

Email sent Thur 13/08/2015

Menachem,

Probably easier to provide the narrative of the response below. None of the content provided is confidential.

**Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Ofcom consultation on Very Low Bandwidth, the closure date of which we understand has been extended to 12 August 2015. National Grid Gas Distribution (NGGD) owns and operates four of the eight gas distribution networks in Great Britain and transports gas to 11 million domestic and industrial consumers. The networks we operate are essential to the UK economy and the wellbeing of domestic consumers who rely on gas for heating and cooking.**

**NGGD utilises Very Low Bandwidth (VLB) communications for control and safe operation of a number of its remote above ground installations that are used to distribute gas to consumers in its networks. While plans are in place to replace communications equipment where practical, there are some sites where, due to their location, options for replacement are limited. We note the consultation envisages withdrawal of the VLB service by 2020 and relaxation of price controls before then, but would urge that a decision is not made until further engagement has taken place to assess the risks and costs of service removal with those energy utilities affected such that consumers are protected from any unintended consequences.**

**I trust this response is helpful, but if you need to discuss any points raised please contact Stephen Hassall [Stephen.Hassall@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Stephen.Hassall@nationalgrid.com) in the first instance.**

**Yours sincerely**

**Paul Rogers**

In relation to the supplementary questions, we suggested that The Energy Network Association is informed as it is the trade body for the GB electricity and gas transmission and distribution networks and can help to disseminate information to its members.

I hope this is acceptable.

Paul

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