

NOTICE

EXTENSION OF TIME TO LODGE A PROPOSED REVISED ACCESS ARRANGEMENT FOR THE TUBRIDGI PIPELINE SYSTEM (TUBRIDGI PIPELINE (PL 16) AND GRIFFIN PIPELINE (PL 19))

The Economic Regulation Authority (**Authority**) has granted a six-month extension to the owner and operator of the Tubridgi Pipeline System, BHP Petroleum (Ashmore Operations) Pty Ltd (**BHPPAO**), to submit revisions to the Access Arrangement for the Tubridgi Pipeline System. The Revisions Submission Date for the Tubridgi Pipeline System, initially 19 January 2006, has now been extended to 19 July 2006.

BACKGROUND

The Tubridgi Pipeline System was purchased by BHP Billiton Petroleum Pty Ltd (**BHP Billiton**) from the Tubridgi Joint Venture on 30 June 2005. The company established by BHP Billiton to own and operate the Tubridgi Pipeline System is BHPPAO.

On 28 October 2005, BHP Billiton applied to the National Competition Council (**NCC**) to have coverage of the Tubridgi Pipeline System revoked, pursuant to sections 1.24 and 1.25 of the *National Third Party Access Code for Natural Gas Pipeline Systems* (**Code**). Under the Code, the NCC will assess BHP Billiton's application and issue a recommendation to the Western Australian Minister for Energy, the Hon. Alan Carpenter, on whether coverage of the pipeline should be revoked. The Minister will then make a decision on the application. Should coverage of the pipeline system be revoked BHPPAO will not be required to submit a revised Access Arrangement. Information on the revocation application can be obtained from the NCC web site <http://www.ncc.gov.au>.

Following submission of its revocation application to the NCC, BHP Billiton wrote to the Authority requesting a six-month extension for BHPPAO to submit the revisions to the Access Arrangement for the Tubridgi Pipeline System. This extension was sought pursuant to section 7.19 of the Code which allows the Authority to exercise its discretion to grant an extension of time for any time period in the Code.

In granting the six-month extension to the Revisions Submissions Date sought by BHP Billiton, the Authority was mindful of the need to avoid any unnecessary costs in preparing revisions to the Access Arrangement prior to the outcome of BHP Billiton's revocation application and the absence of further demand from third parties for access to the Tubridgi Pipeline System.

The Access Arrangement for Tubridgi Pipeline System approved by the Gas Access Regulator in 2001 remains in place until either a revised Access Arrangement comes into effect or coverage of the pipelines is revoked.

For further information or assistance please contact:

General Inquiries

Mr Russell Dumas
Director, Gas and Rail Access
Economic Regulation Authority
Tel: (08) 9213 1900
Fax: (08) 9213 1999
Email: russell.dumas@era.wa.gov.au

Media Inquiries

Mr Paul Byrne
Byrne & Byrne
Corporate Communications
Tel: (08) 9385 9941
Mob: 0417 922 452

LYNDON ROWE
CHAIRMAN

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