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

Date: 08 October 2026

Our Ref: NET/E/BM/1533

Dear Eimear,

Request for Authority's consent to Extend Section S Offer Timelines for an Increased Capacity of 81MW (Via a Second Transformer) at Tremoge Cluster

Thank you for your letter received 28 September 2026 (the **Letter**) setting out an application **(the third Application)** made under Condition 25(5) of SONI's Transmission Licence ("the Licence") - seeking the Authority's consent for the extension of the period for the making of a (Section S)¹ Connection Offer to NIE Networks, (as Distribution Network Owner - **DNO**).

1. Condition 25 of the Licence.

Section S of the Transmission Interface Agreement ('**TIA**') gives NIE Networks the right to submit an application to SONI to provide any necessary transmission works, when a person has applied to NIE Networks to connect to the Distribution System, and in the view of NIE Networks this may require a Construction Project, were it to proceed.

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 Of the Transmission Interface Arrangement (TIA).

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 application (by NIE Networks), for a Section S Connection Offer, was deemed effective by SONI on 17 April 2025, with SONI stating it had until 16 July 2025 to make a Connection Offer. On receipt of an application for extension of this time period (**the first application**), this was then extended by the Authority² to 10 October 2025³.

SONI states in the first application that there had been a recent influx of connection applications/Section S applications received. Due to a lack of capacity on the Transmission System, each of these applications required technically complex work to identify the Least Cost Technically Acceptable (LCTA) connection arrangement, which would create difficulty in processing the number of those technically complex applications within the statutory timelines. This extension was granted by the Authority.

Another application for extension (**the second application**) was received on 29 September 2025, which applied for extension of the Condition 25 period from 10 October 2025 to 12 October 2026. This was approved by the Authority on 10 October 2025. Connection studies for the Tremoge Cluster had identified potential overloads on the transmission system. These required investigation into deeper network reinforcement, including identification of a preferred option and any pre-construction approval. This extension was also granted by the Authority.

² 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.

³ [2025.07.16 SONI C25 Tremoge DL](#)

3. The Application

The third application is for extension of the period within which to issue a Section S offer from **12 October 2026** to **13 January 2027**.

SONI states in the third application that it has progressed assessment of the connection requirements and has developed a Least Cost Technically Acceptable solution, based on installing the second 90 MVA 110/33 kV transformer within the existing Tremoge Main Substation.

SONI states that connection studies, taking account of the volume of generation already connected and in the connection queue, indicate very high loading on the Tremoge – Tamnamore 110 kV circuit under intact network conditions. The potential extra 81MW facilitated at Tremoge Cluster could interact with a later transmission application in the queue, and *“that the Tremoge-Tamnamore circuit could be overloaded under intact network conditions.”* This will delay the allocation of further transmission capacity, until network reinforcements are in place.

SONI outlines that the assessment of the *“individual and cumulative impacts of the relevant connections”* has been extensive, and *“given the significance of the loadings demonstrated, this work has required additional time compared with the period normally required for connection studies.”*

SONI says, *“further time is required to complete SONI’s assessment and submit the Construction Application to NIE Networks,”* (anticipated in the third application to be c. 30 October 2026) and await receipt of a Construction Offer from NIE Networks (anticipated in the third application to be c. 30 December 2026), along with completion of design, cost and scope activities, to be in a position to issue a Section S offer by 13 January 2027.

SONI comments that, if this extension request was not approved, then it would not be able to issue a Section S Offer by 12 October 2026 and would likely have to refuse to make one. SONI has stated that there are no alternative actions that would allow it to issue the Section S offer by 12 October 2026.

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 identified affected parties as NIE Networks. NIE Networks (as DNO) is the applicant in respect of which the Section S connection request has been made. NIE Networks (as Transmission Owner - **TO**) is affected or interested, with respect to the Construction Project application and offer process under the TIA.

Consultation with the Connection Applicant

SONI sent an email consulting NIE Networks on the decision to apply for extension, on 24 September 2026.

NIE Networks issued a response via email on 25 September 2026 and reflected that it *“does not have any objections to the proposed extension,”* as well as seeking clarification on whether the full capacity of 81MW would be available. On 28 September 2026, via email, SONI confirmed it would be.

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.⁴

Our decision is to:

- (i) accede to the Application considering it properly founded; and (accordingly)
- (ii) give consent to an extension to **13 January 2027** for the purposes of Condition 25(5) as regards the connection application for a Section S connection offer, concerning 81MW increased capacity at Tremoge Cluster.

The Authority is satisfied that we should grant the Application based on

⁴ [Electricity Connections Decision FINAL.pdf \(uregni.gov.uk\)](#).

the need for more time to complete network assessment, and to submit a Construction Application, and receive a Construction Offer.

We 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.

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,



Brian Mulhern

Director of Networks

Duly authorised by the Authority