



15<sup>th</sup> July 2002

### SHUTDOWN OF INTERCONNECTOR 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2002 UPDATE

Following contamination of the pipeline arising from the delivery of hydrocarbon liquids early on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, Interconnector is continuing with clean-up operations.

In spite of flowing dry gas into the pipeline at Bacton for two days, no improvement has been detected in the quality of gas arriving in Zeebrugge and so, as advised in an earlier release, Interconnector started to unpack the line through Bacton this morning at 0600hrs BST.

Throughout the cleanup process Interconnector has tried to avoid initiating reverse flows from Zeebrugge to Bacton at a time when the market would naturally drive flows forward to Zeebrugge. However, despite good cooperation, the continuing poor gas quality at Zeebrugge and Fluxys' physical limitations in accepting wet gas have made it impractical to flush the line effectively in forward flow.

Following the completion of unpacking, no physical flow through the Interconnector is anticipated for Gas Days Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2002.

A further release will be made on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2002, together with a programme to complete the cleaning operations.

#### **INTERCONNECTOR (UK) LIMITED – BACKGROUND**

Interconnector (UK) Ltd, or IUK, operates a sub-sea pipeline and terminal facilities connecting the UK and continental Europe. The company's 40" diameter carbon steel pipeline stretches 230 kilometres between Bacton in north Norfolk and Zeebrugge in Belgium. It is capable of transporting 20 billion cubic metres a year (bcm/yr) from Bacton to Zeebrugge and 8.5 bcm/yr in the opposite direction.

Owned by ten major companies IUK has sold capacity in the pipeline to gas shippers. A dedicated and award winning IT system, ISIS, manages the volumes and flows and provides constantly updated information to IUK and its customers.

Further information on IUK can be obtained from [www.iuk-isis.com](http://www.iuk-isis.com)

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