



EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF CONTESTABILITY IN NI

Contestability Working Group

29th September 2020

Agenda

- Utility Regulator has requested NIE Networks to consider expanding the scope of contestability in NI to include the final connection at LV
- What needs to be considered for implementation?
- How this can be progressed?
- Estimated timelines?

What needs to be considered?

The primary considerations are Safety and Transparency

The main considerations for the CWG are to identify;

- likely safety implications
- risks and liabilities
- how any risks will be mitigated
- how proposed changes are open and transparent beyond CWG
- how changes can be accommodated without creating barriers to market entry

What needs to be considered?

In addition we will need to consider ;

- requirement to change NIE safety rules to accommodate any changes
- Additional technical jointing instructions to cover LV live jointing
- Modified Interface agreements
- New/modified interface procedural documentation
- Changes to existing NERS scope templates for NI
- Changes to asset handover and adoption arrangements
- New procedures to enable ICPs to interact with NIE Networks and carry out the increased scope of work.
- IT Changes

What needs to be considered?

- Other areas of change are more significant in their impact on risks and liabilities.

These include:

(i) Consideration as to whether as a first step the final LV connection activity (LV joint) should be contestable and the operational activities associated with the final LV connection remain non-contestable

(ii) Should LV operational activity also be considered for contestability then additional consideration needs to be given to;

ICPs carrying out a wider range and complexity of work on networks.

ICPs having more extensive and more frequent access to networks.

ICPs having greater interaction with LV control persons, records and other systems.

Safety Authorisation processes

How can this be progressed?

1. Membership of CWG

- Need good representation on CWG from a broad range of key stakeholders – multiple ICPs , UR, NIE Networks, SONI, Lloyd’s Register National Electricity Registration Scheme (NERS)
- Shared learning from GB experience will be important
- CWG should keep HSE (NI) informed of progress in this area

2. CWG assessment of safety, risks and liabilities and how any risks will be mitigated

3. Concise Call for Evidence to determine what the market wants in terms of extending the scope of contestability in NI

4. Review of evidence followed by public consultation

Estimated Timelines

Q1 2021

CWG to have identified;

- likely safety implications
- risks and liabilities
- how any risks will be mitigated
- how proposed changes are open and transparent beyond CWG
- how changes can be accommodated without creating barriers to market entry
- publish a concise Call for Evidence to determine what the market wants in terms of extending the scope of contestability in NI

Estimated Timelines

Q2 2021

- Review of responses to Call for Evidence to ensure stakeholders beyond the CWG have their say on contestability in NI on a holistic basis rather than risk a piecemeal approach
- Based on evidence received issue public consultation on proposed changes to expand scope of contestability in NI
- Implementation period to be confirmed based on consultation responses
- Consideration will need to be given to NIE Networks resource and IT requirements to implement change and how these costs should be recovered