

Renewables Grid Liaison Group – Terms of Reference

1 The purpose of the Group is:

- a) To discuss and facilitate progress in the development of the Northern Ireland grid and renewable generation connections and storage so that renewable targets and the Executive priorities for Northern Ireland are achieved.
- b) To help ensure effective communication and progress on generation connections and related policy implementation including by way of example:
 - I. Processing of connection offers
 - II. Charging statements
 - III. Cluster development
 - IV. Connection offer content and format
 - V. Delivery of Deep Reinforcement works
 - VI. Firm access, Constraint and Curtailment reports

The above list reflects particular issues that require to be considered at the time of the establishment of the group and subsequent review. Whilst they therefore represent priorities at that time the purpose of the Group is also to identify and act upon other issues that the Group considers merit consideration and prioritise as appropriate.

- c) To share relevant information and provide updates on progress in respect of all matters relating to the issues under consideration
- d) To communicate, as required, with other stakeholders and stakeholders groups where this is required to address the issues under consideration by the Group.
- e) The Group is not a forum for resolving matters which relate to specific renewable connection projects albeit individual projects may inevitably be referred to for illustrative purposes only.

2 What will success for this group look like?

Success will be measured by progress on those areas that are under the control of the group. Specific measures of success will be:-

- The level of renewable energy in Northern Ireland continues to increase in line with the Executive targets and priorities.
- Development of the transmission network and cluster infrastructure that keeps pace with the level of connection of renewable generation whilst reflecting the Utility Regulator's requirement to assess the value to consumers.
- Reasonable timescale for delivery of connections.
- The connection of renewable generation and development of the transmission network at a level of cost that reflects the optimal balance of costs between all stakeholders.
- The establishment of a level of transparency that fully supports the delivery of all of the above objectives.
- More efficient consultation processes.
- Appropriate updates from the work being carried out in other areas including DS3, I-SEM and EMR.

3 Meeting Structure

In addition to consideration of issues agreed in section 1b above, each meeting will be supported by the following reports:

- Regular updates on overall progress towards established targets;
- Quarterly updates by NIE on network development and associated works; and
- Other items relating to the above as participants deem relevant.

Depending on the focus and agenda of individual meetings, additional participants may attend, subject to the prior agreement of the Group.

4 Membership

The Group membership can include representatives from the UR, SONI, NIE, the renewable generation sector and from the electricity storage sector. The Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment (DETI) attends in an observer capacity.

The Renewable Generation sector will be represented by an appropriate range of interests. That range of interests and the individual participants may vary as required subject to the agreement of the group.

5 Operating Principles

- a) The Group will nominally meet on a quarterly basis or more frequently if deemed appropriate. NIAUR will chair the Group. NIE will provide the secretariat. Ad-hoc meetings may also be held as required. The meetings will be held at the NIAUR Offices Belfast;
- b) The Secretariat will send a proposed meeting agenda to the group members at least ten business days before each meeting. Each member has until five business days prior to the meeting to suggest additional/other items for the agenda. The Secretariat will then circulate the final agenda to all members at least three business days prior to the meeting;
- c) Subsequent to the meeting, and within 10 business days, the Secretariat will circulate draft minutes and an action list of the meeting to all group members by e-mail.
- d) The Secretariat will consider all comments received and will finalise the minutes and action list. If no comments are received from the group within the aforementioned 10 day period the draft minutes and action list are deemed to be the final;
- e) The Secretariat will distribute to the group the final minutes and action list within 15 days of the meeting; and,
- f) Final minutes will be published for public access by NIAUR within 20 business days of the meeting.