

15th May 2017

Ciaran MacCann
Compliance and Network Operations
Utility Regulator
Queens House
14 Queens Street
Belfast BT1 6ED

Dear Mr MacCann

RE: Review of Electricity Distribution and Transmission Connections Policy (Consultation on next steps)

Thank you for the updated next steps document and the opportunity to provide further feedback to our detailed Response to the Consultation Questions on the 10th January 2017.

We concur with the details set out and supported by the other participants and believe it highlights the importance of utilising existing network capacity. We believe there is further scope to utilise existing capacity more efficiently. For example, Private Wire Power Purchase Agreements for large energy users should be prioritised to reduce demand on the grid while increasing renewable generation without the need for major network upgrades. Co-location of technologies, such as large scale solar and wind applications should also be prioritised to allow more efficient use of existing capacity.

We are also supportive of greater visibility on available network capacity, contracted generation and applications. Greater transparency of grid information would enable developers/investors to better assess project viability prior to submitting grid applications and seeking other project consents. This in turn would reduce sunk development costs and ease the pressure on NIE Networks and allow quicker processing of viable applications.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,



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