

Lisa O'Neill
Network Connections Design Team
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Ltd
Unit 3,
21 Old Channel Road
Belfast
BT3 9DE

Date: 16/12/2019

Our Ref: NET/E/JP/171

Dear Lisa

Application under Condition 30(7)(a) of NIEN's Distribution Licence ("the Licence") that the Utility Regulator ("the UR") consent to an extension of the period under Condition 30(6)(b) of the Licence, regarding an offer of terms of connection in respect of the Connection Application for Pigeon Top Wind Farm: NIEN's reference: 10/14886 ("the Application")

Thank you for your letter dated 27 November 2019 (**Letter**) setting out the Application.

The Application

In the Letter you set out some of the relevant background to the Application.

The LCTA connection node for the connection of Pigeon Top Wind Farm would be Drumquin Cluster. Pigeon Top Wind Farm is currently second in the queue for the current available capacity at the Drumquinn Cluster. The other applicant for connection (before Pigeon Top Wind Farm) in the queue is presently involved in a dispute referred to the UR. Currently, this dispute is intended to be determined by 31 January 2020 ("the proposed determination date"). Until that dispute is resolved NIEN is not in a position to determine or re-allocate (any available) capacity to Pigeon Top Wind Farm.

Following discussions with the applicant for connection for Pigeon Top Wind Farm, it has been agreed that the best approach is for the Application to be made.

The Application requests that the UR consent (pursuant to Condition 30(7)(a) of the Licence) to the period under Condition 30(6)(b) of the Licence (in respect of the Pigeon Top Wind Farm connection application) being extended until **16 May 2020**. This "end date" of 16 May 2020 is chosen as being made up of a period of two weeks - plus a further 90 days - out from the proposed determination date. The first two week period is put forward as the period during which NIEN will determine if relevant capacity exists for the connection of Pigeon Top Wind Farm as a result of the determination of the referred dispute. The 90 days period is put forward as a period in which NIEN will draw up an offer for connection for the Pigeon Top Wind Farm (providing the said determination involves such capacity being available).

The above is a summary of the Application. In considering the Application the UR has had regard to, and considered, all of the Application.

Consultation associated with the Application

Condition 30(7)(a) of the Licence provides that there must be consultation with the applicant for connection in respect of which the application under Condition 30(7)(a) is made by NIEN. The Application provides evidence of the requisite consultation, and further confirms that the applicant for the connection of Pigeon Top Wind Farm does not object to the Application.

Condition 30(7)(a) of the Licence also provides that NIEN should consult with “*such other persons as [NIEN] considers may be affected or interested*” in the Application. The UR notes the confirmation of discussions with SONI. The UR also notes the confirmation that there are no other persons requesting connection behind Pigeon Top Wind Farm in the connection queue.

Decision on the Application

Consent to the Application would allow the applicant for connection of Pigeon Top Wind Farm to remain in the connection queue at Drumquin Cluster in circumstances 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. Further, 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/utilised.

Having considered the matter fully, the UR hereby confirms that it consents to the Application so that the period under Condition 30(6)(b) of the Licence (in respect of the application for connection of Pigeon Top Wind Farm) is now extended until **16 May 2020**.

We would take this opportunity to confirm that the period ending 16 May 2020 is a “*long stop*” date. The obligation under Condition 30 of the Licence is (now) – subject to normal capacity constraints - to offer terms of connection for Pigeon Top Wind Farm “as soon as practicable” and “in any event no later than” 16 May 2020. The Licence obligation is not (now) simply to offer connection terms by 16 May 2020. No doubt NIEN will be mindful of this obligation.

Yours sincerely,



Jenny Pyper
Chief Executive