

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND AUTHORITY FOR UTILITY REGULATION (THE 'BOARD') HELD ON THURSDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2019 IN QUEENS HOUSE AT 11.30 A.M.**

**Present:**

Bill Emery (Chairman), Jenny Pyper (Chief Executive), Teresa Perchard, Alex Wiseman, Jon Carlton, David de Casseres, Claire Williams.

**In attendance:**

SMT - Kevin Shiels, Donald Henry, Tanya Hedley, Colin Broomfield, Roisin McLaughlin, John Mills, Elaine Cassidy

Barbara Stevenson (for all items), Barbara Cantley (for all items), John Magill (agenda item 4), Jillian Ferris (agenda item 5), Natalie Dowey, Kenny McPartland (agenda item 6), Sarah Brady, Frankie Dodds (agenda item 7), Tony Doherty (agenda item 9), Brian Mulhern (agenda item 10).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Greg Irwin.

**2. FIRE DRILL**

2.1 The board members were informed of the evacuation procedures which apply in the event of a fire.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declaration of interests.

**4. EVERMORE ES LIMITED ELECTRICITY SUPPLY LICENCE MODIFICATION**

4.1 The board discussed the proposal to modify the Evermore Limited electricity supply licence to amend the financial year.

4.2 The board noted the reasons for the amendment and approved the licence modification as presented.

**5. BGTL REQUEST FOR A NEW POWER STATION CONNECTION AND FUTURE CONSEQUENTIAL ISSUES**

5.1 Roisin McLaughlin provided background and detail of the request from BGTL for a new power station connection to the gas network.

5.2 Criteria for a new connection was discussed along with implications of the connection including available network capacity and socialisation costs. The board approved BGTL's request to enable them to provide an initial connection offer to the new power station.

**6. SONI GOVERNANCE UPDATE**

6.1 Tanya Hedley provided a verbal update on the SONI governance review. This included a discussion on the aims and scope of the review.

6.2 The board were updated on responses received to the call for evidence as well as the SONI business plan submission that forms part of the price control process.

- 6.3 The board discussed further operational and governance arrangements including best practice from other organisations and FRC guidance.
- 7. NIRO UPDATE**
- 7.1 Sarah Brady introduced an update on the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) on a range of issues including: supplier compliance, NIRO assurance and risk management group, the NIAO investigation, NIRO post project evaluation and investigations.
- 7.2 The board sought further detail of the progress on the NIAO investigation including possible conclusions and recommendations.
- 8. DRAFT FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21**
- 8.1 Jenny Pyper introduced the Draft Forward Work Programme (FWP) 2020-21 for comment by the board. It was noted a stakeholder briefing on the draft FWP is to be held in January.
- 8.2 The board gave a broad welcome to the draft FWP as presented. A small number of drafting changes were suggested.
- 8.3 The board endorsed the draft FWP and approved for publication.
- 9. CLEAN ENERGY PACKAGE UPDATE**
- 9.1 Elaine Cassidy provided an overview of the main elements of the Clean Energy Package including legislative timeframes and the implementation timetable.
- 9.2 Tony Doherty further updated the board on the detail of the electricity regulation, risk preparedness regulation and ACER regulation.
- 9.3 The board further discussed key areas of significance including the capacity remuneration mechanism, balance responsibility, priority dispatch and redispatch, market parameters, regional co-ordination centres and aggregation.
- 9.4 Brexit implications were also considered as well as next steps.
- 10. MARKET MONITORING REPORTS**
- 10.1 The board noted the SEM market monitoring report Q2 2019 and the Quarterly Transparency report Q3 2019. It was agreed that further discussions on market monitoring data to take place at the next Board Advisory Forum.
- 11. SEM ANNUAL REPORT**
- 11.1 The board noted the contents and publication of the SEM annual report.
- 12. BREXIT UPDATE**
- 12.1 Board members were updated on preparedness for EU exit in all exit scenarios. They clarified aspects of the implications and delivery of the current withdrawal agreement (between the EU and the UK).
- 13. MINUTES**
- 13.1 The minutes of the board meeting on 17 October and 14 November were agreed for publication.

**14 ACTION POINTS**

14.1 The action points were reviewed by the board.

**15 REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM**

15.1 Jenny Pyper provided an overview of the Executive team report. She noted the update on the gas to the west project including operational commencement date.

15.2 Jon Carlton highlighted the high standard of presentations and discussion at the recent cyber security resilience forum.

15.3 There was also an update on activity in the SEM.

15.4 An overview was provided on the finance and performance report and the report was approved. It was agreed that the board would have further discussions on risk at the next meeting.

15.5 The board forward look was noted.

**16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

16.1 The board conducted a review of the meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 3.45 p.m.

