

**[By email]**

Sarah Friedel  
Electricity Directorate  
Utility Regulator  
Queens House  
14 Queen Street  
Belfast BT1 6ED

22 January 2013

**Northern Ireland Electricity Medium Term Plan Phase 2 Proposed Decision**

Dear Sarah

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the above proposed decision. Energia is a member of the Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) and actively participates in the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group (NIRIG) which is a joint collaboration between IWEA and RenewableUK. Energia firmly endorses the NIRIG response to this proposed decision.

Specifically, we welcome the Utility Regulator's proposal to approve NIE funding requests for:

- £2.6m to increase the rating of the Kells to Coleraine circuit by installing higher capacity conductor at critical spans (project 1)
- £25.2m to install additional capacity at the Tamnamore sub-station (project 2)

We also welcome the 'in principle' approval of £16m to install a third circuit between Omagh and Tamnamore (project 3) but strongly consider, for reasons expressed in the NIRIG response, that this investment should be approved as a matter of priority in order to facilitate renewable targets and to fully realise the benefits of the other two investments ear-marked for approval.

We understand that all three investments are required to deliver firm capacity, with minimal constraints, for 700MW of renewable generation in the North-West region of Northern Ireland. However there are no clearly defined dates for completion of these projects. It is therefore important to improve confidence in the delivery of this key infrastructure and we would encourage discussions with NIE to facilitate this.

Section 5 of the proposed decision considers consumer impacts, with a focus on costs. We would welcome an illustration of the benefits to the consumer as well as the costs in making this investment.

Yours sincerely



Kevin Hannafin