



DP Energy Ireland Limited
Mill House, Buttevant,
Co Cork, Ireland
Tel: (+353) (0) 22 23955
Fax:(+353) (0) 22 23027
E-mail: sara.armstrong@dpenergy.com

By email to: Ciaran.maccann@uregni.gov.uk

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Utility Regulator: Review of Electricity Distribution and Transmission Connections Policy – Consultation on Next Steps

Dear Sir/Madam,

In October 2012, the Crown Estate awarded an Agreement for Lease (Afl) for the development of a 100 MW tidal energy park located on the north coast of County Antrim in Northern Ireland. The project is significantly advanced through the environmental impact assessment process with offshore surveys complete.

Fair Head Tidal Energy Park (FHTEP) Ltd is a joint venture company established for the Project by DP Marine Energy Ltd and Bluepower NV. FHTEP proposes to develop a 100 MW tidal energy park in the waters offshore of Fair Head.

A significant risk to the delivery of the project is associated with access to the grid and the current uncertainty relating to the grid connection process, now and moving to Phase 2. We therefore welcome this consultation and opportunity to provide a response.

We are members of the Northern Ireland Renewable Industries Group (NIRIG) and are supportive of their response to this consultation with the following comments in relation to Sections 2.12 and 2.13, dealing with extensions. We welcome the proposal to strengthen the extension request process, and to improve transparency, providing that sufficient weight is given to the input of the connection applicant during the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or wish to discuss our response in more detail.

Yours faithfully,

Sara Armstrong
Electrical Development Engineer
DP Energy