

New tariff for industrial RLNG consumers from month's end

LAHORE: The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) says that it will implement by the end of this month the government's decision of charging industrial consumers using re-gasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG) at the rate of \$6.5 per MMBTU.

`At present we, through weekly billing on an ad hoc basis, are charging all such industrial consumers as per old tariff. However we, while preparing monthly bills by the end of this month, will charge them according to new tariff of \$6.5 per MMBTU as decided by the government,` SNGPL Lahore General Manager Qaisar Masood told Dawn on Monday.

Prime Minister Imran Khan last month pledged to provide RLNG to Punjab industry on uniformed tariff in a meeting with the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Aptma) of fice bearers and other concerned. Following the prime minister's announcement, the ECC formallytook the decision in this regard, pledging to charge the consumers as per new tariff with effect from Sept 27. However, a notification has yet to be issued.

`Though we have not yet received the notification, we hope to receive this shortly. We will issue monthly bills to these consumers as per new tariff.

And those who paid weekly bills as per old tariff will be reimbursed the excess payments in monthly bill for October,` the of ficial added.

The SNGPL also says it will curtail supply next month to industry using system/indigenous gas in case it faces difficulty in meeting demand of the domestic consumers. It says it will provide uninterrupte d gas supply to the domestic consumers since they are always considered as most important.

`As the situation is under control these days, we are supplying gas to all sectors domestic, industrial, CNG etc. However, we will curtail supply only to the industry that is dependent on the system gas alone, SNGPL Managing Director Amjad Latif told Dawn. At present the demand of thee domestic sector is 700MMCFD or so. And the same is being fulfilled through provision of system gas. Similarly 150MMCFD of system gas is being provided to the industry other than those using RLNG that is also about 150MMCFD.

`This winter too, we will curtail indigenous gas to the industry such as dyeing, ghee, chemical, sizing, steel units etc. Last year too, we had suspended gas supply to this industry, requesting them to switch to RLNG,` the managing director explained.

Gas pressure, however, in the areas situated at the tailendhave started facing low gas pressure due to gradual reduction in temperatures. Gulberg, Township, Chuburji, Sanda, Walled City, Faisal Town, Garden Town, Ichhra, Baghbanpura, Mughalpura and Lal Pul have been reported to be witnessing low pressure in night and early morning hours.

Mr Masood said the situation was normal and he would again see the issue on Tuesday.

By Khalid Hasnain