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By Email Only: Jordan.McAllister@nienetworks.co.uk

Date: 12 August 2026

Our Ref: NET/E/JF/1507

Dear Jordan,

Application for consent to a longer period for the issuance of a Connection Offer at Rockmount Energy Limited, Ballylicock North PGM 124B Movilla Road Newtownards, NIE Networks Job Ref: [REDACTED].

Thank you for your letter received 7 August 2026 (the **Letter**) setting out an application **(the Application)** made by NIE Networks Limited **(NIE Networks)** for an extension to the period within which NIE Networks is required to make a connection offer **(the relevant Connection Offer)** for a Diesel Generator ([REDACTED]), at **Rockmount Energy Limited, Ballylicock North PGM 124B Movilla Road Newtownards**. The extended period now applied for, expires on 22 August 2026.

NIE Networks have requested for additional period to issue and offer under Condition 30(7) - for a longer substituted Condition 30 (6)(b) period from **22 August 2026 out to 22 February 2027**.

In this letter we shall refer to the person making the application for the relevant Connection Offer as the **Connection Applicant**.

1. The Application

The Letter describes the relevant background¹ to the Application. Reference is made to Condition 30 of NIE Networks' licence authorising participation in the activity of distribution **(the Licence)**.²

Condition 30 (6) (of the Licence) provides that (barring specified exceptions)

¹ What follows is a summary of the Application. It is not intended to be a complete rehearsal. All parts of the Application have been considered in making the decision set out in this correspondence. Failure to mention parts of the Application (or related correspondence) should not be taken as representing any failure to have regard to those parts.

² [NIE Distribution Licence](#).

³ NIE Networks is obliged to make an offer for connection to the distribution system *as soon as practicable* and (by operation of Condition 30 (6)(b)) *in any event within 3 months, after receipt by [NIE Networks] of an application containing all such information in relation to the required connection as [NIE Networks] may reasonably request....."*

Condition 30 (6) is to be read alongside and reflects the provision made in Article 20(3) through to Article 20(5) of the Electricity (NI) Order 1992 (the **Electricity Order**).

Condition 30 (7) of the Licence allows NIE Networks to make an application to the Authority⁴ (following requisite consultation) for a consent (in writing) that the period specified in Condition 30 (6)(b) shall be substituted by a longer period and subject to any conditions as specified in the consent.

Significantly, the making – or grant - of a Condition 30(7) type application does not alter NIE Networks' licence obligation⁵ (under Condition 30(6)(a)) to make a connection offer *as soon as practicable*. The primary obligation (recorded in Condition 30(6)(a) of the Licence and Article 20 the Electricity Order) - to make a connection offer *as soon as practicable* - remains.

NIE Networks states as part of the Application, that it received a valid application (for the Relevant Connection Offer) from the Connection Applicant on 25 May 2026, for a Diesel Generator (■■■■), meaning the existing Condition 30 (6) period expires on 22 August 2026.

The Application (made in the Letter) is for consent – under Condition 30(7) - for a longer substituted Condition 30 (6)(b) period out to 22 February 2027.

NIE Networks outlines in the application *"a bespoke engineering design and modification is required at Newtownards Main, NIE Networks requires additional time to assess and compile the associated costs before completing the necessary design work."*

Additionally, *"NIE Networks expects to determine the required design by 22nd November 2026, after which the application can be progressed. A further 6 months will be required to complete this process as the application requires a comprehensive HV and LV network study, together with the preparation and issue of the appropriate documentation."*

NIE Networks outlines the proposed extension duration c.3 months to

³ Recorded in Article 21 of the [Electricity \(NI\) Order 1992](#) (the Electricity Order): see Condition 30(6) (d) of the Licence.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Which aligns with the statutory duties reflected in Articles 19 and 20 of the Electricity Order.

“compile costs and complete bespoke design”, additionally a further c.3 months to “complete network study and issue Connection Offer.”

NIE Networks “requests an extension of time to issue this Connection Offer from 22nd August 2026 to 22nd February 2027, as permitted in Condition 30 paragraph 7. Should NIE Networks complete the design modification sooner, the Connection Offer will be progressed as soon as practicable.”

NIE Networks notes the “extension would facilitate a fair and transparent network capacity allocation and queuing process for the capacity available.” Furthermore, “This extension will enable NIE Networks to progress the connection design and production of a connection offer subject to capacity becoming available.”

Therefore, NIE Networks requests an extension of the Condition 30 timeline to 22 February 2027. NIE Networks states not granting the extension would result in a refusal to connect and would prevent [REDACTED] connecting to the network.

2. Consultation associated with the Application

Condition 30(7)(a) of the Licence provides that NIE Networks must consult with the Connection Applicant when making an application (for extension) under Condition 30(7).

NIE Networks wrote to the Connection Applicant on 4 August 2026 advising of its intention to apply for an extension application to UR. NIE Networks additionally requested the Connection Applicants feedback, to either support or not support the extension application.

The Connection Applicant responded the same day understanding the bespoke engineering requirements associated with the project. The Connection Applicant requested NIE Networks to verify the capacity, NIE Networks confirmed the capacity will still be available on 22 February 2027.

The Connection Applicant emailed on 07/08/2026 confirming support for the extension to 22 February 2027 or sooner.

3. The Authority’s decision

In making our decision on the Application we have regard to:

- (a) our published Decision Paper Guidance⁶
- (b) our principal objective (and related statutory objectives) under Article 12 of the Energy (NI) Order 2003
- (c) the contents of the Application

⁶ [Electricity Connections Review Decision Paper | Utility Regulator \(uregni.gov.uk\)](https://www.uregni.gov.uk/electricity-connections-review-decision-paper)

(d) the consultation with the Connection Applicant

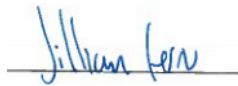
Having considered the matter fully, the Authority hereby confirms that it provides the consent sought in the Application. It follows that the period under Condition 30(6)(b) of the Licence (in respect of the application for connection made by the Connection Applicant for the Diesel Generator (██████) at Ballyalcock North PGM 124B Movilla Road Newtownards is now extended until 22 February 2027.

We would also take this opportunity to confirm that the (extended consented to) period ending 22 February 2027 is a “long stop” date.

The obligation under Condition 30 of the Licence is (now), subject to applicable exceptions,⁷ to make a Relevant Connection Offer to the Connection Applicant for the Diesel Generator (██████) at **Ballyalcock North PGM 124B Movilla Road Newtownards**, “as soon as practicable” and “in any event no later than” 22 February 2027. The Licence obligation is not (now) simply to offer connection terms by **22 February 2027**.

This decision will be published and placed on the Register in the normal way. Please do return to us should you require any clarification.

Yours sincerely,



Jillian Ferris

Head of Networks

Duly authorised by the Authority

⁷ Consonant with NIE Networks' licence obligations and its statutory duties set out in Articles 12 and 19 of the Electricity Order.