

Brian Moorehead
Network Connections Design Team,
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited

Date: 30/11/2017

Our Ref: CNO/E/TH/280

Dear Brian,

Request for Authority's consent to further defer Connection Offer Timelines for the Hightown Quarry, Boghill Road, Mallusk, Connection Application, NIE Networks reference 16/16703

Thank you for your letter of 27 November 2017 requesting further consent from the Authority for NIE Networks to extend the required three month timeline to issue a connection offer to **Hightown Quarry, Boghill Road, Mallusk** Connection Application.

This follows an application from the connection applicant to NIE Networks for an extension of time to provide a connection offer, of which you provided in appendix 1 of your letter.

Having considered your letter and appendix 1, we grant an extension to 30 April 2018 for this connection application. 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 decided to submit this application on behalf of the applicant on the basis of the exceptional circumstances set out in the applicant's extension application, with specific consideration to the Judicial Review process and timelines that the applicant now faces.

We summarise the following information which NIE Networks provides in support of its request as follows:

- if this extension request is granted, the application will be allowed to remain live for the duration of the granted extension. If capacity were to become available for this application during this time then a connection offer would be issued as soon as practicably possible prior to the expiration of the extension of time to offer connection.
- In the event that additional capacity may become available at the relevant network node during the period of the extension requested by this applicant; then this applicant would have priority to that capacity over those that will receive a

connection refusal on 30 November 2017 and who may subsequently re-apply for a connection at some future point.

- 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.

We note that we have received this request after the period set out in our minimum requirements, as set out in our 31 May 2017 connections review decision paper.¹ We ask that going forward any extension requests are provided for in the appropriate timescales.

Having considered your request and reviewed the response from the connection applicant in question, the Authority is able to agree to providing an extension until 30 April 2018.

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

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