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By Email Only: Eimear.Watson@soni.ltd.uk

Date: 05 June 2026

Our Ref: NET/E/JF/1477

Dear Eimear,

**Request for Authority's consent to Extend the Connection Offer
Timelines for 63MW capacity at Pigeon Top Wind Farm at Drumquin.**

Thank you for your letter received 22 May 2026 (the **Letter**) setting out an application **(the Application)** made under Condition 25(5) of SONI's Transmission Licence ("the Licence") - seeking the Authority's¹ consent for the extension of the period for the making of an offer by SONI to a Connection Applicant, for the connection of 63MW capacity at Pigeon Top Wind Farm at Drumquin to the Northern Ireland Transmission System.

We start by setting out the relevant terms of Condition 25 of the Licence. We then move to the Application:

1. Condition 25 of the Licence.

Condition 25(5) provides, so far as relevant, as follows (our underlining added):

"[SONI] shall offer terms for [connection agreements] . . . as soon as practicable and (save where the Authority consents to a longer period,

¹ In this correspondence we use the words "us" "we" "our" "UR" "Utility Regulator" and "Authority" interchangeably to refer to the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation.

which consent may be given on the application of [SONI] following consultation by [SONI] with the person making the application and such other persons as [SONI] considers may be affected or interested) in any event not more than the period specified in paragraph 7 after receipt by [SONI] of an application containing all such information as [SONI] may reasonably require for the purpose of formulating the terms of the offer ...”

Condition 25(7) provides that the “period specified” in this case is three months, unless the Authority has consented to a longer period.

2. Background

The initial application (by the Connection Applicant) for the connection of the 63MW capacity at Drumquin, had been received by SONI on 23 February 2026, this was then deemed effective on 10 March 2026 after final query responses, with SONI stating it has until 8 June 2026 to make a Connection Offer.

The Application refers to SONI identifying overloads on the transmission system after connection studies were carried out for Pigeon Top Wind Farm, “as a result, further studies and deeper network reinforcement needs to be investigated to allow this connection to proceed.”

3. The Application

SONI is applying for an extension of the Condition 25 period for the making of the Connection Offer, from 8 June 2026 to 10 November 2026.

SONI comments in the application that extended time is required to “carry out further probabilistic studies to understand the scale of the potential overloads and if necessary, identify a preferred option for the deeper network reinforcement along with any pre-construction approval (including TNPP, if required), before SONI could issue the Connection Offer.”

4. Consultation associated with the Application

An application by SONI under Condition 25(5) requires SONI to consult with “...the person making the application for connection, and such other persons as [SONI] considers may be affected or interested.”

SONI has consulted with the Connection Applicant and NIE Networks.

Consultation with the Connection Applicant

SONI commenced consultation with Pigeon Top Wind Farm on 16 April 2026. The application (by the Connection Applicant) for the connection of the 63MW capacity at Drumquin was deemed effective on 10 March 2026, with SONI stating it has until 8 June 2026 to make a Connection Offer.

SONI sent an email consulting the Connection Applicant on the decision to apply for extension, on 18 May 2026. The Connection Applicant responded via email on 20 May 2026 stating its disappointment with the delay, but that *“we do not object to the proposed extension.”* The Applicant also asked that *“SONI keep us informed of their progress and work towards an earlier issue date if possible.”*

On 18 May 2026, SONI consulted NIE Networks (TO) on the decision to apply for extension, via email, noting that *“further time may be needed to obtain the necessary approval.”* On 21 May 2026, NIE Networks replied to the consultation, *“NIE Networks have no objections and support the extension request”* and further stated that, *“We acknowledge that if a TNPP is required then there may be further extension requests in the future as the project demands and we ask that you communicate these changes as and when they come to your attention.”*

5. The Authority’s decision

We judge the Application against: (i) our principal objective and general duties set out in Article 12 of the Energy (NI) Order 2003; and (ii) the published Decision Paper Guidance.² We consider the Application to have been made in accordance with the Decision Paper Guidance.

We recognise that SONI has requested circa five months to process the offer due to the need for further studies and investigation into deeper network reinforcement, therefore our decision is to:

- (i) accede to the Application considering it properly founded;

² [Electricity Connections Decision FINAL.pdf \(uregni.gov.uk\).](https://www.uregni.gov.uk/Electricity%20Connections%20Decision%20FINAL.pdf)

and (accordingly)

- (ii) give consent to an extension to 10 November 2026 for the purposes of Condition 25(5) as regards the Connection Application made by the Connection Applicant for the connection of 63MW capacity at Drumquin.

In making this decision we have had proper and full regard to the consultation responses from the Connection Applicant and NIE Networks.

The Authority is satisfied that we should grant the Application based on the reasons set out in the Application.

We also remind SONI that the grant of consent (for an extension of time) relayed in this letter does not absolve SONI of its Condition 25 obligation to make a connection offer to the Connection Applicant as soon as practicable. The newly substituted Condition 25 period does not affect that key licence obligation. SONI should particularly consider if any of the other potential options for connection would allow for the making of a connection offer, earlier than 10 November 2026.

We also encourage SONI to continue to engage with the applicant in a meaningful manner and to update estimated timelines when more relevant information enables it to do so.

Our expectation is that further applications for Condition 25 type extensions will be presented in accordance with our observations.

This decision shall be published and placed in the Electricity Register.

We trust this is satisfactory. If you have any queries, please contact Jody O'Boyle.

Yours sincerely,



Jillian Ferris

Head of Networks

Duly authorised by the Authority