

CWG - 6 OCTOBER 2022

DISCUSSION ON THE TIMING OF PHASE 3



LV Final Connections to Plant

- The Next Steps paper published in July 2021 defined the three phases for the expansion of Contestability in Northern Ireland –
 - Phase 1 (Overhead connection works)
 - Phase 2 (Cable connection works)
 - Phase 3 (Plant connection works)
- Earlier this year we agreed that phases 1 and 2 were similar in terms of their safety implications, policies and processes and these phases were consequently combined in the CWG work programme.
- The planned Go-live date for the final phase is December 2022 and work already undertaken for the overhead & underground connections phase applies equally to final connections to plant.
- However, final connections to plant will entail, in some instances, consideration of different safety procedures and processes.
- NIE Networks has been considering these matters and would like to receive input from the CWG members at this stage.

Safety Considerations and Processes

- CWG has discussed previously the classification of work under the NIE Networks' Safety Rules into Routine and Non-Routine
- Safety Rules Instruction 13 defines 'Routine' live LV work, which can proceed without instructions from an SAP
- Works not classified as 'Routine' are classified as 'Non-Routine' which,
 - requires SAP input and may require an outage.
 - typically involves modifications or alterations to existing plant.
- Some LV Final connections to Plant will be Non-Routine and that presents a choice:
 - NIE Networks could undertake 'enabling' Non-Contestable works to ensure the final connection is 'Routine' work, for example connecting and energising a cable to a feeder frame / kiosk or mini pillar that would allow the ICP to undertake the final live connection, or
 - the ICP could undertake the work as Non-Routine, with authorisation and training implications.
- LV Final Connections to plants (substations, pillars etc) also requires new considerations such as the issuing of keys

NIE Networks would like a discussion on whether or not we should still introduce Contestable LV Final Connections to Plant in December, as planned, or pause for a period to gain experience and assess processes on overhead & underground LV Final connections

Establishing a 'Routine' Final Connection

Should a Low Voltage Final Connection to a pillar be classified as 'Non-Routine', NIE Networks could install a cable between the pillar and a pot end, allowing an ICP to connect to the pot end under the 'Routine Work' arrangements.

