

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

Date: 30/11/2017

Our Ref: CNO/E/TH/279

Dear Brian,

Request for Authority's consent to further defer Connection Offer Timelines for the 11 Taughlumy Road, Donaghcloney, Connection Application, NIE Networks reference 16/16042

Thank you for your letter of 20 November 2017 requesting further consent from the Authority for NIE Networks to extend the required three month timeline to issue a connection offer to **11 Taughlumy Road, Donaghcloney** Connection Application.

Having considered your letter we grant an extension to 28 February 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

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. The availability of transmission capacity has been confirmed via e-mail correspondence from SONI that was received by NIE Networks on 16th November 2017. NIE Networks have subsequently confirmed that distribution capacity is available.

NIE Network's asks for a further extension for these connection offers from 30 November 2017 to 28 February 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:

- This extension will enable NIE Networks to progress the connection design and production of a connection offer with sufficient detail on the method of connection and relevant charges to meet customer requirements.
- As the availability of capacity has only been confirmed on 16 November 2017, it would not be possible to issue a connection offer with sufficient detail as to meet customer demands prior to the current licence expiry date of 30 November 2017.

- 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 28 February 2018 for this connection applicant.

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 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>