

All interested parties
Stakeholders in Northern Ireland and beyond
and other regulatory bodies

Ref: NET/E/TH/115

Date: 25 June 2019

To whom it may concern

Request for Amendment of the Ireland and Northern Ireland TSOs' proposal for Synchronous Area Operational Agreement for Synchronous Area IE/NI and Load Frequency Control Block Operational Agreement IE/NI

In accordance with Article 118 & Article 119 of the Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 of 2 August 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation (hereafter referred to as **SOGL regulation**), the Utility Regulator (UR) received two proposals on 21 December 2018 from the TSO's (SONI and EirGrid) regarding Methodologies for the synchronous area operational agreement of Ireland and Northern Ireland (hereafter referred to as **SAOA**) and the Load Frequency Control Block Operational Agreement of Ireland and Northern Ireland (hereafter referred to as **LFCBOA**).

This letter sets out the UR decision to request an amendment to SONI's proposal for SAOA and LFCBOA. The letter also outlines the next steps.

Background

The SAOA and LFCBOA proposals relate to the synchronous area that spans Ireland and Northern Ireland (hereafter referred to as the 'Synchronous Area IE/NI').

Under Article 118 of the SOGL regulation the relevant TSO must produce a series of proposals for submission to the relevant regulatory authority as per Article 6.3(d) of the SOGL regulation. Additionally in accordance with Article 119 of the SOGL regulation the relevant TSO must develop a series of proposals for submission to the relevant regulatory authority in accordance with Article 6.3(e). Only a sub set of the common proposals contained within the SAOA and LFCBOA is subject to regulatory approval.

The TSO conducted public consultations on the SAOA and the LFCBOA proposals which were made publicly available on the ENTSOE consultation website and also on the respective EirGrid and SONI websites. The consultations ran from 8th October 2018 and closed on the 8th November 2018. No response were received to either of the consultations¹.

¹ https://consultations.entsoe.eu/system-operations/ire_ni_saoa/

Decisions

The UR has reviewed the SAOA and LFCBOA Proposal in line with the requirements of the SOGL regulation, 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 request for amendment to the SAOA and LFCBOA proposals for both the Ireland and Northern Ireland regulatory authorities is attached as an annex to this letter and constitutes the reasons for the UR's decision. In line with the attached Annex agreed by the Utility Regulator and the CRU, the UR hereby requests an amendment to the SAOA and LFCBOA proposals.

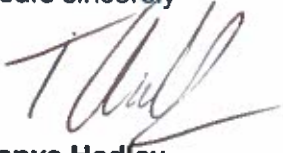
Next Steps

In accordance with Article 7(1) of the SOGL regulation, the TSO must make the amendments necessary to address the points set out in attached annex within two months of this decision:

"Request for amendment by the Ireland-Northern Ireland regulatory authorities to the synchronous area operational agreement of Ireland-Northern Ireland and the load frequency control block operational agreement of Ireland and Northern Ireland".

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

Yours sincerely



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Director of Networks