

**Belfast Power Limited**  
Forsyth House  
Cromac Square  
Belfast  
BT2 8LA

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FAO: Ciaran Mc Cann and Jody Boyle

Electronic Copy sent to

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Dear Sirs,

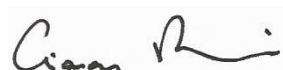
Belfast Power Limited welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Review of Electricity Distribution and Transmissions Connection Policy Call for Evidence.

Belfast Power Limited 'BPL' are the developer of a new 480MW CCGT power station at the Belfast Harbour Estate in Northern Ireland. The BPL project will address Northern Ireland's long-term security of supply needs and once operational the new plant will be one of the most efficient power stations in the UK and Ireland.

In 2017 BPL plan to make a significant investment in the region of £250m into the Northern Ireland energy market and will be seeking a connection offer from the System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) for the new CCGT plant. BPL are in favor of a fair connection process that would improve efficiency and reduce the overall time it takes SONI and NIE to complete the analysis and issue connection offers. BPL are also keen to support a connection policy that will not unduly discriminate between customers seeking generation connections.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss our response further.

Kind Regards,



Ciaran Devine  
Director

Belfast Power Limited

## Consultation Questions

Q1. Do you agree with these strategic priorities?

**BPL are in agreement with the main strategic priorities and support the need for an electricity market that works well for connecting customers and one that promotes the interests of the wider consumers. In particular BPL support the need for having a connection policy that maintains or improves the security of supply of electricity within Northern Ireland.**

Q2. Do you agree that these are the main developments we should be mindful of? Are there any other developments, which are important?

**BPL agrees that these are the main developments that will help drive value and improve sustainability in the energy market.**

Q3. Is there a role for connections policy to promote effective network management? If so, what are the issues which need addressed and potential solutions as part of this review?

**BPL has not commented on this question.**

Q4. Should we review the distribution charging framework, with a view to making connection charges deeper? If so, how should this be designed? What are the benefits, costs and risks of doing so?

**BPL has not commented on this question.**

Q5. Should we review how the connections process and queue is managed? If so, what are the issues, which need addressed and potential solutions?

**BPL agrees with point 4.18, which suggests that, the requirement for connecting customers to have planning permission when they submit an application is re-introduced. This will help ensure that connections are processed and managed in such a way that future capacity will be effectively allocated and released. It would also be useful that until such times as the legislation is reintroduced that SONI should implement the planning requirement as per phase I.**

Q6. Should we consider connections customer service, engagement and pricing transparency as part of this review? What are the issues which need addressed and potential solutions?

**BPL has not commented on this question.**

Q7. Are there other issues we should review? Which issue(s) are in your view the most material and why?

**BPL has not commented on this question.**