Executive summary

This Implementation Report on the 2018-2028 Gas Network Development Plan (2019 Implementation Report) has been drawn up by the German gas transmission system operators (TSOs) in accordance with Section 15b of the German Energy Industry Act (EnWG). It refers to the 2018-2028 Gas Network Development Plan (NDP) published on 20 March 2019.

A total of 16 projects worth about €840 million described in the 2018-2028 Gas Network Development Plan have been commissioned: three pipeline projects totalling 113 kilometres, five compressor projects with a capacity of 146 MW and eight gas metering and pressure regulating stations.

Ten of the projects in the report are described as having changed following a reassessment of available information. One project was cancelled, and six projects have been delayed. The changes and delays have no impact on the planned time of capacity provision. The remaining 109 projects will continue unchanged as set out in the 2018-2028 Gas Network Development Plan.

The gas transmission system operators also give an update on the market area conversion from L-gas to H-gas – in line with the approach used in drawing up the NDPs.

As part of conversion planning this report also provides L-gas volume and capacity balances for Germany and the two market areas GASPOOL and NCG, along with L-gas supply and consumption forecasts. The development of L-gas supplies assumed in this document has also been used for the Dutch network development plan and has thus also been included in L-gas production planning in the Netherlands.

The number of gas appliances to be converted annually is at a similarly high level as in the 2018-2028 Gas Network Development Plan. To date, around 300,000 gas appliances have been successfully switched from L-gas to H-gas. The transmission system operators thus see their planning assumptions as having been confirmed.

In addition, the gas transmission system operators have carried out a risk assessment for the L/H gas conversion. In their opinion, the security of supply for the areas currently supplied with L-gas can be guaranteed going forward by pressing ahead with the L/H gas conversion already underway and allowing temporary technical conversions, and by retaining the fee charged for the conversion from H-gas to L-gas.

The gas transmission system operators also point out that the timely completion of projects for the supply of H-gas will depend, among other things, on the duration of the approval procedures. Moreover, the timely execution of the process of switching the market area from L-gas to H-gas while maintaining security of supply will require appropriate resources to be made available by all parties involved in the process.

The gas transmission system operators have updated the database for the Implementation Report 2019 to include the NDP Gas Database cycle "2018 - USB zum NEP". The database is available at www.nep-gas-datenbank.de