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**Minutes of meeting of Northern Ireland Authority for Energy Regulation**

**24 February 2004**

North South Market Interface

This meeting was held in Dublin and concentrated on the proposed new Market Arrangements for Electricity (MAE) in the Republic of Ireland and how these arrangements might most efficiently interface with the electricity market in Northern Ireland. CER had identified 4 options; 2 options involved trading at the Northern end and 2 options involved trading at the Southern end of the existing interconnectors. Concerns were expressed for the NI market in respect of the proposed timing of gate closures, the powers allocated to the ROI System and Market Operator (SMO), possible trading risks for SONI and the uncertainty of whether the interconnector users would be given Financial Transmission Rights (FTRs). Representatives of ESB, SONI, ENERGIA and Airtricity each gave a short presentation on their respective views on the proposed new MAE.

Water Reform : Economic and Consumer Regulation

In the afternoon, representatives from the NI Water Reform Unit of the Department for Regional Development joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the proposed reform of the Water Service which included the relocation of water and sewerage services outside central government; the introduction of domestic water and sewerage charges; the establishment of an economic and consumer regulator; and the establishment of consumer representative arrangements.

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