

DECISION No. 531/18.05.2006
establishing the minimum levels of natural gas stocks stored in underground storages

Taking into consideration the provisions of art. 8 let. x) and of art. 38 of Gas Law No. 351/2004 with subsequent amendments,

On the basis of the provisions of art. 10 par. (4) and (5) of Gas Law No nr. 351/2004 with subsequent amendments;

The President of the National Regulatory Authority in the Natural Gas sector issues the present decision.

Art. 1. - With a view to securing the amounts of natural gas needed in order to fulfil the public service obligations over the period October 2006 – March 2007, suppliers performing regulated supply have the obligation to keep in underground storages until the 2006 injection cycle ends a minimum stock of natural gas.

Art. 2. - (1) The minimum stock of natural gas is determined for each supplier by the Market Operator within the Natural Gas National Dispatching Centre so that it covers 12.5% of the amount of natural gas to be supplied in 2006 to captive customers.

(2) The amount of natural gas to be supplied by each supplier in 2006, which will be the basis for calculating the minimum stock, is the one taken into consideration when establishing the unitary regulated revenue and the unitary overall revenue related to regulated natural gas supply as stipulated in the individual orders establishing the regulated tariffs for natural gas regulated supply.

Art. 3. – Within 15 days from the entry into force of the present decision, suppliers having the obligation to set up the minimum stock referred to in art. 1 will submit to the Market operator the natural gas amounts stipulated in art. 2 par. (2).

Art. 4. – (1) In order to secure the functioning of the natural gas national transmission system (NTS), “Transgaz” – S.A. Medias Natural Gas Transmission National Company will undertake the necessary steps in order to have free and operative access during November and February to a minimum amount of 100 million c.c. of gas meant for the physical balancing of NTS.

(2) Within 60 days from the entry into force of the present decision, “Transgaz” – S.A. Medias Natural Gas Transmission National Company will notify the National Regulatory Authority in the Natural Gas Sector about the ways of access to the minimum amount referred to at par. (1), agreed with suppliers holding gas in underground storages and will submit for approval to the National Regulatory Authority in the Natural Gas Sector specific regulations in case physical disbalances in NTS are ascertained.

Art. 5. – The National Regulatory Authority in the Natural Gas Sector, the Market Operator and the licensed operators in the natural gas sector will enforce the provisions of the present decision.

Art. 6 The present decision is published in Romania's Official Journal, Part I.

President of the National Regulatory Authority in the Natural Gas Sector,
STEFAN COSMEANU

Bucharest, 18 May 2006.
No. 531.