



Response by Energia to Utility Regulator Consultation

***Consultation on NIE Networks Transmission and
Distribution price control (RP6) draft determination***

19th May 2017

Energia welcomes the opportunity to respond to this Utility Regulator Consultation on NIE Networks Transmission and Distribution price control (RP6) draft determination. Energia is one of the largest contributors to the achievement of renewable targets in Northern Ireland through its investment, development, contracting and trading activities in the renewable sector. There are a number of significant issues that have arisen on the back of the UR's review of RP6.

Energia have a particular concern in relation to crisis of overload in the transmission system. Renewables currently have a MTP which has delivered 1000MW of capacity on the system and there are at the moment in excess of 1600MW of installed and committed projects with SONI/NIE. This is a wholly unacceptable situation and many of the already connected projects are operating at levels without FAQ.

In addition there is an urgent need for further investment at the 33kV level. Energia are very concerned that the investment in 33kV congestion has been reduced from NIEN's proposal. NIEN have been working with industry to alleviate difficulties of connecting generation in areas of 33kV congestion and this has been relieved to some extent by work on the reverse flow relays and transformer settings. Energia are keen that this work should continue at 33:11kV substations and are very disappointed to see the allowance reduced from £10.421m to £8.9m. It is crucial that the original request of £10.421m be maintained.

Energia fully supports the NIRIG detailed response to this UR consultation.