

Lisa O'Neill
Network Connections Major Projects
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited
120 Malone Road
BELFAST
BT9 5HT

14/02/2023

REF: NET/E/DH/631

Dear Lisa,

RE: Application for approval to proceed with Pre-Construction works for Cam Cluster ("the Application")

The Application - dated 26 January 2023¹ - is made in reference to: (i) the Authority's² 2011 decision (the **2011 Decision**) on charges for connecting groups of generators (clustering)³, and (ii) the relevant provisions of the NIE Networks (approved) Statement of Connection Charges (the **SOCC**).⁴

The approval sought is that detailed in section 6 of Appendix 2 to the SOCC in so far as it relates to approval to proceed with *pre-construction work* associated with the establishment and connection (to the transmission) system of a 110/33 kV cluster substation (the **Cam Cluster**) in the vicinity of⁵ Cam. Those pre-construction activities are explained in a Section S⁶ Offer -provided with the Application - made by SONI (as licenced TSO) to NIE Networks (as licensed Distribution Network Owner/Operator) for connection of the Cam Cluster to the Northern Ireland Transmission System.

The Application sets out a "case" for the Cam Cluster to be considered justified in line with the various indicators/parameters described in sections 3 to 5 of Appendix 2 to the SOCC. It confirms that the present plan is for the Cam Cluster to be connected (to the transmission system) by a loop into the existing Colkeeragh – Coleraine 110kV circuit. The estimated⁷ costs

¹ Previous submissions were made. However, for simplicity, this decision treats the relevant application as that made in the submission dated 26 January 2023.

² In this letter the words "Authority", "we" and "our" are used interchangeably and refer to the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation.

³ Here: [Decision Paper on Charges for Connecting Groups of Generators.pdf \(uregni.gov.uk\)](https://www.uregni.gov.uk/Decision-Paper-on-Charges-for-Connecting-Groups-of-Generators.pdf)

⁴ Here: [TITLE \(nienetworks.co.uk\)](https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/TITLE)

⁵ The Application explains why the precise location of the CAM Cluster cannot be definitive at present.

⁶ Section S is part of the approved TIA published on the SONI and NIE Networks websites. NIE has confirmed that it has accepted the Section S Offer.

⁷ The Application does not seek approval for a specific sum as such. Rather, it seeks approval for NIE Networks to proceed with pre-construction activities associated with the Cam Cluster. A further approval – a *construction*

for the pre-construction works for the CAM Cluster are in the order of £805,621. The Application confirms that the pre-construction costs might be varied depending on further assessments.

Decision

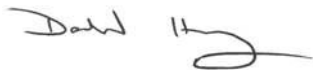
We have examined the Application against: (a) the 2011 Decision; (b) the relevant provisions of the approved SOCC⁸, and (c) our principal objective and associated duties as set on in Article 12 of the Energy (NI) Order 2003.

Having done so, we consider that the “case” for the Cam Cluster is (at present)⁹ properly justified. Approval for pre-construction works associated with the Cam Cluster is therefore granted.

We note that the Application confirms that NIE Networks will return to the Authority should the estimate for the costs of pre-construction works increase. We welcome that commitment. NIE Networks should maintain engagement with the Authority as the Cam Cluster project develops.

This approval will be published on our website and placed on the Electricity Register.

Yours sincerely



Donald Henry

Networks and Energy Futures Director

approval – is to be sought and granted before the Cam Cluster can proceed to the *construction* phase. This is further explained in the relevant provisions of the SOCC.

⁸ To include sections 3 to 6 of Appendix 2 to the SOCC.

⁹ The “case” for the Cam Cluster will be re-evaluated upon receipt of an application for *construction* approval.