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Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Ltd
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Date: 20/12/2018

Our Ref: NET/E/TH/39

Dear Lisa,

Request for Extension of Time to Issue a Connection Offer for Connection Application at Squires Hill Wind Farm, Belfast, NIE Networks reference 18/66086, until 21/02/19.

Thank you for your letter dated 10 December 2018 concerning consent from the Authority for NIE Networks to extend the required three month timeline to issue a connection offer to **Squires Hill Wind Farm Connection Application**.

Request for further connection offer extension

Within your correspondence you have noted that the application for Squires Hill Wind Farm was deemed valid on 3 October 2018. A preliminary connection study was carried out and determined the connection node to be Glengormley Main.

Due to the lack of capacity on the Transmission Network, NIE Networks referred this application to SONI to determine if there is Transmission capacity for Squires Hill as per licence Condition 30.

On 23 November 2018 NIE Networks received confirmation from SONI that they have completed the Transmission assessment and that capacity was available at Glengormley Main.

As NIE Networks became aware that capacity was only available 23 November 2018, NIE Network requests 90 days from this date to provide terms for connection in line with the typical licence timescale set out in paragraph 6(b) of Condition 30. Therefore they have requested an extension of time of 51 days beyond the existing 90 day licence standard until 21/02/19.

Applicant Consultation

The applicant in question has consented to the proposed extension.

Affected Parties Consultation

NIE Networks confirmed that they engaged with one affected party behind Squires Hill Wind Farm in the queue at Glengormley Main.

Following correspondence with the party, the affected party was not supportive of the extension. The unsupportive party commented that it was *“challenged to understand the basis by which NIE Networks cannot fulfil its licence obligations....must object to NIEN's pending request for an extension to time to the utility Regulator for the issuance of terms to Squires Hill wind farm.”*

The Authority's decision

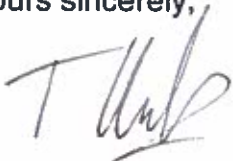
This extension will enable NIE Networks with sufficient time to assess the network, complete new connection designs in line with LCTA principle and provide terms for connection to the customer, and it will also enable the customer with time to review the connection options and feasibility throughout the NIE Networks connection design and offer process.

Subsequent to the submission of the extension request NIE Networks has also informed us that SONI has confirmed that there currently is Transmission capacity for the affected party irrespective if Squires Hill Wind Farm extension is granted or not.

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 feedback from NIE Networks and SONI of the connection and having considered the request and reviewed the response from the connection applicant and the affected parties, the Authority is able to agree to the extension period requested (i.e. until **21 Feb 2019**).

Yours sincerely,



Tanya Hedley
Director of Networks