Consultation 54 : proposed changes in the regulatory documents for transmission

October 18th, 2021

Fluxys Belgium is proposing adjustments to its regulatory documents for transmission with a focus on:

(i) Changes to the Standard Transmission Agreement, Access Code for Transmission and Transmission Program
   a. Allowing H_2 injection of into the Natural Gas network;
   b. Adapting the gas quality specifications with an upper limit of 2% of H_2;
   c. Clarify CO_2 specifications at Domestic Point for Injection;
   d. Aligning the availability of the H→L Conversion Service with the physical conversion program;
   e. Changing the L/H Capacity Switch Service into L Capacity Switch Service, allowing to switch both Entry and Exit Transmission Services on L gas;
   f. Removing the table containing the monthly Imbalance Smoothing Allocations;
   g. Making some technical changes.

(ii) Changes to the Standard Connection Agreement End Users
   a. Gas quality specifications update;
   b. Information on exit capacities subscribed by the Network User;
   c. Alignment with the Standard Connection Agreement Local Producers.

With regards to H_2 injection, the potentially impacted End Users will be informed and consulted when concrete projects (i.e. connection requests) of H_2 injection are identified.

The consultation starts on October 18th and ends on November 8th 2021 close of business.

1. Changes to the Standard Transmission Agreement, Access Code for Transmission and Transmission Program

a. H_2-injection

Fluxys Belgium envisages to allow up to 2% H_2 into its network. Injection of H_2 into the natural gas network will be made possible through the creation of a new virtual Installation Point "H_2-IN" where the Entry Service is associated with the "Quality Conversion to H" service. For this purpose, the service formerly called "Quality Conversion L → H Service" is being extended to the interruptible injection of both L-gas or H_2 into the H-gas network.

The details of these adjustments are set out in ACT – Attachment A, B, C1and C3.

b. Modification of the gas quality specifications

In the Access Code for Transmission, new gas quality requirements have been defined for the Installation Point "H_2-IN", applicable when injecting H_2 into Natural Gas (up to 2% H_2). Existing gas quality requirements at Domestic Points for Injection have also been extended with a 2% upper limit for H_2. These new H_2 specifications are conditional to the applicable H_2 limits at other Connection Points.

Detailed gas quality requirements are available in ACT – Attachment C4.

c. Clarify CO_2 specifications at Domestic Points for Injection ;

In the Access Code for Transmission, the gas quality requirements at Domestic Points for Injection have been completed in order to be consistent with the Synergrid Technical requirements for biomethane (G8/01)[1]. Specifically, the CO_2 limit can be decreased from 2,5% to 0,5%, if necessary, to decrease Wobbe Index variations in the network.

Detailed gas quality requirements are available in ACT – Attachment C4.

d. Quality Conversion H→L Services

At a certain point during the physical L to H conversion the technical facilities supporting the Quality Conversion H→L Services will also be converted, which means that the physical conversion of H-gas into L-gas will no longer be possible. Therefore, all Quality Conversion H→L Services subscribed for the Gas Year 2022-2023 will be stopped as from April 1st 2023 and no more Quality Conversion H→L Services will be offered afterwards.

[1] Link (FR or NL). To be updated soon to "Technical Requirements for decentralized production"

The details of these adjustments are set out in TP and ACT – Attachment A, B and C3.

e. L Capacity Switch Service

The existing L/H Capacity Switch Service is renamed into L Capacity Switch Service and extended with the switch of Exit Transmission Services on L-gas Interconnection points to other Exit Transmission Services on L-gas Interconnection points on a monthly basis (currently on yearly basis).

The details of these adjustments are set out in STA, TP and ACT – Attachment A and B.

f. Monthly Imbalance Smoothing Allocations

During the physical conversion from L to H in the coming year, the monthly Imbalance Smoothing Allocations will also be adapted. To avoid outdated figures in the regulated documents, the table containing the monthly Imbalance Smoothing Allocations is removed from the regulatory documents and the figures will be published on the Fluxys Belgium website. Any revision of these monthly Imbalance Smoothing Allocations shall be evaluated together with CREG.

The details of these adjustments are set out in ACT – Attachment C1.

g. Technical changes

Next to the abovementioned changes, several textual adjustments have been realized in order to improve the readability of the text.

2. Changes to the Standard Connection Agreement

a. With regards to gas quality, Fluxys Belgium replaces the definition of Natural Gas by a reference to the definition of Natural Gas in the Gas Law. In addition, an upper limit of 2% H_2 is added to the Gas Quality requirements in Annex 7.
b. Fluxys Belgium also proposes to share, upon request of an End User, the Exit capacities that have been effectively subscribed by Network User(s) at the relevant End User Domestic Point.
c. Textual changes have be made to align with the latest Standard Connection Agreement Local Producer (as approved by the CREG on the 11th of March 2021)

The details of these adjustments are set out in Standard Connection Agreement.