Jody O'Boyle
Compliance & Network Operations Manager
Utility Regulator
Queens House
14 Queen Street
Belfast BT1 6ED

24 May 2019

Dear Jody,

RE: Ten Year Development Plan (TYDP)

NIE Networks welcomes SONI's consultation on the Ten Year Development Plan (TYDP) for the transmission network in Northern Ireland. As the Transmission Asset Owner, NIE Networks is an important stakeholder in the TYDP as it is has licence obligations to develop, construct and maintain the transmission network. SONI is licenced to plan and operate the transmission network and therefore a close working relationship is required to ensure that the Development plan is co-ordinated by both companies, as outlined in the TIA.

In regards to the projects that SONI has set out to be developed over the next ten years, NIE Networks would highlight that we are working with SONI to discuss our concerns over the proposed timing of these projects. We note that these dates were considered in January 2018 and a number of projects have moved on since then. However, NIE Networks considers that the draft TYPD should be updated to reflect the latest information and we will engage further with SONI to refine the delivery dates.

We note that each project in the draft TYDP has a completion date. As NIE Networks' ability to complete load projects is dependent on SONI completing their pre-construction activities, we would suggest that these projects include; (i) the estimated date to obtain pre-construction approval, (ii) the date to have planning approval and landowner consents, (iii) the date to complete construction works. NIE Networks would also suggest that when the draft TYDP is updated, that SONI reviews the feasibility of the transmission system outage programme that would be required to facilitate the proposed plan and identify any interdependencies between projects.

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We will continue to engage with SONI to ensure the final TYDP that is approved by the UR is agreed by both parties.

Yours sincerely,

Ronan McKeown

Head of Asset Management

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