

ERGEG Gas Focus Group/Storage TF
Guidelines for Good Practice for Gas Storage System Operators
(GGPSSO)

Questionnaire for SSOs

8 February 2006

Introduction

On 15 September 2005, during the 10th Madrid Forum, ERGEG presented the preliminary results of its first monitoring exercise on the implementation of the GGPSSO. The Forum asked ERGEG to produce a follow-up report for the 11th Madrid Forum, to be held in May 2006. On 7 December 2005, ERGEG published the final results of its report on "Monitoring the implementation of the GGPSSO". In parallel, ERGEG proposed to undertake a second monitoring exercise assessing the effectiveness of the GGPSSO, and the functioning of the market for storage services.

The objective of this questionnaire is to collect information from SSOs to assist in monitoring the implementation of the GGPSSO as requested by the European Commission.

The deadline for the completion of the questionnaire is **8 March 2006**.

In order to ensure that all interested parties are consulted, ERGEG members will be required to prepare a contribution to be included in the report. Storage users will be consulted from May 2006, to gather their feedback on the implementation of the GGPSSO requirements after 1 April 2006. Their views will be particularly important in assessing implementation of the GGPSSO.

ERGEG intends to publish an initial report on the implementation of the GGPSSO in May 2006 and it expects to present its findings at the next Madrid Forum. ERGEG will issue a final report on implementation after it has an opportunity to consider responses to its initial report.

To help ensure transparency, responses to the questionnaire and other documents associated with the GGPSSO will be published on the ERGEG website. Any requests to keep information confidential will be considered in accordance with the relevant section of the GGPSSO that deals with the publication of the information. If you want any information to be treated as confidential this should be objectively justified and outlined clearly – taking into account the requirements of the GGPSSO. Any information that is to be treated as confidential should be placed in a separate appendix.

Please note that in order to allow for maximum common understanding of data, the answers provided by SSOs will be reviewed by the national regulatory authority.

Given that ERGEG's initial report will be published in May, SSOs may provide an addendum to their original submission if there are any significant changes to the information that they provide, between 8 March and 5 April. This will ensure that the report is as up to date as possible and avoid misrepresenting the position of the SSOs, taking into account that the deadline for implementing some of the GGPSSO requirements is 1 April 2006.

[Please insert name, authority, phone number, email address]

Questionnaire

1 General

- 1.1 Business name of respondent: Joint Stock Company "Latvijas Gaze"

2 Roles and responsibilities of Storage System Operators

- 2.1 Has the standard storage contract/storage code been developed in proper consultation with users (e.g. bilateral contacts, open consultation process, with some sort of public announcement, consultation process supervised by relevant national regulatory authority or other)? Please specify when users were last consulted (relating to GGPSSO 1.2.b):

Roles and responsibilities of the Storage System Operator in Latvia are determined by the Energy Law. In particular, Article 15, item (7) charges the Regulator to approve the code prepared by the system operator on utilization of the storage, which shall be objectively grounded, economically reasonable, fair, equal, open and accessible to all system users and candidates who request access to the respective system. The system operator, in the regulator's prescribed term shall submit proposals to the regulator on the system access and utilization conditions or the conditions of access and utilization of the storage. However, due to the fact that Latvia meets the criteria of an emerging market as well as because no real gas market can be developed in Latvia, the Latvian parliament (SAEIMA) passed the special Law on the procedure of becoming effective few articles of the Energy Law providing for postponement of market opening (including access to the storage) till January 1, 2010. Therefore, at the moment no storage code and no storage contracts are in place in Latvia.

3 Necessary TPA services

- 3.1 If the figure for "available capacity" for your storage facility¹ is "0", please specify until when (relating to GGPSSO 3.1):

According to the current valid agreements till December 31, 2015. Moreover, in order to meet growing demands it has been discussed possibility of expansion of the storage from 2.3 BCM of working gas to 3.2 BCM. If expansion will take place there might be available capacity, however there is no firm decision regarding expansion made.

- 3.2 There may be some available capacity now (date of reference 8 March 2006). However, all the capacity may have been booked in advance, which means that sometimes in the future, there will be no capacity available. If this is the case, please specify when and for how long (relating to GGPSSO 3.1):

As explained in 3.1 there might be free capacity in future

- 3.3 Please provide the link to your web pages presenting the commercial terms that you apply and in particular services offered (both the Directive² and the GGPSSO 6.4.a&b provide that this information is to be published). If you wish to be more specific, please use the space below (relating to GGPSSO 3.3):

Due to the fact that free and open access to the storage is postponed till 2010 there are no publication on

¹ Storage facility means a facility used for the stocking of natural gas and owned and/or operated by a natural gas undertaking, including the part of LNG facilities used for storage but excluding the portion used for production operations, and excluding facilities reserved exclusively for transmission system operators in carrying out their functions (Article 2.9 of Directive 2003/55/EC).

² Article 19.3 of Directive 2003/55/EC of 26 June 2003 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas and repealing Directive 98/30/EC

web of the commercial terms, however all tariffs (gas transmission, storage, distribution and sales) in Latvia are regulated and are available together with other relevant information on the web page of Public Service Regulation Commission (www.sprk.gov.lv and web page of JSC "Latvijas Gaze" www.lg.lv

3.4 Do you offer the following services on the primary market (GGPSSO 3.3, 3.5, 3.7):

	yes	no
(a) bundled services (SBU) of space and injectability/deliverability	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
(b) unbundled services supplementing SBUs at least for available storage capacity at the beginning of the storage year ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
(c) long-term (>1 year) services	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) short-term (<1 year) services ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
(e) interruptible services ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
(f) a service which includes an obligation for the SSO to allocate the gas which has been nominated	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
(g) injection and withdrawal are possible at any time	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

3.5 If any of these services (please specify) has not been introduced, please explain why:

There is no free access to the storage as explained in the item 2.1 of this questionnaire and existing users of the storage do not request such services.

3.6 Please specify if services offered have been developed with consultation of storage users to take into account market demand. When were users last consulted (relating to GGPSSO 3.4.a):

Every year negotiations take place regarding storage services with storage users Gazprom, Eesti Gaas and last year with Lietuvis Dujos also. For example, last consultations with Eesti Gaas took place in December of 2005.

4 Storage capacity allocation and congestion management

4.1 Please provide a description of the capacity allocation mechanism that you apply. Please specify if there is an order of priority and for which customers (relating to GGPSSO 4.1):

There is no legal act that regulates capacity allocation mechanism, however, the priority for capacity allocation is for volumes of gas used for needs of Latvian customers because under current supply scheme in the period of the highest demand of gas (autumn, winter, spring) gas customers in Latvia can receive gas only from the storage and not from the pipeline.

4.2 In case of contractual congestion, what kind of solution do you apply or plan to apply (GGPSSO 4.2)?

There had not been cases of contractual congestion and currently there are no plans for solutions. To avoid congestion situations in the future expansion of the storage in the future is considered.

³ You may provide an addendum before 5 April 2006.

⁴ You may provide an addendum before 5 April 2006.

⁵ You may provide an addendum before 5 April 2006.

4.3 In case of physical congestion, what kind of solution do you apply or plan to apply (GGPSSO 4.2)?

In our case physical congestion can occur at gas withdrawal only because at injection gas is coming from the same source- Gazprom pipelines. For the reasons explained in item 4.1 Latvian customers have priority at gas withdrawal. However, under normal circumstances capacity of gas pipelines are sufficient to deliver gas to Estonia, Russia and Lithuania. In addition, nominated gas quantities are observed.

4.4 In case of congestion, is there a system to balance the portion of storage capacity contracted under long-term contracts and short term contracts? Please specify the nature of these arrangements (GGPSSO 4.2.c):

At present there are no short-term contract (for period less than one year) in place.

5 Confidentiality requirements

5.1 Are the following items explicitly mentioned in the code of conduct/compliance programme (relating to GGPSSO 5.1.b):

	yes	no
(a) prohibition on SSO staff passing commercially sensitive information to other parts of any affiliate of the company in advance of being provided to all market participants	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
(b) databases related to storage operations kept separate	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
(c) new IT systems for the storage business developed separately	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

5.2 Please specify if there are other important items in the code of conduct/compliance programme:

There is not such programme in place

5.3 Is the code of conduct/compliance programme published? If yes, provide a copy / internet link:

	yes	no
At present such program does not exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Internet link:		

5.4 Is there a compliance officer supervising that the compliance programme is effectively implemented (GGPSSO 5.1.b)?

	yes	no
	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

5.5 If other arrangements are in place to protect the confidentiality of information, please provide details below (relating to GGPSSO 5.1):

6 Transparency requirements

6.1 Please provide the link to the webpages presenting the information required by the GGPSSO in the transparency requirements (relating to GGPSSO 6.1):

Tariffs and prices are published on www.sprk.gov.lv and www.lg.lv

6.2 Please specify how the historical utilization rate is calculated (relating to GGPSSO 6.5.b):

There are not such calculations performed

6.3 If you have not published information as required by the GGPSSO about the aggregate use of storage, did you notify the relevant national regulatory authority (GGPSSO 6.3)?

	yes	no
	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

6.4 Please specify how many users – if any – requested, via a correspondence, that you do not publish information about the aggregate use of storage (period of reference: 15 March 2006 – 15 March 2007) (relating to GGPSSO 6.2)?

There have not been such users

7 Secondary markets
7.1 How many system users trade capacity rights on the secondary market (period of reference: 15 March 2005 – 8 March 2006⁶)?

There are no such users

7.2 Please indicate if you:

	yes	no
(a) allow for title transfer for both bundled and unbundled capacities (GGPSSO 9.1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
(b) allow the new owner to aggregate such storage capacity operationally (GGPSSO 9.1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

7.3 Are registered users allowed to trade gas-in-store?

	yes	no
There are no registered users	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7.4 Please provide a description of rules applicable for storage capacity trade on the secondary market vis-à-vis the SSO (GGPSSO 9.1):

There are no such rules

7.5 Please provide a copy of the clauses in the storage code/contract referring to or addressing secondary storage capacity trading explicitly (relating to GGPSSO 9.1):

There is no such code

⁶ You may provide an addendum before 5 April 2006.

Appendix

Definitions

Available storage capacity means the part of the technical storage capacity that is not contracted or held by storage users at that moment and still available to the storage users for firm and interruptible services, and is not excluded from TPA under Article 2(9) of the Gas Directive (Definition 1 of the GGPSSO)

Storage capacity is space (expressed in normal cubic meters or energy), injectability and deliverability (expressed in normal cubic meters or energy per time unit). All of them can be firm or interruptible (Definition 17 of the GGPSSO)

Storage facility means a facility used for the stocking of natural gas and owned and/or operated by a natural gas undertaking, including the part of LNG facilities used for storage but excluding the portion used for production operations, and excluding facilities reserved exclusively for transmission system operators in carrying out their functions (Definition 18 of the GGPSSO)

Technical storage capacity is the maximum storage capacity (injectability, deliverability and space) that the SSO can offer to storage users, excluding storage capacity for SSOs operational needs