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Date: 20/12/2018

Our Ref: NET/E/TH/38

Dear Lisa,

Request for Extension of Time to Issue a Connection Offer for Connection Application at Pigeon Top Wind Farm, NIE Networks reference 10/14886, until 17 December 2019.

Thank you for your letter dated 14 December 2018 concerning consent from the Authority for NIE Networks to extend the required three month timeline to issue a connection offer to **Pigeon Top Wind Farm Connection Application**.

Request for further connection offer extension

Within your correspondence you have noted that the application for Pigeon Top Hill Wind re-joined the queue for Drumquin cluster on 15 October 2018, with the 90 day licence standard due to expire on 13 January 2019.

The LCTA connection node for Pigeon Top is Drumquin Cluster, Pigeon Top currently is third in the queue for the current available capacity and a substantial amount of the available capacity has recently been offered to the 1st applicant in the queue at Drumquin cluster. As however this offer is still within it's validity period in terms of; acceptance, Planning Approval Milestone, Security Payment, the capacity would be deemed as not yet being fully committed.

Following discussions with the applicant, it has been agreed that the best approach for this application is to seek an extension until such time where NIE Networks know the outcome of the other two applicants ahead of Pigeon Top in the queue at Drumquin cluster.

Applicant Consultation

The applicant in question has consented to the proposed extension.

Affected Parties Consultation

No other affected parties are current after Pigeon Top Wind Farm in the cluster capacity.

The Authority's decision

This extension would allow the applicant to remain in the connection queue at Drumquin Cluster where there is an opportunity for network capacity to become available that would facilitate the connection of this proposed project. It would also facilitate a fair and transparent network capacity allocation and queuing process for the capacity available at Drumquin Cluster while enabling this application to remain in the queue presents a potential benefit by providing a greater opportunity for the remaining capacity at Drumquin Cluster to be fully committed.

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.

Given the circumstances of the connection and having considered the request and reviewed the response from the connection applicant, the Authority is able to agree to the extension period requested (i.e. until **17 December 2019**).

Should the clarity regarding the status of capacity at Drumquin Cluster be realised earlier NIE Networks should progress a connection offer for this application at an earlier date.

Yours sincerely



Tanya Hedley
Director of Networks