

**RULES
ON THE PROVISION OF ACCESS TO THE NATURAL GAS
TRANSMISSION AND/OR DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS AND ACCESS
TO THE NATURAL GAS STORAGE FACILITIES**

**Chapter one
NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION AND/OR DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS ACCESS
RULES**

**Section I
General provisions**

Article 1. (1) These rules shall govern:

1. The conditions for provision of access to the natural gas transmission and/or distribution networks, which the entities requesting this access must follow.

2. The terms for provision of access to the natural gas transmission and/or distribution networks, which the entities requesting this access must follow.

3. The persons and legal entities having the right to gain access to the natural gas transmission and/or distribution networks, are: natural gas Public Provider, extracting enterprises, natural gas storage facilities operators, liquefied natural gas storage facilities operators; transmission network operator, combined operator, natural gas distribution networks operators, natural gas traders, non-household customers and natural gas suppliers of last resort.

(2) The present rules have the purpose to guarantee that the natural gas transmission and/or distribution networks operators provide services to all network users at non-discriminatory ground;

(3) The present rules have the purpose to guarantee that the natural gas transmission and/or distribution networks operators:

1. Provide third parties with access services for both firm and interruptible supplies at the price conditions for interruptible supplies to third parties, considering the possibility of interruption;

2. Provide the network users with both long-term and short-term services.

Section II

**Conditions for provision of access to the natural gas transmission and/or natural gas
distribution networks**

Article 2. (1) The right for access to the networks shall have entities under art. 1, item 3.

(2) The right for access to the networks shall not have entities, who:

1. have pecuniary obligations to the state or to a municipality under art.162, para.2 of TIPC, ascertained by an effective act issued by a competent authority, or pecuniary obligations related to payment of social security contributions or taxes under the national legislation of the country the entity is settled in. Regarding foreign persons or entities, who have registered their business in the Republic of Bulgaria, the aforesaid requirement shall apply both to the state of settlement and to the Republic of Bulgaria too.

2. are in liquidation proceedings, are in a bankruptcy, or are in a process of finding out a bankruptcy, and if it is a foreign entity – then no similar proceeding should have been initiated under its national legislation.

(3) The network operator has the right to refuse access to the network, if:

- the applicant has an undone financial obligation to the operator, the period of which has expired.

(4) The network operator has the right to reject an application for access, if:

- the applicant has not provided the necessary evidence for the exigible circumstances concerning the provision of access in compliance with the present Rules or in compliance with the Rules on provision of access to the network established by the network operator;

- the application for access does not meet the terms and conditions of the present Rules or of the Rules on provision of access to the network established by the network operator;

(5) In the cases under para.4 the operator sets a deadline, not shorter than 3 working days for the irregularities on the application to be eliminated and for the provision of the relevant evidence. If the irregularities are not eliminated in the fixed period, the access application shall be returned to the applicant and the access proceeding/procedure shall be terminated.

(6) The natural gas transmission and natural gas distribution companies provide the users with access to the networks in conditions of equal treatment, transparency and non-discrimination of the entities, who meet the requirements of the present Rules and in case a signed contract for provided quantities of natural gas in or out of the country is in place.

Article 3. The right for access to the natural gas transmission and natural gas distribution networks may have local entities in a member state of EU, or entities registered in a country, with which the Republic of Bulgaria has an agreement reached under an international act for mutual application of the relevant law of the EC at the availability of interconnectors and under the provisions of art.176 a of the Energy Act (EA).

Section III

Terms for provision of access to the natural gas transmission and/or natural gas distribution networks

Article 4 (1). The entities under art. 1, item 3 and art. 3 submit to the natural gas transmission and/or natural gas distribution network operator a written application for access in a standard form (application) and the accompanied appendixes, elaborated by the operator and announced by it in an appropriate manner, including on its internet page.

(2) Every person or entity, having the right for access or a user of the network, applies for access or adjustment of the provided access by an application for access which is to be filled in and presented in hard (paper) and electronic copy in a determined by the relevant network operator format. Should there be any discrepancy between the hard and electronic copies, the hard copy shall prevail.

(3) The application for access must contain at least:

- nominated transmission capacity at entry point/s on a daily basis ;

- nominated transmission capacity at exit point/s on a daily basis;

The amount of nominated capacities at the entry points must be equal to the amount of nominated capacities at the exit points. This requirement is valid till the establishment of a virtual commercial point;

- duration of access and transmission – starting date and ending date, which cannot be different from a gas day, gas month, gas quarter or gas year.

(4) In the application some information is to be included regarding the secured/reserved capacity for transmission through the transmission network of a neighbouring operator to an entry point of the national transmission network, cited from the contract for transmission through a neighbouring operator in favour of the applicant for a period of time and capacity relevant to the nominated at the entry point.

(5) An application for access can be also submitted in case a change of already gained network access is requested, when the change is necessary as a result of enlargement, reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of existing facilities of the applicant.

Article 5. (1) The time limits for submission, approval, rejection or adjustment of applications for access and capacity nomination by persons and entities requesting access or users, shall be the following:

1. Submission of application for access and nomination of annual capacity – not later than 30 days before the beginning of the period and not earlier than 365 days before the beginning of the period;

2. Submission of application for access and nomination of quarterly or monthly capacity – not later than 15 days before the beginning of the period and not earlier than 365 days before the beginning of the period;

(2) The gas transmission network operator, respectively the gas distribution network operator, reviews the submitted application and the annexes thereto. Should it be established that the applicant has not provided the required documents and data in pursuance of the present Rules, the operator informs in writing the applicant to present the documents in addition within 14 days as of the receipt of the written announcement. The applicant shall receive instructions saying that should he fail to present the requested documents in the set time limit, the time limit for the network operator to declare its decision shall be extended by the same number of days of delay by the applicant's side.

(3) The operator may accept and/or review an application after the aforesaid time limits if force majeure or other announced similar circumstances occur.

(4) The operators shall provide screen systems for on-line capacity nominations and their confirmation and also nomination procedures and nomination adjustments/corrections.

Article 6. (1) Once the gas transmission network operator, respectively the gas distribution network operator receives an application accompanied by all required documents, it shall carry out a study on the possibility and conditions of providing access to the applicant.

(2) The study consists in checking whether the conditions under Section II are met, the nominated capacity, lack of obstacles for providing access, technical parameters and the possible time limits for the access to happen.

Article 7. (1) Within the time limits under art. 5 regarding the review and decision on an application for provision of access or change of gained capacity, the gas transmission or distribution network operator shall draw up and send to the applicant a harmonized contract to be signed by the operator and the user, by which contract access is provided or reasonably rejected.

(2) In the draft contract the conditions for access are arranged for a strictly specified object and the following mandatory parameters are included:

1. permitted allocated capacity on a daily basis by entry and exit points including maximum and minimum hourly natural gas outlay and pressure in the network;

2. natural gas load factor - amounts for access on a yearly basis, respectively quarterly, monthly or daily basis;

3. entry and exit points of the gas transmission and/or distribution networks where delivered/received amount of natural gas for transmission is measured; measurement points of natural gas at the entry and exit of the transmission and/or distribution networks.

(3) The applicant is to sign the draft contract and the latter to be concluded within 7 days upon receipt by the operator of the relevant network.

(4) The natural gas transmission and/or distribution networks operators develop the common terms and conditions of the contracts for transmission through the relevant networks and a sample of these contracts, which are to be approved by SEWRC and to be published on the operator's internet site.

Article 8. A natural gas customer or a potential customer, situated in the territory of a licensee – gas distribution network operator, may gain access, including for the direct non-household pipelines, only to high pressure pipelines, at the cumulative presence of the following conditions:

1. Reasoned written refusal for provision of access by the gas distribution network operator;

2. A positive opinion or a draft contract from the gas transmission network operator containing the conditions for the access provision;

3. A preliminary natural gas supply contract.

Article 9. A constructed direct pipeline of a non-household customer to the transmission network cannot be used for access purposes by/to another non-household customer or a potential one, but only by a licensee – gas distribution network operator in which territory the aforesaid customers are situated.

Article 10. Natural gas transmission, respectively distribution networks operator may refuse access to the networks:

- at the conditions in pursuance of art. 172, para. 2 and art. 172 a of the Energy Act;

- when the applicant has not met the conditions under Sections II and III or fails to present the required documents under the present Rules.

Section IV

Principles of capacity allocation mechanisms and of congestion management procedures

Article 11. (1) The gas transmission network operator shall draw up, apply and publish non-discriminatory and transparent capacity allocation mechanisms, which shall guarantee the provision of maximum capacity to all market participants in all important points (including entry and exit points), taking into account the system integrity and the efficient network operation, including congestion management rules. The gas transmission networks operators shall make consultations with the network users concerning capacity allocation mechanisms and congestion management procedures and submit at SEWRC the latter for approval before their application.

(2) The available capacity allocation mechanisms for each entry and exit point and for the network as a whole, may be the following:

1. Proportional allocation;

2. Tender procedure;

3. Open inquiry (in case of new gas infrastructure)

(3) Mechanisms under para. 2 shall be applied separately for the nominated firm and the nominated interruptible capacity. The firm capacity shall be allocated first and then the interruptible capacity, in case such has been offered and it has been explicitly nominated (indicated) in the Application for access.

(4) Capacity allocation mechanisms should be flexible and able to be changed and adapted in accordance with the variable market conditions, they should not impede the entry of new market participants, nor should they create barriers to the entry into the market, but to indicate the appropriate economic signals for the efficient and optimal use of the technical capacity and to facilitate the new infrastructure investment.

Article 12. The technical capacity shall be calculated based on capacity calculation mechanism adopted and announced by the relevant gas transmission network operator.

Article 13. (1) The free firm capacity for each entry and exit points and for the network as a whole (or a part of it) for a certain period of time, shall be the difference between the technical capacity and the firm capacity for the relevant entry and exit points or the network as a whole (including segments with smaller capacity) for the relevant period of time, which capacity has already been allocated (contracted) to network users.

(2) Should the transmission service is provided by a combined operator, it may envisage the capacity for transmission of quantities for injection and withdrawal to be allocated to customers who have gained access to the storage facility up to the amount of their allocated injection capacity, respectively withdrawal capacity.

(3) The capacity for each point shall be nominated in MWh/day and shall be allocated for the nominated period at a daily basis. The conversion from m³ to MWh shall be done at calorific value cap.

Article 14. The gas transmission operator shall allocate interruptible capacity when in some cases it would not be possible to provide firm capacity to certain points or the firm capacity has already been allocated, as well as where due to technical and /or commercial reasons it would be necessary to transform part of the firm capacity in interruptible on a short term basis.

Article 15. Once the whole available firm capacity for a certain point or for the entire network has been exhausted, lack of free firm capacity shall be announced for the relevant points or the entire network and only interruptible capacity shall be announced;

1. Interruptible capacity allocation mechanism shall be applied separately from the firm capacity mechanism.

2. Interruptible capacity shall be allocated after the total firm capacity allocation or in case of published on the internet site of the operator interruptible capacity for the relevant points and a nomination of at least one potential or registered user for it.

Article 16. After the end of each working day with capacity nominations and allocations (the allocation mechanism has been applied) the free capacities shall be re-calculated by points and for the entire network and these calculations shall be used in the next round of the mechanism application in the following working days with submitted nominations. Re-calculation shall be done also after each expiry or termination of transmission contract leading to the release of capacity or if capacity has been released, the unused firm capacity shall be offered as interruptible at a short term base. Should a potential customer to whom a capacity has been allocated refuses to conclude a transmission contract, such released capacity shall be announced as available.

Article 17. Users shall have the right to trade the allocated to them capacity among themselves.

Article 18. (1) In case of contracted congestion the gas transmission operator shall provide:

1. Capacity allocation for new contracts based on the release of unused capacities through the provision of opportunities for the network customers to let or resale the capacities under their contracts;

2. Offering of the unused capacity in the market at least for a day ahead as an interruptible service.

(2) Principles under para. 1 shall apply to the entire contracted capacity, including to valid contracts.

Article 19. (1) Should the contracted capacity remain unused, the transmission system operators shall offer the capacity on the primary market as an interruptible capacity through contracts with different duration unless this capacity is not offered on the secondary market by the relevant network user at a reasonable price.

(2) Transmission system operators may offer on the market part of the unused capacities as firm, when there are conditions in place for it.

Section V

Provision of information

Article 20. (1) The gas transmission and distribution network operator shall announce publicly detailed information regarding the provided services (description of the services – long-term, short-term, interruptible and firm services and their prices) and the conditions it shall propose together with the technical information needed to the network users in order for them to receive an effective access to it.

(2) Regarding the provided services each gas transmission and distribution network operator shall announce publicly information on the technical, contractual and the available capacity in a numerical expression for all important points, including entry and exit points, regularly and periodically in a standardized and suitable to use manner (for instance, gas transmission network scheme of the relevant operator indicating all entry and exit points to a certain network and all points connecting the network with other operators, quality standards of the offered for transmission natural gas and the pressure. The important transmission system points for which public information shall be provided shall be approved by the competent authorities after public consultations with the network users. Operators shall be obliged to update the information in the event of changes.

(3) Transmission system operator shall be obliged to announce publicly preliminary and following information on the demand and supply based on nominations, forecasts and realized flows to and from the system based on the available for the transmission system operator information and the necessary data provided by the relevant market participants.

(4) Operators shall publish information on price formation, tariffs, methodology and structure. These tariffs and price formation methodologies should be applicable for all participants, approved by SEWRC and published before their entry into force.

(5) Transmission network operators shall publish a programme of the network scheduled and preventive maintenance planned periods for the relevant year, which may affect the network users' rights under the transmission contracts, as well as the relevant operational information three months prior the beginning of the relevant year.

(6) Operators shall publish on their internet pages the transmission contracts and/or the conventional conditions setting the rights and obligations of all network users.

(7) The relevant network operators shall announce on their internet pages any other information on the networks, which derives from Directive 2009/73/EC, Regulation (EC) №715/2009, the Energy Act and the sub-normative secondary legislation.

Article 21. (1) The relevant network operators shall develop informational systems and means of electronic communication, shall provide adequate information to the network users and shall simplify transactions like nominations, capacity negotiation and capacity transfer of rights among network users.

(2) Information published on the internet pages shall be meaningful and clear, in an easy to use manner and in a format allowing to download in the network.

Chapter Two

RULES ON THE PROVISION OF ACCESS TO NATURAL GAS STORAGE FACILITIES

Section I General provisions

Article 22. The present rules shall regulate:

1. The conditions for the provision of access to natural gas storage facilities, which the entities requesting access should meet;
2. The terms for the provision of access to natural gas storage facilities.

Article 23. The period from 1 till 15 April and the period from 1 till 15 October of each calendar year shall be used for stabilization of the reservoirs, technical prevention and preparation of the natural gas storage facilities for the next injection/withdrawal base period.

Section II Conditions for the provision of access to natural gas storage facilities

Article 24. Natural gas storage facilities operator shall provide access at conditions of equal-treatment of the entities, who meet the requirements set in the present Rules.

Article 25. The right for access to the natural gas storage facilities may have local entities in a member state of EU, or entities registered in a country with which the Republic of Bulgaria has an agreement reached under an international act for mutual application of the relevant law of the EC at the availability of interconnectors and under the provisions of art.176 a of the Energy Act (EA).

Section III Terms for the provision of access to natural gas storage facilities

Article 26. The gas storage facilities operator shall be obliged to:

1. offer to third parties access to the natural gas storage facilities following non-discriminatory procedures, in a transparent and equally accessible manner for all potential customers by the means of signing a harmonized contract approved by SEWRC;
2. meet the market demand providing non-discriminatory access to the natural gas storage facilities, taking into consideration the national gas market peculiarities;
3. establish Rules on the efficient and continuous use of the storage facility capacity using maximally the available capacity and to offer the free capacity, notifying currently the users about it;
4. use the available at the operator commercial information concerning the storage facility customers in a confidential manner and solely for the purpose intended;
5. provide regularly updated information at SEWRC or at the gas transmission system operator, if it shall be required;
6. cooperate with the gas transmission system operator for security purposes of both the storage facility and the gas transmission system.
7. Users' security guarantees of the storage facility should be non-discriminatory and should not be an obstacle for the establishment of market relations between the parties.

Article 27. (1) The gas storage facilities operators shall announce in internet:

1. A detailed description of the provided services, including long-term and short-term services and their prices;
2. A sample of a harmonized natural gas storage contract or a sample of a transmission and storage contract in case the service is provided by a combined operator;
3. An overall scheme of the operator's gas transmission network, indicating the entry and exit points connecting the gas transmission network with the natural gas storage facilities;
4. Quality standards of the offered for storage and withdrawn natural gas.
5. Information on the available capacity and updates when changes occur.

Article 28. (1) Within a period of not later than 30 calendar days before the beginning of the relevant injection period, the natural gas storage facilities operator shall announce on its internet page:

1. The free storage capacity of the storage facility by gas months, as well as the firm and interruptible capacity for injection and withdrawal, which shall be offered to the potential customers during the entire gas year.
2. The possibility to conclude long-term and short-term contracts of storage services with firm and interruptible capacity for injection and withdrawal.
3. The minimum storage capacity, which a potential customer can nominate;
4. Time limits for submission of storage capacity applications for the upcoming gas year (not shorter than 7 days as of the announcement day).

(2) At the presence of free storage capacity for injection, respectively withdrawal, the operator shall update the information outside the time limit under para.1 with the view of the timely offering of capacity on the primary market.

(3) the storage facility capacity requested by an entity holding the right of access, should be offered at third party access conditions at non-discriminatory base, equal contractual conditions and taking into consideration the national gas market peculiarities.

Article 29. (1) The principles applied to allocate the available and unused capacities shall be the following:

1. The available capacity shall be allocated based on transparency and equal-treatment principles and on competitive grounds.
2. The operator shall in due time offer the unused capacity on the primary market.
3. Natural gas storage facilities users have the right to resell their contracted capacity on the secondary market after notification to the operator.

(2) the storage facility capacity should be provided to users at the conditions of following non-discriminatory procedures. The storage facility operator shall offer the users the facility technical capacity, with exception of the part needed by the operator for operation purposes, the needs of the gas transmission system and the part of the capacity which the operator is obliged to provide for storage in line with the envisaged in the Emergencies Action Plan adopted in pursuance of Regulation (EC) 994/2010. Capacity exemption of the storage facility for third parties shall be approved and monitored by SEWRC.

Article 30. (1) To apply for capacity at the storage facility the potential user should submit a sample application established by the storage facility operator.

(2) Storage capacity application shall include:

1. nominated storage capacity.
2. nominated injection capacity and nominated withdrawal capacity by gas months.
3. bank guarantee or any other type of financial security, at an amount up to 50% of the monthly natural gas storage capacity value, in accordance with the nominated capacity and the current valid storage price approved by SEWRC. The bank guarantee shall be issued by an annexed sample for a period of 2 months after the deadline for submission of capacity applications.

(3) The storage facility operator may at a reasoned assessment require by the applicant to present any additional documents as an evidence of its credit-ability, which documents, however,

should not be an unjustified barrier for the market entry and shall be non-discriminatory, transparent and proportional.

(4) The storage facility operator shall approve or reasonably reject the application for access to storage facility in a 10-day period as of the receipt of the application and all annexed documents.

(5) Should the application has been approved, a certificate shall be issued to the potential user with validity period of 6 months as of the date of issue under the conditions set in it. The operator shall keep a Register for the issued certificates.

(6) In the event of approval, the operator shall send to the applicant a draft storage contract and the applicant should sign the draft and the contract to be concluded within 7 days as of its receipt.

(7) The operator and the users may conclude contracts outside the gas year too, with starting dates different from the standard ones or with shorter duration than the standard annual contract; this, however, should not result in unjustified higher prices.

Article 31. (1) The storage facility operator shall develop, apply and publish non-discriminatory and transparent allocation capacity mechanisms which shall guarantee the provision of maximum capacity to all market participants taking into consideration the integrity and the efficient operation of the system through consultations with the users.

(2) The operators shall provide at least the following types of services:

- package /contractual/ services regarding the natural gas injection / withdrawal at established technical parameters.

- non-binding services /supplement to the package/ for the storage available capacities at the beginning of the calendar year.

- long-term /over 1 year/ and short-term /under 1 year/, with minimal period of stay of 1 day.

(3) The services provided by the storage system operator shall be in the interest of the users and in accordance with the market situation and economic efficiency.

(4) The storage facility operator shall provide services compatible with the use of interconnection gas transmission systems and providing easy access to the storage facility.

(5) The storage system operator must possess a well-developed informational system for electronic communication in order to provide adequate and updated data to the users and to facilitate the possible capacity exchanges.

Section IV Control

Article 32. The control on the fulfillment of the present Rules shall be executed by SEWRC under the terms and conditions of the Energy Act.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

§ 1. Under the present Rules:

1. Access shall mean the right to use the transmission network and/or distribution networks for transmission of natural gas paying a price and under the conditions of the present Rules.

2. Entry point shall mean a physical point equipped with commercial metering devices, where measurement of quantity, pressure and quality of the transmitted natural gas is performed and where delivery of natural gas from the user to the relevant operator is carried out.

3. Exit point shall mean a physical point equipped with commercial metering devices, where measurement of quantity and pressure of the transmitted natural gas is performed and where delivery of natural gas from the relevant operator to the network user is carried out.

4. Cross-border point shall mean an entry point connecting the national transmission network with other transmission networks.

5. Gas Regulating Station, Automated Gas Regulating Station (GRS, AGRS) shall mean an installation for regulating the natural gas pressure, equipped also with commercial metering devices.

6. Natural gas transmission shall mean the transportation of natural gas through the gas transmission network or distribution networks.

7. Contracted capacity shall mean the capacity which the transmission system operator has allocated to a network user under a transmission contract.

8. Technical capacity shall mean the maximum firm capacity, which the transmission system operator may offer to the network users, taking into consideration the integrity of the system and the operational requirements of the transmission system.

9. Firm capacity shall mean capacity for natural gas transmission whose non-interruptibility is guaranteed by the transmission system operator by virtue of a concluded contract.

10. Interruptible capacity shall mean gas transmission capacity, which can be interrupted by the transmission network and/or distribution networks operator according to the terms and conditions of the transmission contract.

11. Interruptible capacity for reverse flow transmission on a commercial basis (backhaul or virtual capacity) shall mean gas capacity for transmission at a cross-border point in the direction opposite to the physical flow transmission, which is carried out on a commercial basis.

12. Nomination shall mean the preliminary notification by the network user to the relevant network operator about the actual flow, which the user wants to be transmitted through the network.

13. Adjusted nomination shall mean the next notification by which the original nomination is being adjusted.

14. Cubic meter natural gas shall mean the quantity natural gas in a volume one cubic meter at temperature 20°C and absolute pressure 0.101325 MPa.

15. Withdrawal shall mean the activities having the purpose for certain quantities of natural gas located in the underground gas reservoir of the gas storage facility to reach the gas transmission network.

16. Injection shall mean the activities having the purpose for certain quantities of natural gas from the gas transmission network to reach the underground gas reservoir of the gas storage facility aiming their storage for a certain period of time.

17. Underground gas storage shall mean underground and surface facilities constructed based on underground structures tailored for natural gas storage.

18. Underground gas reservoir (the Reservoir) – the underground part where the injected natural gas quantities actually stay prior to their subsequent withdrawal.

19. Storage working capacity shall mean the maximum volume of natural gas which can be stored in the underground gas reservoir at a time.

20. Commercial storage capacity shall mean the part of the operational capacity which can be used for natural gas storage for customers and which the operator offers to storage users.

21. Commercial firm injection/withdrawal capacity shall mean the injection/withdrawal capacity whose uninterruptibility shall be guaranteed by the operator by virtue of a signed storage contract.

22. Commercial interruptible injection/withdrawal capacity shall mean the injection/withdrawal capacity which can be interrupted (partly or fully) at any time by the operator in accordance with the signed storage contract.

23. Short-term storage services shall mean the contracted storage capacity where the injection/withdrawal schedule is within one gas year.

24. Long-term storage services shall mean the contracted storage capacity where the period between the injection schedule and of withdrawal schedule is more than one gas year.

25. Free capacity shall mean the part of commercial capacity which the operator has not allocated and which is still available for the users at a given time.

26. Capacity booked for the operator shall mean the part of operational capacity which is not offered to users and is projected only for natural gas storage purposes, needed to the relevant operator for transmission technological needs and for gas transmission system balancing.

27. Contracted capacity shall mean the part of commercial capacity which the operator has allocated to a certain customer under a signed storage contract.

28. Aggregate contracted capacity shall mean the sum of contracted capacities booked for all customers who possess a concluded storage contract.

29. Basic period for injection (injection period) shall mean the time period starting at 8.00 am of 15 April of a certain calendar year and ending at 8.00 am of 1 October of the same calendar year, during which period the operator has the technical readiness to actually inject natural gas into the storage facility for the customers' needs.

30. Basic period for withdrawal (withdrawal period) shall mean the time period starting at 8.00 am of 15 October of a certain calendar year and ending at 8.00 am of 1 April of the following calendar year, during which period the operator has the technical readiness to actually withdraw natural gas from the storage facility.

31. Injection capacity shall mean the maximum natural gas amount which can be actually injected into the storage facility within one gas day (24 hours), depending on the reached formation pressure in the reservoir.

32. Withdrawal capacity shall mean the maximum natural gas amount which can be actually withdrawn from the storage facility within one gas day (24 hours), depending on the reached formation pressure in the reservoir.

33. Preferred injection and withdrawal capacity shall mean the capacity by gas months indicated by the applicant in its application with which the potential customer shall apply with priority in the course of the free capacity allocation. The total amount of preferred injection and withdrawal capacities should be equivalent to the nominated storage capacity.

34. Allowed injection and withdrawal capacity shall mean the capacity by gas months indicated by the applicant in its application with which the potential customer shall apply in the course of the free storage capacity allocation, alternatively to the preferred injection and withdrawal. Such capacity represents a range (the minimum and maximum limit) of injection and withdrawal capacity for the respective month, within which the potential customer is interested and would accept allocated capacity, in case any preferred and nominated by it capacity for certain months cannot be met. The total amount of the indicated in the application minimum and maximum allowed capacities for all months may differ from the nominated storage capacity.

35. Gas year shall mean a period of time commencing at 8.00 a.m. local time on 15 April and ending at 8.00 a.m. local time on 1 April of the next calendar year.

36. Gas month shall mean a period of time commencing at 8.00 a.m. local time on the first day of a particular calendar month and ending at 8.00 a.m. local time on the first day of the following calendar month.

37. Gas day shall mean a period of time commencing at 8.00 a.m. local time of a particular day and ending at 8.00 a.m. local time on the following day.

38. Storage contract shall mean the contract concluded between an operator and a customer with a subject-matter access to storage facility capacity and natural gas storage amount delivered by the customer and accepted by the operator for storage under the contract terms.

39. Storage facility user shall mean any person or legal entity holding a concluded natural gas storage contract with the natural gas storage facility operator.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 1. The present Rules have been drawn up and adopted on the grounds of art. 21, para. 1, item 13 and art. 172, para. 1 and art. 172⁶, para. 1 of the Energy Act (amended SG, issue 54 of 2012, entered into force 17 July 2012) and in compliance with the requirements of Directive 2009/73/EC of the European Parliament and the Council regarding common rules on the internal natural gas market and repealing Directive 2003/55/EC, and the requirements of Regulation (EC) № 715/2009/EC of the European Parliament and the Council regarding the conditions for access to the natural gas transmission network and repealing Regulation (EC) № 1775/2005, as well as of the Instructions of ERGEG on good practices for the natural gas storage system operators 2004-10-06 /2005-23-03 and the supplements to them 2011-01-02, by a Decision № П-1 of 14 March 2013 of the State energy and water regulatory commission.

§ 2. The present Rules repeal the Rules on the provision of access to the natural gas transmission and/or distribution networks adopted by the State Energy and Water Regulatory Commission by Decision No. П-2/14.05.2007.