

Tim McCullough
AES Ballylumford
Islandmagee
Larne
Co Antrim
BT40 3RS

15 November 2018

Our Ref – NET/E/TH/23

Dear Tim,

RE: AES Ballylumford - Derogation request under Metering Code Sub-Code No. 2.1, section 3.3.5 of the Grid Code in respect of Unit GT21 at Ballylumford Power Station

Whereas:

- (A) AES Ballylumford Limited (“**ABL**”) also known as Ballylumford Power Ltd holds an electricity generation licence granted to it on 31st March 1992 (the “**Licence**”).
- (B) The licensee is authorised to generate 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 4 of the Generation Licence requires ABL to comply with the provisions of the Grid Code and the Distribution Code insofar as applicable to it.
- (E) Paragraph 2 (a) of Condition 4 of the Generation Licence provides that the Utility Regulator may, following consultation with the transmission System Operator, namely SONI Limited (“**SONI**”) and the Transmission Owner, namely Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited (“**NIE Networks**”), issue directions relieving ABL of specific aspects of its obligations under paragraph 1 of Condition 4 in respect of such parts of the Grid Code and to such extent as may be specified in those directions.

1. On 24th October 2018, ABL (“**the licensee**”) submitted a document to the UR requesting a derogation in respect of sections 3.3.5 (a) and section 3.3.5 (e) of the Metering Code Sub-Code No 2.1 which forms part of the SONI Grid Code.

Section 3.3.5 (a) of the Metering Code Sub-Code No 2.1 requires:

“Two sets of CTs to BS7626/HD553S1 and ERS3/1 with a minimum standard of accuracy class 0.2S shall be provided per circuit and shall also meet (to the extent applicable) any meter certification regulations in force at the time”.

Section 3.3.5 (e) of the Metering Code Sub-Code No 2.1 requires:

“Main and check meters must be connected to different CTs”

2. The UR has taken into account AES’s comments in relation to the proposed derogation from section 3.3.5 of the Metering Code Sub-Code No 2.1. AES stated that:-
 - GT21 tripped on the 22nd June 2018 under the operation of differential protection relay which was a result of Red Phase CT and issues with insulation integrity on the red and yellow phase post CTs;
 - Replacement CTs have been ordered but due to lengthy manufacturing lead time are only scheduled to be delivered on 10th May 2019;
 - GT 21 cannot operate without a functional set of CTs in place;
 - Alternative CTs have been sourced from National Grid which would allow GT21 to return to service;
 - The temporary CTs are not fully compliant with the Grid Code requirements;
 - Therefore AES seeks to derogate the non-conformances which result from the non-standard configuration of the metering due to the use of the Temporary CTs for the temporary period until the installation of the Replacement CTs.
3. The UR has consulted with NIE Networks Limited and SONI Limited. SONI confirmed that they have been in discussions with AES and NIE Networks in relation to the degradation of the current transformer (CT), its disconnection from the transmission system and the subsequent plans for replacement. In general SONI were supportive of AES’s request for a temporary derogation. SONI indicated that the temporary metering configuration will remove their facility to observe variations in CT accuracy by comparing readings derived from a duplicate arrangement and proposed to check metering from Unit B21 via SCADA archives on a monthly basis.
4. NIE Networks were also in support of AES’s request for derogation and encouraged the UR to grant the derogation to AES.
5. The UR has also taken into account AES’s view; the derogation will not adversely affect the performance of GT21.

6. Having given due consideration to all relevant factors, including the specific and unique circumstances of this case, the Utility Regulator now gives the following Direction:

Direction

7. Pursuant to its power under paragraph 2 (a) of Condition 4 of the Electricity Generation Licence granted to Ballylumford Power Limited, the UR directs for that the Licensee is relieved of its obligations under the SONI Grid Code - Metering Code Sub-Code No 2.1, section 3.3.5 (a) and 3.3.5 (e) with regards to the metering configuration of CTs to ensure operation of the GT21 unit.
8. The following conditions shall apply:
- This direction applies until 15th November 2019 however once the replacement CT has been installed and Grid Code compliant this direction will cease to apply.
 - This direction relates solely to the GT21 unit and does not set a precedent for future derogations.



Signed

Name: Tanya Hedley

Date: 15/11/2018

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