Utility Regulator

Jordan Mcallister

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

Date: 13/11/2026

Our Ref: NET/E/JF/1548

Dear Jordan,

Request for Extension of Time to Issue a Connection Offer for Connection Application 61 Hill Street, Milford, NIE Job Ref: [redacted]

Thank you for your letter received 3 November 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 proposed [redacted] Biogas plant connection at Flux Energy, 61 Hill Street, Milford. The current licence standard date for issue of the Connection Offer is **19 November 2026.**

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 background[1] to the Application. Reference

[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

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)[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 Authority[4] (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 obligation[5] (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 18 August 2026, for a [redacted] Biogas connection at Drumnakelly Main Substation, meaning the existing Condition 30(6) period expires on 19 November 2026.

The Application (made in the Letter) is for consent – under Condition 30(7)

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] 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.

- for a longer substituted Condition 30 (6)(b) period out to 29 June 2027.

NIE Networks states that *"work has progressed for small scale applications associated with Drumnakelly Main, and this job is 3rd in the queue. The application ahead in the queue, which is also a Flux Energy application, has a Connection Offer date of 29 December 2026 and has 90 days to make a decision on the offer."*

While 90 days has been referenced, 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*

NIE Networks states that it requires additional time to:

1. Determine final capacity and what reinforcement is required.

2. Clarification of the capacity position at Drumnakelly Main to be clarified by approximately 29th March 2027.

3. NIE Networks will then require up to three months to complete the necessary HV and LV network studies and issue the Connection Offer, resulting in a proposed offer date of 29th June 2027.

NIE Networks states *"The extension rationale outlines how this application is subject to an application ahead in the queue which is supplied from the same Drumnakelly Main which is out of NIE Networks' control. NIE Networks therefore requests an extension of time to issue this Connection Offer from 19th November 2026 to 29th June 2027, as permitted in Condition 30 paragraph 7. Should NIE Networks know the required reinforcement works sooner, the Connection Offer will be progressed as soon as practicable."*

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).

The Application confirms that NIE Networks consulted with the Connection Applicant via email on 2 November 2026. The Connection

Applicant responded on 3 November 2026, confirming that they are content to proceed with the extension.

Commented [JF1]: They are probably not happy!

3. The Authority's decision

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

(a) our published Decision Paper Guidance[6]

(b) our principal objective (and related statutory objectives) under Article 12 of the Energy (NI) Order 2003

(c) the contents of the Application

(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 a [redacted] Biogas connection at Flux Energy, 61 Hill Street, Milford is extended until **29 June 2027**.

The Authority considers the Application justified considering the network capacity constraints described by NIE Networks and the dependency of the present application on the outcome of an earlier queued application at the same substation.

The Authority also notes NIE Networks' commitment that, should the required information become available sooner than anticipated, the Relevant Connection Offer will be progressed as soon as practicable.

We take this opportunity to confirm that the extended period ending 29 June 2027 is a long-stop date.

The obligation under Condition 30 of the Licence is, therefore, subject to applicable exceptions, to make a Relevant Connection Offer to the Connection Applicant for the proposed [redacted] Biogas Plant connection at Flux Energy, 61 Hill Street, Milford, as soon as practicable and in any event no later than 29 June 2027. The licence obligation is not simply to issue connection terms by that date.

[6] Electricity Connections Review Decision Paper | Utility Regulator (uregni.gov.uk)

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