice must, as soon as practicable, confirm that urgent notice in writing in accordance with rules 65 and 66.

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Miscellaneous

68. Safety override

68.1 No person is required to comply with a provision of these rules to the extent that compliance would unreasonably endanger the life or safety of that person or any other person.

69. Relationship with transmission system codes

69.1 Every **transmission system code** must be read subject to these rules.

69.2 If both a **transmission system code** and these rules impose an obligation or liability in respect of the same matter, the obligation or liability under these rules prevails to the extent that the obligation or liability in the code is inconsistent with these rules.

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70. Relationship with Gas Governance (Critical Contingency Management) Regulations 2008

70.1 If the **balancing agent** receives notice under regulation 51 of the Gas Governance (Critical Contingency Management) Regulations 2008 that a critical contingency has been declared in respect of a part of the transmission system -

70.1.1 the **balancing agent** must cease to carry out its functions under rule 15 in relation to any balancing zone in which that part of the transmission system falls until a notice is received under regulation 62 of those regulations to advise that that the critical contingency has been terminated; and

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70.1.2 to the extent that there is any inconsistency between the Gas Governance (Critical Contingency Management) Regulations 2008 and these rules in respect of the actions to be taken during a critical contingency, the Gas Governance (Critical Contingency Management) Regulations 2008 prevail.

70.2 Rule 70.1.1 does not affect the validity of any balancing action taken by the balancing agent in relation to a part of the transmission system in respect of which a critical contingency has been declared before receiving notice of the declaration of the critical contingency, or affect the balancing agent's ability to allocate balancing gas and the associated cash-out amount in respect of that balancing action.

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SCHEDULE

Requirements for Balancing plan

A **Balancing agent**

Details about the person appointed or to be appointed as the **balancing agent** under rule 28 or 42, including the name and contact details of the person.

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B **Management of linepack**

Details of the boundaries of each part of the **transmission system** that is to constitute a separate **balancing zone** which -

- a. must be set to ensure all parts of the **transmission system** are within a **balancing zone**; and
- b. to avoid doubt, may define the entire **transmission system** as a single **balancing zone**.

The following information in relation to each **balancing zone**:

- a. whether the **balancing zone** will be **directly managed** or **indirectly managed** by the **balancing agent**:
- b. the upper and lower threshold for the taking of **balancing** action by the **balancing agent**, which –
 - (i) must be set to give the maximum practicable flexibility for managing **linepack** without unreasonably interfering with the transmission of gas; and
 - (ii) may be different for different periods of the day, week or year; and
 - (iii) may be defined by reference to a formula with measurable variables; and
- c. the target linepack, which must be the midpoint between the upper and lower thresholds referred to in paragraph b:

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d. if the **balancing zone** is to be **indirectly managed**, the process by which the **balancing zone** will be managed (for example, by pressure regulator feed from a zone that is **directly managed**), including any rights to compressor operation, if agreed to by the relevant **transmission system owner** under rule 11.2

e. any points for measuring pressure that are reasonably necessary for the purposes of the **balancing agent** carrying out its functions.

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The processes for each of the following:

a. notification by a **transmission system owner** to the **balancing agent** in the event of any curtailment by the **transmission system owner** in its parts of the **transmission system**:

b. notification and, if relevant, coordination by the **balancing agent** with a **transmission system owner** if a safety issue or other matter detrimentally affecting transmission services arises in relation to a part of the **transmission system** owned by that owner:

c. notification of any maintenance activities that may impact upon **linepack**:

d. coordination of the operation of compressors.

C **Provision of information**

The procedures for the giving of the information in rules 7 and 9 to the **balancing agent** by **users** and **transmission system owners**

D **Balancing gas**

Details relating to the procurement of **balancing gas** including the following

a. reasonable technical requirements for the provision of **balancing gas**:

b. the times and decision process for **balancing actions**:

c. price thresholds for procuring **balancing gas**, which must be a dollar per gigajoule amount set –

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- (i) in the case of purchase of **balancing gas**, at a level which is a pre-estimate of the critical contingency price that would be applied after a critical contingency under the Gas Governance (Critical Contingency Management) Regulations 2008, and
- (ii) in the case of sale, at a level which is a pre-estimate that is representative of the marginal cost of non-production of gas to producers of gas (and which, to avoid doubt, may be a negative number).

E Allocation model

An allocation model for the allocation of **balancing gas** and associated cash-out amount that has the following features:–

- (a) **balancing gas is allocated**–
 - (i) to the **users** who have an **imbalance** at the time the **balancing agent** commits to a **balancing action**; and
 - (ii) in the proportions that the **user’s imbalance** contributed to the need to take the **balancing action**:
- (b) if a **balancing action** is made necessary in a **balancing zone (balancing zone A)** due in part or in whole to an **imbalance** in another **balancing zone (balancing zone B)** allocates–
 - (i) the relevant proportion of **balancing gas** and cost to the **users in balancing zone B** who contributed to the **imbalance in balancing zone A**; and
 - (ii) within **balancing zone B**, allocates the **balancing gas** sold or purchased and associated costs of that gas
 - (A) to the **users** who have an **imbalance** at the time the **balancing agent** commits to a **balancing action**; and
 - (B) in the proportions that the **user’s imbalance** contributed to the need to take the **balancing action**:

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- (C) all **balancing gas** purchased or sold as part of the **balancing** action is **allocated** to a **user**.

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