

To the N/NW Operator Group and other interested parties,

I refer to your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> of August containing the decisions made in the N/NW operator group meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August. The Regulators fully support the opinion of the operators that the IG meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July was a constructive meeting. In view of concerns expressed by the operators, the Regulators revised the papers and reviewed some of the proposed planning dates to make them more feasible. In this regard we would also like to confirm that we accept and agree to your proposal to respond to proposed papers by the 8<sup>th</sup> of September as agreed in the IG meeting.

The approach that the N/NW operator Group is proposing will be a significant step forward. We agree that other relevant stakeholders should be involved as soon as possible and your proposal to take them on board at this stage of the process is also the intention of the RCC, especially since market parties have already expressed their interest to be involved. We therefore appreciate you providing us with the list of contact persons you have provided for each topic/priority. We will refer market parties who wish to become actively involved to these contacts. Market parties that only want to comment on the papers, that have been published on the ERGEG website, can send reactions to the Office of Energy Regulation contact persons before the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. ([m.v.vandersteenhoven@nmanet.nl](mailto:m.v.vandersteenhoven@nmanet.nl), [e.rakhou@nmanet.nl](mailto:e.rakhou@nmanet.nl))

We greatly value your intention to fully support this regional initiative with constructive comments in which ambitious progress towards a regional North/North West market in the coming months, before the Madrid forum, is secured.

In the matrix underneath you can find our counterparts for the transit and investment papers. We do want to stress however that the 2 priorities proposed by the implementation group have been recommended to the RCC, but that the RCC will not decide before the 20<sup>th</sup> of September whether they should be added at this stage. It is in this regard that the focus of the regulators will, for now, be on the further development of the 7 priorities with a sense of urgency as mentioned before for the topics transparency, regulatory coordination, primary capacity and hubs.

We look forward to your joint response on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2006. We will respond to all comments as soon as possible but at the latest directly after the 2<sup>nd</sup> RCC planned for the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. New papers taking on board all the comments will be ready in time for the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, the meeting where we will invite Stakeholders, IG members and regulators.

Peter Plug  
Director of the Office of Energy Regulation  
Chairman RCC North-North West

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