

## **Additional Development Plan - Portstewart Network Extension**

### **Background:**

In 2002, BGE (Northern Ireland) was awarded the licence to construct and operate two transmission pipelines in Northern Ireland. In October 2004, the 115 km NW pipeline, connecting the Scotland to Northern Ireland Pipeline, (SNIP), to Coolkeeragh Power Station, was completed.

The 156 km SN pipeline, connecting Gormanstown in Co. Meath to Ballyalbanagh in Co. Antrim was completed in October 2006. This pipeline forms a key component in the "All Island" energy market by linking the gas networks in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, thereby providing the opportunity for bi-directional security of supply.

On 24 March 2005 (date of grant), firmus energy was formally awarded supply and distribution licences for the development of the natural gas network across 10 Development Areas.

### **Portstewart:**

firmus energy now wish to develop the gas network to the town of Portstewart. As per Condition 3.1 of the distribution licence, this Additional Development Plan seeks that the Electoral Wards of Strand, Atlantic and Portstewart (as outlined in the attached map) be designated as Additional Development Areas, thereby allowing firmus to develop the network in these areas.

Capital works is planned to commence in 2010, beginning with the construction of a feeder pipeline from Coleraine. Some connections are anticipated in 2010; more connections will follow in subsequent years as the Portstewart network develops further (see Annual Targets below).

### **Annual Targets:**

The network in Portstewart is expected to pass 2,000 properties. Forecast annual target connections are set out below.

<b>Customer type</b>	<b>Connections</b>	<b>Conversion rate</b>
New Build	1066	Yr1 - 20% Yr2 - 15% Yr3 - 15% 10% pa thereafter
Residential	35	4% pa
SME	10	20% pa

### **NIHE properties:**

There are no known NIHE estates in the Portstewart area. Any NIHE properties in the area are low density and mixed with owner-occupier properties. Therefore, no NIHE connections have been assumed.

### **Owner-occupied properties:**

firmus energy will endeavour to maximise residential conversions to natural gas over the licence period.

### **I&C properties:**

As Portstewart is predominately a seaside and commuter town there are neither large nor medium I&C customers along the route of the feeder mains.