

NATURAL GAS IN HUNGARY '2004

According to the rules of the new Hungarian Act on Natural Gas Supply, the market opening had happened at the 1st of January 2004.

The regulator, Hungarian Energy Office already issued the new specific operation licences for the following activities:

- natural gas transmission,**
- system operation,**
- natural gas storage,**
- natural gas distribution,**
- natural gas trading,**
- public utility wholesale,**
- public utility supply,**
- access to the cross-border natural gas transmission pipeline,**
- distribution and supply of propane-, butane gases and their mixtures through pipeline.**

At the first step, all natural gas-fired electricity producers and the customers having a contract for at least 500 m³ /h gas capacity in an adjacent plant became qualified eligible customers.

Since 1st of July, every customer – with the exception of residential consumers – became qualified eligible customers. It means that the possible market opening's rate is 67% ensured by the present law, for 180 000 eligible customers.

107 of them had realized their status to registered eligible customer, and only 23 decided to step out to the free market.

10 natural gas trader licenses had been issued by the Hungarian Energy Office, but only three of them are taking real operation on the free market.

Actually, on the base of the above mentioned data, the ratio of market opening is 5,2% in Hungary.

Natural gas quantity data in 2004:

Domestic production: 2 725 582 960 m³

Import gas quantity: 10 947 507 460 m³

UGS withdrawal: 3 446 788 580 m³

UGS injection: 3 264 733 170 m³

Total consumption: 13 856 034 130 m³

In this: free market: 461 696 210 m³

public utility supply: 13 394 337 920 m³