



South East Australia Gas Pty Ltd
ABN 73 096 437 900
Level 4, 70 Hindmarsh Square
GPO Box 2666 Adelaide SA 5001
Ph 08 8236 6800 Fax 08 8236 6899

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Manager - Energy Market Reform Team
National Energy Market Branch
Dept of Industry, Tourism and Resources
GPO Box 9839
CANBERRA ACT 2601

E-mail: MCEMarketReform@industry.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: National Gas Emergency Response Protocol Issues Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above issues paper. I apologise for the lateness of this response. I am aware that certain peak Industry bodies intend to make detailed submissions on the subject and the purpose of this letter is to offer observation of the management of past emergencies in South Australia.

Over the years of my involvement in the gas transmission pipeline industry, there have been a number of gas shortage incidents in South Australia, with the most significant obviously being the Moomba fire and shutdown on 1 January of this year. On every one of those incidents, the pipeline industry has reacted quickly and, as the significance of the situation dictated, worked closely and openly with the government to minimise the impact of the situation. This openness has included the sharing of such information on the day as line pack levels, compressor availability, throughput capability and survival times – all of which information only has relevance on the day (and any succeeding days) of the incident.

If the South Australian experience can be used as a guide, the focus for an effective National gas emergency protocol should be on management between not within jurisdictions.

Yours sincerely

Ashley L Kellett
General Manager