

## Communication to Swiss market players about the expected maintenances at Wallbach in 2020

In their capacities as Swiss Transmission System Operators, FluxSwiss and Swissgas are willing to inform market players in Switzerland about the expected 2020 maintenances on adjacent pipeline systems which are going to affect the Swiss import capacity.

As known, as from 1 July 2019 the German Transmission System Operators Open Grid Europe and Fluxys TENP created a Virtual Interconnection Point at Wallbach (“VIP Germany-CH”) to the purpose of enabling a joint offering of available capacities on the German side. Fluxys TENP was appointed as single marketing TSO at the new VIP Germany-CH point.

According to the current publication on the Fluxys TENP Electronic Data Platform (EDP), the technical (“commercial”) capacity at exit VIP Germany-CH is set to zero in the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 July 2020. As communicated by Fluxys TENP and OGE with a specific news on their website dated 3 June 2019 before the yearly auction of July 2019 ([https://www.fluxys.com/en/news/fluxys-tenp/2019/190603\\_news\\_yearly\\_auction\\_capacity](https://www.fluxys.com/en/news/fluxys-tenp/2019/190603_news_yearly_auction_capacity)) such reduction is due to maintenance works affecting the physical gas transfer between the TENP and MEGAL pipeline systems, alike the maintenance no. 21020875 declared in Spring 2019. On 22 July 2019, Fluxys TENP and OGE published another communication regarding the quarterly auction of August 2019 ([https://www.fluxys.com/en/news/fluxys-tenp/2019/190722\\_news\\_quarterly\\_auction](https://www.fluxys.com/en/news/fluxys-tenp/2019/190722_news_quarterly_auction)). In line with the EDP data publication above, this communication mentions that no capacity was on offer on VIP Germany-CH for Q2 and Q3 2020. However, the communication also clarifies that any available capacities will be made available on shorter term auctions.

From the above information, we deem reasonable to consider that the maintenance set up for 2020 will be similar to the maintenance occurred in Spring 2019. The lesson learnt from such maintenance shows that nominations at exit Wallbach under the previously contracted FZK capacity were actually confirmed, despite a heavy maintenance initially declared.

We assume this was made possible via DZK bookings and physical transport from the Northern section of TENP down to Wallbach, as described in the 5 April 2019 communication ([https://www.fluxys.com/en/news/fluxys-tenp/2019/190405\\_news\\_maintenance](https://www.fluxys.com/en/news/fluxys-tenp/2019/190405_news_maintenance)). We strongly assume that for Summer 2020, we could see again DZK capacities being made available (also by means of a conversion service), albeit not certain how they will be offered (day ahead or longer term). This would allow shippers to secure the firmness of their Wallbach capacity via bookings of DZK entry capacity at Bocholtz and/or possibly VIP Belgium-NCG sourcing gas from TTF and/or ZTP.

FluxSwiss and Swissgas as downstream operators invite German TSOs to disclose as soon as possible the outlook for maintenances in 2020, indicating the reduced FZK capacity, the products which will be put on offer (freely allocable and/or conditional firm capacities) and the relevant Prisma auctions when such products will be offered (quarterly auctions in November 2019 and/or February 2020). As interconnected TSOs we are available to liaise with German TSOs to ensure an adequate level of information is provided to the market.

Nevertheless we want to point out that the security of supply for the Swiss Market caused by above mentioned maintenance and measures is not at risk during the above mentioned maintenance period thanks to the available capacities at the interconnection points of Oltingue and Passo Gries.

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