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

Date: 24 July 2026

Our Ref: NET/E/JF/1502

Dear Eimear,

**Request for Authority's consent to Extend the Connection Offer
Timelines for a 79MW MEC BESS project at Green Frog Power Limited at
Kells.**

Thank you for your letter received 20 July 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 a 79MW MEC BESS project at Kells 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 79MW MEC BESS at Kells, had been received by SONI on 13 April 2026, this was then deemed effective on 9 June 2026, with SONI stating it has until 9 September 2026 to make a Connection Offer. The Application provides some background details on the Connection arrangement to be provided within the offer.

3. The Application

SONI is applying for an extension of the Condition 25 period for the making of the Connection Offer, from 9 September 2026 to 21 September 2026.

SONI has explained the need for extension as advising that the applicant submitted multiple applications within the same week, creating logistical challenges for both SONI and NIE Networks in preparing and approving offers within the standard timescales, this would mean that both NIE Networks and SONI would have to issue four offers within eight days. SONI has commented that this extension would create the required space to allow each offer to be given the necessary attention.

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 sent an email consulting the Connection Applicant on the decision to apply for extension, on 17 July 2026. The applicant confirmed on the same day that, “*we are OK to consent to the extension of the issuance to the 27st September.*”

Also on 17 May 2026, SONI consulted NIE Networks (TO) on the decision to apply for extension via email. NIE Networks replied to the consultation that, *“The two week extension will be fine.”*

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 two weeks to process the offer due to the need for further time to process the applications associated with this applicant:

- (i) accede to the Application considering it properly founded; and (accordingly)
- (ii) give consent to an extension to 21 September 2026 for the purposes of Condition 25(5) as regards the Connection Application made by the Connection Applicant for the connection of 79MW MEC BESS at Kells.

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

While we note that applicant submitted multiple applications within the same week, SONI should ensure it is capable of managing its resources to ensure compliance with the licence when handling multiple applications, however as all parties are in agreement and the extension is for a short, limited period, 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)

² Electricity Connections Decision FINAL.pdf (uregni.gov.uk).

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 21 September 2026.

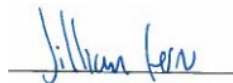
We also encourage SONI to continue to engage with the applicant in a meaningful manner and to update estimated timelines when more relevant information enables it to do so.

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