

Emma Fagan and;  
All interested parties,  
stakeholders in Northern Ireland,  
and other regulatory bodies.

**Ref: NET/E/TH/614**

Date: 14 December 2022

Dear Emma

**Approval of Article 39(3) of the Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 of 2 August 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation (SOGL)**

In accordance with Article 39(3) of the **System Operation Guideline (SOGL)** and in relation to the requirements on minimum inertia which are relevant for frequency stability at the synchronous area level:

- (a) all TSOs of that synchronous area shall conduct, not later than 2 years after entry into force of this Regulation, a common study per synchronous area to identify whether the minimum required inertia needs to be established, taking into account the costs and benefits as well as potential alternatives. All TSOs shall notify their studies to their regulatory authorities. All TSOs shall conduct a periodic review and shall update those studies every 2 years;
- (b) where the studies referred to in point (a) demonstrate the need to define minimum required inertia, all TSOs from the concerned synchronous area shall jointly develop a methodology for the definition of minimum inertia required to maintain operational security and to prevent violation of stability limits. That methodology shall respect the principles of efficiency and proportionality, be developed within 6 months after the completion of the studies referred to in point (a) and shall be updated within 6 months after the studies are updated and become available; and
- (c) each TSO shall deploy in real-time operation the minimum inertia in its own control area, according to the methodology defined and the results obtained in accordance with paragraph (b).

**Background**

SONI and Eirgrid jointly submitted a proposal to the regulatory authorities (RAs) of Northern Ireland (UR) and Ireland (the CRU) under Article 39(3) of SOGL on 13 September 2019. A review was subsequently undertaken by the RAs, which determined that the studies provided concerning the establishment of the minimum required level of inertia were not sufficiently up

to date. After several discussions on the topic of this decision letter between the TSOs and the RAs, the TSOs re-submitted a proposal on 16 June 2022.

## **Decision**

Pursuant to Article 6(7) of the SOGL, UR has closely cooperated and coordinated with the CRU to reach an agreement on the proposal.

In accordance with Article 6(1) of the SOGL, UR hereby approves the submission made by SONI on NI-IE synchronous area (SONI and EirGrid) under Article 39(3) of SOGL.

CRU will also make a decision on EirGrid's submission in parallel with this decision.

## **Next Steps**

UR requests that SONI:

- continues to periodically review and update their studies to identify whether the minimum required inertia needs to be established at least every 2 years, and to notify the UR of when this takes place, in line with Article 39(3)(a); and
- where the studies conducted in line with Article 39(3)(a) identify a need for minimum inertia to be established, SONI jointly develop the methodology with all TSOs in the synchronous area (i.e. Eirgrid) within 6 months upon completion of the studies.

If you have any queries regarding the information contained within this letter, please contact [jody.oboyle@uregni.gov.uk](mailto:jody.oboyle@uregni.gov.uk) or [kenny.mcpartland@uregni.gov.uk](mailto:kenny.mcpartland@uregni.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,



**Tanya Hedley**  
**Director Networks**