

Brian Moorehead
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited

Date: 30/11/2017

Our Ref: CNO/E/TH/274

Dear Brian,

Request for Authority's consent to further defer Connection Offer Timelines for the Murley Mountain Windfarm, Connection Application, NIE Networks reference 15/15133.

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 **Murley Mountain 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 Network's 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 a discrete area of the network where capacity remains, at the Gort Cluster. It says that detailed in the *Alternative Connection Application and Offer Process – Decision Paper* transmission capacity at existing or designated clusters, such as Gort, has been allocated in order to make the most efficient use of the available capacity at those cluster sites. Therefore 'Phase 1' transmission capacity remains at this transmission node.

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 Gort 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 Gort Cluster can continue to be allocated based on the consulted upon methodology (Phase 1).
- 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.¹

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

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