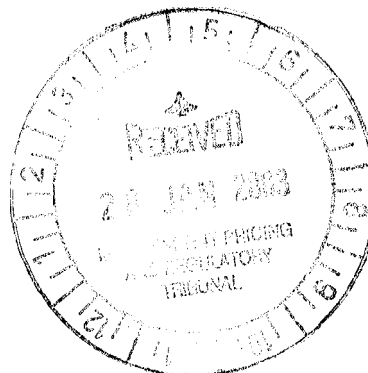


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Ms Ruth Lavery
Program Manager, Gas
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Level 2 44 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Lavery

**Tender Approval Request for the Supply of Natural Gas
to the Central Ranges Region of NSW**

I write in response to your letter of 14 January 2003 regarding the Central Ranges Natural Gas and Telecommunications Association Inc proposal to commence a tender process for the supply of gas to the Central Ranges Region (Dubbo to Tamworth with links to Mudgee, Gilgandra, Coonabarabran, Gunnedah and Ourindi).

I note in *Section 1: Background and Regulatory Information (3.2 Regulation of the Gas Industry in NSW)* and *Section 2: Tender Specification (9 Obligations on Successful Tenderer)* there is no reference to the need for the successful tenderer to obtain an approval under the Pipelines Act 1967 and to consideration the environmental implications of the construction and operation of the pipeline under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

It is noted that Australian Pipelines Trust (APT) - the original preferred tenderer for the construction and ownership of the pipeline, prepared an EIS for this project in 1999 and obtained the concurrence of the Minister for Planning in December 1999. To inform the current tender process, it would be valuable to make reference to this EIS and the subsequent assessment reports by PlanningNSW and Ministry of Energy.

Yours sincerely,


Sam Haddad
Executive Director

23. 1. 2003.