

Brian Moorhead
Network Connections Major Projects
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited

Date: 27/04/2018

Our Ref: CNO/E/TH/353

Dear Brian,

Request for Authority's consent to further defer Connection Offer Timelines to Issue a Connection Offer for Connection Application at Murley Mountain Wind Farm, NIE Networks reference 15/15133.

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 **Murley Mountain 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 12/12/2018 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 Ireland¹.

The LCTA connection node for this applicant is the Gort Cluster and there is currently a valid, uncommitted connection offer issued to a third party for connection to the Gort Cluster and the Third Party has the potential for a longer acceptance period due to the Third Party falling into the Contestability Transitional Period.

This request for an extension of time will provide the applicant with sufficient time to consider the imminent NIE Networks Generation Connections Policy following the feedback gained through the joint Consultation on Connecting Further Generation in Northern Ireland and provide await clarity on the status of a third party application.

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

¹ <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 12/12/2018.

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