

All interested parties
Stakeholders in Northern Ireland and beyond
and other regulatory bodies

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Date: 8 February 2022

To whom it may concern

Approval of the Northern Ireland TSOs' proposal to meet the requirements of EU Regulation 2017/2196 Emergency Restoration¹.

In accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2196 of 24 November 2017 establishing a Network Code guideline on electricity emergency and restoration (hereafter referred to as **NC ER**), Utility Regulator (UR) received a proposal on 1 September 2021 from the TSO (SONI) regarding a Methodology to meet the requirements of Articles 4(2)(g) of the NC ER. The proposal was submitted by SONI TSO under Article 4(2)(g) of the NC ER.

This letter sets out UR's decision to approve SONI's proposal to meet this requirement of NC ER.

Regulatory aspects

Under Article 4 of the NC ER regulation the relevant TSO must produce a series of proposals for submission to the relevant regulatory authority for approval. The documents that require approval are contained in Article 4.2 as follows:

4.2 Each TSO shall submit the following proposals to the relevant regulatory authority in accordance with Article 37 of Directive 2009/72/EC for approval:

- (a) the terms and conditions to act as defence service providers on a contractual basis in accordance with paragraph 4;
- (b) the terms and conditions to act as restoration service providers on a contractual basis in accordance with paragraph 4;
- (c) the list of SGUs responsible for implementing on their installations the measures that result from mandatory requirements set out in Regulations (EU) 2016/631, (EU) 2016/1388 and (EU) 2016/1447 and/or from national legislation and the list of the measures to be implemented by these SGUs, identified by the TSOs under Art. 11(4)(c) and 23(4)(c);
- (d) the list of high priority significant grid users referred to in Articles 11(4)(d) and 23(4)(c) or the principles applied to define those and the terms and conditions for disconnecting and re-energising the high priority grid users, unless defined by the national legislation of Member States.
- (e) the rules for suspension and restoration of market activities in accordance with Article 36(1);
- (f) Specific rules for imbalance settlement and settlement of balancing energy in case of suspension of market activities, in accordance with Article 39(1);

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R2196&from=en>

(g) the test plan in accordance with Article 43(2).

Background

On the 11 February 2021, in accordance with Article 4(3) of the NC ER, UR approved² the proposals submitted by SONI TSO under Articles 4(2)(a)-(f) of the NC ER. These approved documents are listed below;

- 1) The terms and conditions to act as defence service provider for Northern Ireland³
- 2) The terms and conditions to act as restoration service provider for Northern Ireland⁴
- 3) Significant Grid Users Northern Ireland⁵
- 4) The rules for suspension and restoration of market activities for Northern Ireland and the specific rules for imbalance settlement and settlement of balancing energy in case of suspension of market activities for Northern Ireland⁶
- 5) Design of the System Defence Plan for Northern Ireland⁷
- 6) Design of System Restoration Plan for Northern Ireland⁸

In accordance with Article 7 of the NC ER, SONI were required to consult on their proposed Design of Test Plan. SONI held a consultation from 9 April 2021 for a period of 4 weeks until 7 May 2021. SONI received no responses to this consultation. Following this consultation process, SONI submitted to UR on 1 September 2021 their proposed Design of Test Plan for Northern Ireland in accordance with Article 4(2)(g) of the NC ER.

Decisions

UR has reviewed SONI TSO's proposal in line with the requirements of the NC ER regulation, the wider objectives of Regulation (EC) 2017/2196 and UR's statutory duties and obligations. UR are satisfied that SONI's proposal has addressed the requirements of Articles 43 and 44 to 47. Accordingly, in accordance with Article 4(3) of the EU Regulation 2017/2196 Emergency Restoration, UR has approved the proposal submitted by SONI TSO under Article 4(2)(g) of the NC ER on 1 September 2021.

Next Steps

We request that SONI publish the approved submission as well as this approval letter on its website.

If you have any queries regarding the information contained within this letter please contact jody.oboyle@uregni.gov.uk or kenny.mcpartland@uregni.gov.uk.

² <https://www.uregni.gov.uk/files/uregni/media-files/2021-02-11%20NC%20ER%20final%20Approval%20Letter.pdf>

³ https://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/SONI_TermsAndConditionsDefense_NorthernIreland.pdf

⁴ https://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/SONI_TermsandConditionsRestoration_NorthernIreland.pdf

⁵ https://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/SONI_DefinitionSignificant-Grid-Users_NorthernIreland.pdf

⁶ https://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/SONI_RulesForTheSuspensionAndRestorationMarketActivities_NorthernIreland.pdf

⁷ https://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/SONI_System_Defence_Plan_Northern-Ireland.pdf

⁸ https://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/SONI_System_Restoration_Plan_NorthernIreland.pdf

Yours sincerely



Tanya Hedley
Director of Networks