

23rd January 2013

Renewables Grid Liaison Group

Minutes of Meeting

Attendees	
Utility Regulator	Tanya Hedley (TH) Sarah Friedel (SF)
NIRIG	Mervyn Adams (MA(d)), Michael Harper (MH), Meabh Cormacain (MC)
NIE	Robert Wasson (RW), David de Casseres(DdC), Gerry Hodgkinson (GH), Michael Atkinson (MA), Lisa McClean (LMC)
SONI	Dick Lewis (DL)
Apologies	See below

No	Item	Action
1	<p>Apologies Robert Wasson and Donogh O'Brien sent their apologies for not being able to attend.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes from meeting on 22nd December Agreed that the minutes from the meeting on 22nd December were in order. TH requested that a separate action sheet would be included in the minutes.</p> <p>Actions from meeting on 22nd December</p> <p><u>Statement of Charge for Cluster</u> See item 3</p> <p><u>Stage Payment -10% deposit</u> MA explained that NIE had now considered the 10% deposit level internally in some detail and plan to discuss their position shortly with NIRIG at a separate meeting. MA(d) requested this meeting to take place as soon as possible - MA agreed</p> <p><u>Small Scale Generation -11kV Network Access</u> See item 7</p> <p><u>Rebate Policy Extending beyond domestic customers</u> See item 8</p> <p><u>Draft Report Format</u> See item 9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NIE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NIE</p>
3	<p>Cluster Charging Update GH explained that NIE had made progress, have bottomed out most issues and intend to provide an updated draft with the regulator by Wednesday 29th of January. TH stated that they aim to have the approval process in place by the end of February.</p> <p>MA stated that once the methodology was approved NIE would then work towards having the 10 wind farms re-quoted. GH explained that if the developer wanted the FAQ information within the connection offer then the timeline for issuing the connection offer for these 10 wind farms would be dependant on the FAQ methodology being agreed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NIE/UR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NIE</p>

No	Item	Action
4	<p>Generation Connection – FAQ process</p> <p>Noting the number of steps required GH and DL considered that it could be July before the FAQ information could be included in connection offers if Regulatory approval was received early next week.</p> <p>MA (d) stated that the connection offers should be sent out without FAQ information as the proposed timeline for getting FAQ included is too long. DL noted that, if the proposed methodology was applied, none of the 10 wind farms will have Firm Access and that the question for these developers will be when they will become firm. The MTP will also help them in determining this.</p> <p>MA (d) highlighted that banks may struggle with not having FAQ information within the connection offer, therefore the FAQ decision should not be held back because of the offshore generation connection arrangement consultation.</p> <p>DL stated that in order to help the developers SONI/NIE could highlight what 'transmission works' will make them firm.</p>	<p>UR</p> <p>SONI/NIE</p>
5	<p>Fund 3/ MTP Utility Regulator Decision Paper</p> <p>TH stated that the consultation on the MTP had closed yesterday (22nd January 2013). Five responses were received. TH noted that it is hoped that the consultation conclusion report will be published by the end of February.</p> <p>There was discussion around NIRIG's response to the consultation.</p> <p>The question was asked would all projects going forward have to go out to consultation.</p> <p>TH explained that the requirement for a public consultation would depend on the quantum of the proposed investment. She explained that significant projects that would have a clear impact on tariffs and which required UR Board approval could be subject to a short public consultation (6 weeks) in order to provide for public engagement.</p>	<p>UR</p>
6	<p>Offshore Consultation</p> <p>TH stated that the draft offshore consultation paper had been completed before Christmas; however there is one outstanding legal issue which needs to be dealt with before the paper can be put out for consultation. It is hoped to get this out by March. TH feels that SONI may need to progress a further consultation in September.</p> <p>MH asked would the consultation be out by the next meeting. TH replied that it would most likely not be - but to include on agenda for the next meeting.</p>	<p>UR</p>
7	<p>Small Scale Generation – 11kV Network Access</p> <p>SONI, NIRIG and NIE have formed a working group and have held one meeting. It was agreed at this meeting that 11kV network access was something they wanted to consider further. GH noted there are a lot of technical and commercial issues to be considered and that engagement with stakeholders would continue.</p> <p>TH stated that she had received a number of letters for individuals regarding this topic and will respond in due course.</p>	<p>NIE</p> <p>UR</p>

No	Item	Action
8	<p>Rebate policy extending beyond domestic customers</p> <p>MA (d) asked what the rebate policy timelines were. TH stated that it should be able to be done quickly. TH however will inform NIRIG when they have passed it on to DETI.</p>	UR
9	<p>AOB</p> <p><u>Renewable Level Report Format</u></p> <p>MA circulated the a draft renewable level report which highlighted the level of renewable generation installed on the network already and what level of renewable generation is required in order to meet the 40% target assuming a certain load factor.</p> <p>DL explained that SONI can not provide accurate information for small scale as they do not have access to these meter readings ROC meter readings. DL noted that it is sometimes difficult to know what mix of generators (i.e. wind or diesel) exists “behind the meter” and that the ROC information was not always up to date. It was agreed that the UR needed to raise this issue with the relevant people.</p> <p>TH is keen for the Renewable level to be reported she would be keen for it to have the same format as the EIRGRID monthly report.</p> <p>TH stated that NIE should circulate an updated Renewable Level Report Format by the next meeting with the help of SONI. It was agreed that the proposed format was ok but the amount ‘in construction’ should be added. TH also suggested that a description of what the report is trying to achieve should be added.</p> <p><u>Text for UR website</u></p> <p>TH stated that they would circulate the text for the website after the meeting and if there were no objections it would be put on the Website on Monday 28th January.</p> <p><u>Interconnector</u></p> <p>DdC explained that before adjournment of the Public Inquiry in March 2012, the PAC requested NIE to consolidate the Environmental Statement that accompanies the planning application, and NIE is presently proceeding with this process with a view to submitting the revised documentation in April 2013.</p> <p>DdC highlighted the significance of the Interconnector in terms of enabling the further connection of wind powered generation, and also that the recently published SONI/EIRGRID ‘Generation Capacity Statement’ clearly demonstrated that, following the planned decommissioning of generation plant in Northern Ireland in 2016, there would be a significantly increased risk of load shedding in the continuing absence of enhanced interconnection.</p> <p>Any further delay in the achievement of planning approval for the Interconnector is now a matter of rising concern. David encouraged everyone to strongly support the need for the Interconnector when the revised documentation is re-submitted to the PAC, because there is no other project in train or under development at present that is able to solve these issues, and the negative consequences, both economically and to ‘Northern Ireland plc’, could become very significant.</p>	<p>UR</p> <p>NIE/SONI</p> <p>NIE/SONI/ NIRIG</p>

No	Item	Action
10	<p data-bbox="300 199 638 230">Dates for next meetings</p> <p data-bbox="300 264 630 295">Dates agreed as follows:</p> <ul data-bbox="347 329 671 499" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="347 329 671 360">▪ 12th March 2013<li data-bbox="347 362 671 394">▪ 14th May 2013<li data-bbox="347 396 671 427">▪ 9th July 2013<li data-bbox="347 430 671 461">▪ 10th Sept 2013<li data-bbox="347 463 671 495">▪ 12 Nov 2013	

No	Item	Action
1.	Separate action sheet to be included within minutes	NIE
2.	Set up a separate meeting with NIREG regarding 10% deposit	NIE
3.	Submit an update draft of Cluster Charging paper to regulator by Wednesday 29 th of January.	NIE
4.	Approval process for Cluster charging paper to be in place by the end of February.	UR
5.	Once methodology is approved, work towards getting re-quotes for 10 wind farms out.	NIE
6.	UR agreement on FAQ consultation response document to be sent early next week in order to enable it to be sent out.	UR
7.	SONI/NIE to highlight what 'transmission works' will make the 10 wind farms firm.	SONI/NIE
8.	Consultation conclusion report for MTP to be published by the end of February.	UR
9.	Off-shore consultation paper to be put out to consultation by March.	UR
10.	Continue engagement on 11kV network access with stakeholders through the working group.	NIE
11.	UR to respond to individual letters regarding 11kV network access.	UR
12.	Inform NIREG when they have passed the Rebate policy extending beyond domestic customers onto DETI.	UR
13.	UR to raise the issue that ROC information provided is out of date with the relevant people.	UR
14.	Produce a monthly report in the same format as EIRGRIDs monthly report.	SONI
15.	NIE should circulate an updated Renewable Level Report Format by the next meeting with the help of SONI. It should include the amount in constructions and a paragraph of what it is trying to achieve.	NIE/SONI
16.	Circulate the text for the website and if there were no objections it would be put on the Website on Monday 28 th January.	UR