

Robin McCormick
SONI LTD
Castlereagh House
12 Manse Road
Belfast
BT6 9RT

14th November 2017

Our Ref – CNO/E/TH/256

Dear Robin,

RE: ERE Developments Limited
Direction under Condition 16 (12) of Transmission Licence

Whereas:

- (A) SONI Limited (**SONI**) holds an electricity transmission licence granted to it on 3rd July 2007.
- (B) The licensee is authorised to participate in the transmission of 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, approved by the Utility Regulator (the **UR**) and applied by SONI to permit the development, maintenance and operation of an efficient, co-ordinated and economical Transmission System.
- (D) Paragraph 1 of Condition 16 of the Licence requires the licensee to comply with the provisions of the Grid Code insofar as applicable to it. Paragraph 6 of Condition 16 specifies the content of the Grid Code including: connection conditions; operating code; planning code; a set of scheduling and dispatch codes and a metering code.
- (E) Paragraph 12 of Condition 16 of the licence provides that the UR may issue directions (after consultation with the licensee), relieving the licensee of its obligations to implement or comply with, or to enforce against any other person any provision of, the Grid Code in respect of such parts of the Transmission system to such extent as may be specified in the directions.
- (F) On 9th May 2017 ERE Developments Limited submitted a document (**the derogation request**) to the UR requesting lifetime derogations from the following two requirements of the SONI Grid Code in relation to Lisahally Power Station:-

CC.S1.1.3.7***Start-Up and Ramp Rates***

(a) A Generating Unit must be capable of Start-Up:

- (i) from cold within 14 hours;*
- (ii) from warm within 5 hours;*
- (iii) from hot within 3 hours.*

The block Load on synchronising must be no greater than 40 MW.

(b) A Generating Unit which is in a hot condition must be capable of ramping up from part-load pursuant to a Dispatch instruction at a rate of at least 3% of MCR per minute.

(c) A Generating Unit must be capable of de-loading at a rate of at least 3% of MCR per minute.

CC.S1.2.3.3

A Generating Unit must be capable of remaining Synchronised to the NI System at an Output which is no greater than the lower of 80 MW or 40% of maximum continuous rating.

- (G) The derogation request was submitted two days prior to the expiration of a UR Direction to ERE Developments Limited dated 11th May 2015, which granted derogations from the above two Grid Code requirements. ERE Developments Limited now seeks derogations on modified terms than those granted in the UR Direction of 11th May 2015, which move further away from the Grid Code requirements.
- (H) The UR has consulted with NIE Networks, SONI and ERE Developments Limited and having reviewed the submissions by the parties to date, the UR considers that it is not in a position to make a decision on the derogation request at present, based on the information provided. The UR intends to engage a Consultant to assist in the assessment of the request.
- (I) As such, in the interim, the UR deems it appropriate to extend the terms of the derogations granted in the Direction dated 11th May 2015 for a limited period. This will allow sufficient time for full and proper analysis of all relevant factors relating to the derogation request.

The Utility Regulator now gives the following Direction:

1. Pursuant to its power under paragraph 12 of Condition 16 of the licence, the UR directs that the Licensee:-

- a. is relieved of its obligations under Condition 16 of the Licence Document to implement, comply with and enforce, in relation to Lisahally Power Station, Section CC.S1.1.3.7 of the SONI Grid Code.
 - b. is relieved of its obligations under Condition 16 of the Licence Document to implement, comply with and enforce, in relation to Lisahally Power Station, Section CC.S1.2.3.3 of the SONI Grid Code. Lisahally Power Station must comply with the following requirement:-
"A Generating Unit must be capable of remaining Synchronised to the NI System at an output which is no lower than 70% of maximum continuous rating."
2. The following conditions shall apply:
 - This Direction applies until 11th May 2018.
 - This Direction relates solely to Lisahally Power Station and does not set a precedent for future derogations.
 3. During the period in which this Direction applies, the UR may request further information from SONI. The UR would expect that this information is received in a timely manner and within the timeframe specified by the UR so that it can be properly assessed prior to the expiration of this Direction.

Signed 

Name: Tanya Hedley

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