

Brian Moorhead  
Network Connections Major Projects  
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited

Date: 27/04/2018

Our Ref: CNO/E/TH/349

Dear Brian,

**Request for Authority's consent to further defer Connection Offer Timelines to Issue a Connection Offer for Connection Application at Ballykeel Wind Farm, NIE Networks reference 15/14846.**

Thank you for your correspondence of 16 April 2018 requesting consent from the Authority for NIE Networks to extend the required three month timeline to issue a connection offer to **Ballykeel Wind Farm**, Connection Application.

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

NIE Network's asks for a further extension for this connection offer to 31/08/2018 under Condition 30 paragraph 4 of the NIE Networks Distribution licence.

NIE Networks has commented that it will issue a new connection policy process on 04/05/2018 and this will take effect two weeks later on 18/05/2018 and that a further extension of time is requested for this application in order to provide the applicant with sufficient time to consider the imminent new NIE Networks Generation Connections Policy that follows stakeholder feedback gained through the joint Consultation on Connecting Further Generation in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>.

The specific policy measures that aim to prevent capacity will be of particular interest to the applicant and require consideration prior to proceeding with a connection offer.

We also note that the LCTA connection node for Ballykeel Windfarm is Larne Main. NIE Networks also comment that SONI have confirmed that capacity is available for connection to Larne Main. NIE Networks have been liaising with the applicant on the exact technical requirements of the project in order to fully design the connection for the generators to be installed.

NIE Networks has consulted both verbally and via written correspondence and the applicant in question has consented to the proposed extension.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nienetworks.co.uk/getattachment/Connections/Generation-connections/Generation-Consultation/NI-Gen-Connections-Consultation.pdf.aspx>

## **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.

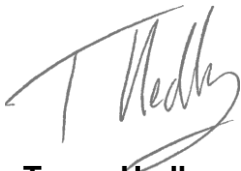
Having considered your correspondence and reviewed the response from the connection applicant in question, the Authority is able to agree to the extension period requested to 31/08/2018.

We 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

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**