

Brian Moorehead  
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited

Date: 30/11/2017

Our Ref: CNO/E/TH/275

Dear Brian,

**Request for Authority's consent to further defer Connection Offer Timelines for the Bessey Bell Windfarm, Connection Application, NIE Networks reference 15/15225.**

Thank you for your letter of 15 November 2017 requesting further consent from the Authority for NIE Networks to extend the required three month timeline to issue a connection offer to **Bessey Bell Windfarm**, Connection Application.

Having considered your letter we grant an extension to 30 April 2018 for this connection application as you request. We also wish to remind NIE Networks that we remain of the view that granting of extensions should be the exception rather than the norm and so NIE Networks should be mindful of this if considering further extensions in the future.

**NIE Network's request for further connection offer extension**

NIE Networks has said that the extension is required in order to facilitate Phase 1 Queuing and Capacity Allocation Process (as consulted upon and supported by stakeholders) in this discrete area of the network where capacity may become available in the short term. If capacity does become available, NIE Networks will then require 90 days or less in order to produce a connection offer, as per the three month standard in Condition 30 of the Distribution Licence.

NIE Network's asks for a further extension for these connection offers from 30 November 2017 to 30 April 2018 under Condition 30 of the NIE Networks Distribution licence. We summarise the following information which NIE Networks provides in support of its request as follows:

- Enabling this application to remain in the phase 1 process presents a potential benefit by providing a greater opportunity for the remaining capacity at Drumquin Cluster to be fully secured and funded by generation projects.
- The methods of allocating network capacity that were consulted and agreed upon (Phase 1) will be followed upon grant of this extension. This will allow this application to be treated non discriminatorily on the same ruleset as all other applicants that may make a connection application for this transmission node.
- There is minimal impact on this applicant or any others and the remaining capacity at Drumquin Cluster can continue to be allocated based on the consulted upon methodology (Phase 1).

- If the extension is not granted, this applicant would receive a refusal to connect (as permitted under Article 21 of the Electricity Order (NI)) from NIE Networks, meaning that they would not be able to remain in the queue under the phase 1 rule-set and may be unable to avail of the potential capacity that may become available.
- NIE Networks has consulted the connection applicant throughout the process. The connection applicant supports the request for extension.

### **The Authority's decision**

The relevant section of the distribution licence is within Condition 30. This requires a connection offer to be made not later than 3 months unless consent to a longer period has been approved by the Authority.

You now request a further extension of the limit as provided for in Condition 30 from 30 November 2017 to 30 April 2018 for this connection applicant.

We welcome that your request meets the minimum requirements and process for requesting and granting an extension as set out in our 31 May 2017 connections review decision paper.<sup>1</sup>

Having considered your request and reviewed the response from the connection applicant in question, the Authority is able to agree to the extension period requested.

We note that this extension letter will be published on our website. We will also keep a record of the information and decision on the Public Electricity Register as required by the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992.

We ask to be kept informed of progress.

Yours sincerely,



**Tanya Hedley**  
**Director of Compliance and Network Operations**

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uregni.gov.uk/sites/uregni/files/media-files/Electricity%20Connections%20Decision%20FINAL.pdf>