

Robin McCormick
SONI LTD
Castlereagh House
12 Manse Road
Belfast
BT6 9RT

8th November 2017

Our Ref – CNO/E/TH/253

Dear Robin,

**RE: Thornog (20 MW) Wind Farm Power Station (WFPS)
Direction under Condition 16 (12) of SONI's Licence**

Whereas:

- (A) SONI Limited holds an electricity transmission licence granted to it on 3rd July 2007.
- (B) The licensee is authorised to participate in the transmission of electricity for the purpose of giving a supply to any premises or enabling a supply to be so given.
- (C) The Grid Code is required to be prepared by SONI Limited, approved by the Utility Regulator (the **UR**) and applied by SONI Limited to permit the development, maintenance and operation of an efficient, co-ordinated and economical Transmission System.
- (D) Paragraph 1 of Condition 16 of the Licence requires the licensee to comply with the provisions of the Grid Code insofar as applicable to it. Paragraph 6 of Condition 16 specifies the content of the Grid Code including: connection conditions; operating code; planning code; a set of scheduling and dispatch codes and a metering code.
- (E) The Wind Farm Power Station (**WFPS**) Settings Schedule¹ sets out certain technical criteria that Generators must comply with in respect of their Wind Farm Power Stations in accordance with section CC.7.2 of the SONI Grid Code. The WFPS Settings Schedule is deemed to form part of the Grid Code Connection Conditions.

<http://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/Operations/Grid-Code/WFPS%20Settings%20Schedule%20Rev%205%20291013%20-%20UR%20RegNI%20Approved.pdf>

(F) Paragraph 12 of Condition 16 of the licence provides that the UR may issue directions (after consultation with the licensee), relieving the licensee of its obligations to implement or comply with, or to enforce against any other person any provision of, the Grid Code in respect of such parts of the Transmission system to such extent as may be specified in the directions.

1. On 10th October 2017 Thornog Wind Farm Ltd submitted a document to the UR requesting an extension to the derogation granted on 9th May 2017 from the following requirements of the SONI Grid Code and the WFPS Settings Schedule:-

Section CC.S2.2.5.2 (b) of the SONI Grid Code

“Under certain System conditions the TSO may require a Controllable WFPS or a Dispatchable WFPS to operate below its maximum instantaneous Output on a droop setting to be set in the range 2% to 20%. In this mode of operation the Controllable WFPS or Dispatchable WFPS will be providing some of the System reserve. The Controllable WFPS or Dispatchable WFPS controller must be capable of being set to operate in a constrained manner within the range of at least 50% to 100% of maximum instantaneous Output”.

Section 6.5 of the WFPS Settings Schedule section 6.5 – Frequency Control Test

“The Frequency response of the WFPS will be demonstrated for: When the WFPS is curtailed by SONI and is providing System reserve (% MW Curtailment Set Point figure between 50-100% of MIO is sent via SONI SCADA)”.

2. The UR has consulted with NIE Networks Limited, SONI Limited and Viridian Energy Ltd t/a Energia (on behalf of Thornog WFPS) and given due consideration to all relevant factors, including the specific and unique circumstances of this case.
3. The UR has taken into account SONI's comments on the extension to the derogation from Section CC.S2.2.5.2 (b) of the SONI Grid Code and section 6.5 of the WFPS Setting Schedule. SONI considered that:-
 - Although a significant significant amount of time has elapsed between the commissioning of the wind farm and the completion of Grid Code tests, this has been partly caused by Thornog WFPS assisting SONI with frequency control trials;
 - The timing of the outstanding test is weather dependent, and Thornog WFPS is ready to undertake this test when appropriate levels of wind arise;
 - Including this extension to the Grid Code derogation, adequate time has been provided overall for Grid Code testing to have been completed successfully since the wind farm was commissioned.

4. The UR has also taken into account NIE Networks' view, the derogation will not adversely affect the performance of Thornog WFPS in respect of the Distribution System.

The Utility Regulator now gives the following Directions:

Direction 1

5. Pursuant to its power under paragraph 12 of Condition 16 of the licence, the UR directs that the Licensee is relieved of its obligations under Condition 16 of the Licence Document to implement, comply with and enforce, in relation to Thornog WFPS, Section CC.S2.2.5.2 (b) of the SONI Grid Code.
6. The following conditions shall apply:
 - This direction applies until 9th February 2018.
 - This direction relates solely to Thornog WFPS and does not set a precedent for future derogations.

Direction 2

7. Pursuant to its power under paragraph 12 of Condition 16 of the licence, the UR directs that the Licensee is relieved of its obligations under Condition 16 of the Licence Document to implement, comply with and enforce, in relation to Thornog WFPS, the Grid Code with regards to the WFPS Frequency Control Test detailed in section 6.5 of the WFPS Settings Schedule.
8. The following conditions shall apply:
 - This direction applies until 9th February 2018.
 - This direction relates solely to Thornog WFPS and does not set a precedent for future derogations.

Signed


Name: Tanya Hedley

Authorised by and on behalf of the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation