

All interested parties, stakeholders in Northern Ireland and other regulatory bodies.

Ref: CNO/E/TH/392

Date: 27 June 2018

To whom it may concern

Request for Amendment to the TSOs proposal of Load Frequency Control (LFC) Structure Methodology

In accordance with Article 141(2) of Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485, establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation, on the 12 January 2018 the Utility Regulator (UR) received the TSOs' (SONI – The System Operator in Northern Ireland in conjunction with EirGrid) a proposal for the Load Frequency Control Structure methodology for Ireland and Northern Ireland (the LFC Block Proposal”).

This letter sets out the UR's decision to request amendment to the LFC Block Proposal pursuant to Article 6(7) of Regulation 2017/1485.

Background

The Regulation 2017/1485 establishes a guideline on electricity transmission system operation (hereafter referred to as 'SOGL'), This document provides detail on the decision of the UR, on the proposal on Load Frequency Control (LFC) Structure for the synchronous area of Ireland and Northern Ireland. In accordance with Article 5 (1) and Article 6 (3) (g) of the SOGL the TSOs submitted a proposal that related to the synchronous area that spans Ireland and Northern Ireland (the 'Synchronous Area IE/NI').

SONI and Eirgrid conducted a public consultation on their proposed LFC Block Structure from 29th November 2017 and closed on the 8th January 2018. One response was received to this consultation, and the TSOs addressed the concerns of the respondent in their final submitted proposal to the Regulatory Authorities.

The TSOs' proposal submitted detail, which outlined that there would be one monitoring area, one LFC area, and one LFC Block within the existing All-island Synchronous area. Their proposal outlined the following TSO responsibilities for each structure as per the below table.

Country	TSO (full company name)	TSO (short name)	Monitoring Area	LFC Area	LFC Block
Ireland	EirGrid	EIRGRID	EIRGRID + SONI	EIRGRID + SONI	EIRGRID + SONI
Northern Ireland	SONI (System Operator for Northern Ireland)	SONI	EIRGRID + SONI	EIRGRID + SONI	EIRGRID + SONI

Decision

The UR has reviewed the LFC Block Proposal in line with the requirements of the SOGL, the wider objectives of Regulation (EC) 2017/1485 and the UR's statutory duties and obligations.

As required by Article 6(7), the UR has closely cooperated and coordinated with other Regulatory Authorities (Commission for Regulation of Utilities - CRU) in order to reach agreement on the proposal.

The UR considers that the proposals to create designate the All-island system as one LFC Block, and one LFC area is in line with current operational practice, and will best align with system operation processes and procurement mechanisms for reserve services.

However with regards to the proposal to have only one monitoring area across the synchronous area the UR have considered the operational responsibilities of SONI within Northern Ireland in line with their licensed activities and hereby requests an amendment of the LFC Block proposal by SONI to ensure that two monitoring areas are established, and that SONI is solely responsible for the monitoring of its transmission system only in Northern Ireland.

The UR decision requests the following TSO responsibilities for each structure as per the below table:

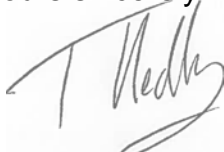
Country	TSO (full company name)	TSO (short name)	Monitoring Area	LFC Area	LFC Block
Ireland	EirGrid	EIRGRID	EIRGRID	EIRGRID + SONI	EIRGRID + SONI
Northern Ireland	SONI (System Operator for Northern Ireland)	SONI	SONI	EIRGRID + SONI	EIRGRID + SONI

Next Steps

In accordance with Article 7(6) of Regulation 2017/1485, the TSOs must make the amendments necessary to address the points set out in the Regulatory Authorities' opinion with the amended proposal being re-submitted to the Regulatory Authorities within two months of this decision.

If you have any queries regarding the information contained within this letter please contact jody.oboyle@uregni.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



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