FULLY ALLOCATED COST STUDY

4.3 Distribution Mains

The mains network is sized to meet peak demand capacity on the distribution system. It is divided into three systems based on operating pressure: transmission pressure, high pressure and low pressure.

The first two groups are facilities for moving gas from upstream transportation facilities to the low pressure distribution grid mains network. It is essentially the grid network that ultimately provides access to gas for the Company's customers. Since the transmission and high pressure systems feed the grid mains, they have a very limited customer component and are classified entirely as capacity-related.

The low pressure grid system (1) provides natural gas access to customers or potential customers on the system, and (2) meets the volumetric demands of various customers. As a result, the low pressure system has both a capacity-related and a customer-related component. These cost components are estimated by isolating the distribution infrastructure that is needed to exist to provide customers access to natural gas service. In this Study, about 45% of the low pressure mains are classified as customer related, resulting in about 30% of total mains classified as customer-related, these proportions have remained fairly consistent over the years since the Board's EBRO 487 Decision with Reasons.

5. The Study

The study can be found in the tabs following this report. They are:

- Tab 2 - Revenue to Cost Comparisons;
- Tab 3 – Functionalization;
- Tab 4 – Classification;
- Tab 5 – Allocation;
- Tab 6 - Classification and Allocation Factors; and,