

## **Consultation – SONI’s Draft 2021-2030 Transmission Development Plan**

### **NIE Networks’ Comments on UR Consultation**

**24 June 2022**

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NIE Networks welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Utility Regulator’s (UR) Consultation on SONI’s draft 2021-2030 Transmission Development Plan.

NIE Networks is the owner of the transmission system, and the owner and operator of the distribution system in Northern Ireland. We have a significant interest in SONI’s future plans for the transmission network and the potential impact on our own activities. NIE Networks and SONI have a duty to co-ordinate their activities and work in partnership as detailed in the Transmission Interface Arrangements (TIA).

In accordance with Section C of the TIA, SONI and NIE Networks must jointly agree the Transmission Development Programme. We continue to work in partnership to develop SONI’s Transmission Investment Plan (TIP) and Transmission Development Plan for Northern Ireland (TDPNI) each year. Regular engagement is ongoing with a joint working group focused specifically on this work.

We recognise that investment in the transmission network will significantly increase over the next decade in the approach to 2030 and that this will be challenging for both SONI and NIE Networks to deliver. NIE Networks is also currently developing its plans for RP7 which will include some additional transmission asset replacement projects. Through the TDPNI working group, a detailed exercise to assess the deliverability of both NIE Networks’ RP7 plans and SONI’s TIP is underway which will include an assessment of resourcing, outage availability, etc.

We are fully supportive of SONI’s plans as they aim to progress the ambitions of the Energy Strategy and indeed the Climate Change Bill NI. We are committed to continuing engagement and collaboration as we seek to meet these challenging targets as well as our own regulatory objectives.