

Technical & Safety Division

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Natural Gas Reticulation in Kalgoorlie

It is expected that AlintaGas will start to make natural gas available to businesses and homes in Kalgoorlie and Boulder later this year.

AlintaGas was successful in winning preferred proponent status to supply natural gas to Kalgoorlie against strong competition from Wesfarmers Kleenheat, Boral Energy and the Australian Gas Light Company after completing a detailed tendering process through the Office of Energy. The tendering process was designed to ensure that the successful proponent operates as if it were a private supplier.

Further negotiations on aspects of the reticulation and commercial arrangements are ongoing between AlintaGas, the Office of Energy and suppliers; these should be concluded in the next few months. In the meantime, AlintaGas is proposing to commence work on the reticulation system.

AlintaGas will receive natural gas from the Goldfields Gas Transmission Joint Venture Pipeline, which is owned by a private consortium of Wesminco Oil, Normandy Pipelines and Pilbara Energy and operated by the Australian Gas Light Company.

To supply Kalgoorlie, AlintaGas proposes to construct a 3.2km long high-pressure pipeline from the Normandy Poseidon-owned Parkeston Power Station to the border of the city.

From this point, the gas will be reticulated to connect larger commercial customers. This will be followed by a gradual programme throughout the area which should result in 95 percent of Kalgoorlie residents having natural gas available outside their property within two years.

Legislation that will provide for reticulation systems of this type to be licensed is currently being finalised. AlintaGas will be expected to obtain two separate licences for Kalgoorlie; a trading licence to market and sell gas and a distribution licence to construct, own and operate a distribution system.

Regulatory oversight of the licences together with the technical and safety aspects of the reticulation system and consumer installations will be the responsibility of the Office of Energy.

KEVAN McGILL
A/ DIRECTOR OF ENERGY SAFETY

Standards Agreement - An Australian First

Industry groups can now become accredited Australian Standards writing bodies under a new scheme launched by Standards Australia, the nation's peak Standards setter.

The arrangement will give industry groups the opportunity for more direct involvement in developing their own industry-specific Australian Standards once accreditation has been gained from an independent Standards Accreditation Board.

Standards Australia recently established the Board in response to the Kean Inquiry (1995) into the country's Standards and Conformity Infrastructure.

The primary function of the Board, which comprises a balanced mix of government, commercial and community interests, is to accredit competent industry-based bodies with the role of writing, developing and publishing their own industry-specific Standards, within a transparent and consensual framework akin to Standards Australia.

Expressions of interest have been called from industry groups, quasi-government or private, that may wish to become accredited Standards-writing bodies.

This is one way that organisations can have an influence in terms of the quality and authority of the Standards they use.

The process of achieving accreditation was not necessarily an arduous one, while the extent of accreditation could be tailored to suit an organisation's needs.

There are many benefits that can be derived from writing authoritative national Standards as opposed to industry-sector codes/standards often only applicable to an individual Association's membership base.

Accreditation can give the recognised body greater influence within the overall industry framework and enhanced credibility through its direct association with Australian Standards, as well as increased exposure to key regional and international economic and trade forums.

The Australian Gas Association has just become the first industry body to develop and

issue Australian Standards under an agreement for interim authorisation recently signed with Standards Australia.

It will move to full accreditation by the Standards Accreditation Board in the near future.

For further information, please contact: Owen Archer, Executive Officer, Standards Accreditation Board, telephone 02 9746 4700.

A New Standards Australia "Help" Service

Standards Australia has introduced a new Technical Advisory Information Service to assist customers interpret and use Australian and international Standards.

To cater for requests, the service will offer information on:

- interpretation and application of Standards;
- testing and certification requirements;
- advice to exporters and importers;
- translations;
- regional and international standardisation;
- defence Standards.

The service will provide fast, reliable answers to technical questions but it will not provide consultancy, ie. provide an actual design or construction service.

Whilst Standards Australia may provide information on Standards, only the Office of Energy and other regulatory authorities can give authoritative rulings on legislation within their jurisdictions, unless a formal ruling has been published by Standards Australia.

For further information, please contact: Standards Australia Technical Advisory Service, telephone 02 9746 4732.

Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association Seminar in Perth

The Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association (AEEMA) will conduct a one day seminar at the Novotel Langley Perth Hotel on 14 August 1997.

The seminar will be of considerable interest for those wanting to understand key regulatory issues affecting the electrical industry, in particular, where related to electrical products.

It is expected that the seminar will be of interest to manufacturers, electrical retailers and wholesalers and electrical contractors.

The following issues will be addressed at the seminar:

- the Regulatory Compliance Mark, which will soon be applied to electrical products to indicate compliance with safety standards and other regulatory requirements;
- the Electromagnetic Compatibility framework, which came into effect on 1 January 1997;
- product safety and the role of the electrical regulator;
- possible transition to a 230 volts regime in Australia;
- product liability under the Trade Practices Act;
- energy efficiency and waste minimisation regulatory issues; and
- Mutual Recognition Agreements with New Zealand, the Asia Pacific Economic Community and the European Union and their implications for the electrical industry.

Registration will be at 9:30 am and the seminar will conclude by 4:00 pm.

For further information, please contact: Lucy Warren-Smith, Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association Ltd, Telephone 06 247 4655, Facsimile 06 247 9840.

Energy Efficiency Labelling Information Pamphlets

In Energy Bulletin No 7, we advised that energy efficiency labelling for certain new domestic electrical appliances became mandatory on 18 April 1997.

The Office of Energy has produced a series of information pamphlets to explain the benefits of labelling to the buying public. The pamphlets provide a guide to the advantages of buying energy efficient appliances.

The pamphlets are well regarded and have been delivered to all major retail organisations and manufacturers for distribution to retail outlets. Sales staff can promote the benefits of energy efficient appliances to their customers using the information contained in the pamphlets.

Copies of the pamphlets are available from retail outlets and the Office of Energy, telephone 08 9422 5200.

Requirements for Cutting Trees Near Live Overhead Power Lines

Energy Bulletin No 7 detailed the broad requirements for cutting, pruning, trimming and felling vegetation within the danger zone of live overhead power lines.

Readers are reminded that **all persons, including electrical contractors and their employees**, who carry out this type of work for payment must comply with these requirements to ensure that a satisfactory level of safety is maintained at all times.

**For enquiries on articles in this Energy Bulletin, please contact Harry Hills, Office of Energy:
Telephone: 08 9422 5208
Facsimile: 08 9422 5244**

Electrical Industry Presentations

The Office of Energy is pleased to announce the 1997 series of Electrical Industry Presentations, to be held at venues in the metropolitan area, major rural centres and the Pilbara.

The Presentations are designed to inform electrical industry personnel of changes within the regulatory framework and to provide a forum where those changes and other initiatives can be discussed. It is also an opportunity for industry personnel to meet key staff of the Office of Energy. The Presentations take the form of a joint Office of Energy seminar and the Electrical Development Association of WA (EDAWA) electrical exhibition. The electrical exhibition will be open to the public between 3:30 pm and 9:30 pm. The Office of Energy seminar will be held late in the afternoon over a three hour period.

Refreshments will be provided.

Previous similar Electrical Industry Presentations held in 1993 and 1995 were well attended and created much interest at each of the venues.

The Presentations will be of interest to licensed electrical workers, electrical contractors, supervisors and employers of electrical workers, electrical consultants, electricity supply authority personnel and training providers.

At the seminar, Office of Energy personnel will discuss current issues including:

- functions of the Office of Energy;
- legislation;
- licensing;
- the relationships between competencies and licensing;
- activities of the Electrical Licensing Board;
- electrical inspection and safety;
- Standards and codes (including the WA Electrical Requirements manual).

Electrical Industry Presentations are planned to be held as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>Venue</i>
3 September	Geraldton	Cha Cha Convention Centre
16 September	Port Hedland	Matt Dann Cultural Centre
18 September	Karratha	Karratha College Seminar Centre
14 October	Cannington	The White House Function Centre
16 October	Osborne Park	Kastelbets Function Centre
28 October	Bunbury	Lighthouse Inn Beach Resort
11 November	Kalgoorlie	WMC Conference Centre

Program

Metropolitan Venues				Non Metropolitan Venues			
3:30 pm	EDAWA	Electrical	Exhibition	3:30 pm	EDAWA	Electrical	Exhibition
	Opens				Opens		
5:30 pm	Office of Energy	Seminar		4:30 pm	Office of Energy	Seminar	
	Commences				Commences		
8:30 pm	Seminar Concludes,	Exhibition		7:30 pm	Seminar Concludes,	Exhibition	
	Continues				Continues		
9:30 pm	Evening Concludes			9:30 pm	Evening Concludes		

As numbers are limited, please register your interest in attending one of the presentations by telephoning the Office of Energy on 08 9422 5200 now.

Further details will be provided by invitation letter.