

**27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016**

**Renewables Grid Liaison Group**

**Minutes of Meeting No19**

<b>Attendees</b>	
<b>Utility Regulator</b>	Tanya Hedley (TH) Jody O'Boyle (JO'B) Ciaran McCann (CMcC) Laura Kane (LK)
<b>NIRIG</b>	Andy McCrea (AMcC)
<b>NIE Networks</b>	Michael Atkinson (MA) Ian Craig (IC) Nigel Crawford (NC) Sinead Ferris (SF) Stephen Thompson (ST) Aidan Bradley (AB)
<b>SONI</b>	Gerry Hodgkinson (GH)
<b>Department for the Economy - Energy Renewables Division</b>	Paul Rose (PR)
<b>NISTA</b>	No attendee
<b>Offshore Representative</b>	No attendee
<b>Ulster Farmers Union</b>	No attendee
<b>Energy Storage Representative</b>	No attendee
<b>Apologies</b>	Neil O'Brian Mervyn Adams Billy Graham Eimear Watson

No	Item	Action
1	<b>Apologies</b>	
2	<b>Minutes and actions from previous meeting</b> Minutes agreed for publication	
	<b>Actions from previous meeting</b>  <u>Action 1</u> SONI – Transmission reinforcement presentation to be circulated  <i>Completed</i>  <u>Action 2</u> NIEN - to circulate next meeting date  <i>Completed</i>	
3	<b>Update on Connection Application/Offer Process</b>  MA summarised the current position of applications following the issue of the decision paper on 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2016 and the subsequent queue integration point on 3rd week of June.  An integrated queue of both large and small scale applications has been created and offers have been made based on queue position, type of application (export, zero export, over-install) and available capacity. This has been in line with what was described as Phase 1 in the Decision Paper.  In excess of 60 offers (both export and zero export) have been made to date equating to approximately 90MW. The majority of offers are for small scale - 5 of the offers have been large scale (3 have been contestable).  Daily engagement with developers is taking place. It is anticipated that a further 50 – 100MW will be offered with the majority being accepted. A significant number of offers have already been accepted.  A further extension period, for relevant applications, has been agreed with the UR until February 2017.  The zero export limit of 25MW, as detailed in the decision paper, has been heavily oversubscribed (approx. 50MW) and includes some large scale applications. To date 9 offers have already been made with a further 20 designs completed. It is expected to take a further 4-6 weeks to complete zero export offers although this is dependant on the timely acceptance/rejection of offers made.  MA handed out slide on connected and committed capacity (attachment).  Since the publication a further influx of application (c500MW) as raised the current level of applications to c1800MW.  In mid-August NIE Network held a meeting with the UR and DfE, as part of the Phase 2, to discuss position of applications not being considered in Phase 1. At that meeting it was briefed out that once capacity was exhausted under Phase 1 then there were no plans in place to release further generation capacity.	

No	Item	Action
	<p>AB explained that any remaining capacity would be allocated under Phase 1 Extension. Due to the 60 day and 90 day offer and acceptance periods (respectfully) this would take the process completion to the end of 2016.</p> <p>AB stated it was NIE Networks intention to notify all applicants that will fall into the Phase 2 category. There are presently c570 applications in the batch. The preference is to wait until all Phase 1 and Phase 1 Extension capacity has been identified. However, there are some applications that are Phase 2 regardless of the outcome of Phase 1 and they could be notified sooner.</p> <p>NIE Networks expect to communicate with those applications falling into Phase 1 Extension and Phase 2 by the end of Oct 2016.</p> <p>TH queried timelines relating to the transmission works required to facilitate further capacity. MA stated than from previous experience the transmission works could take in the region of 8-10 years to complete.</p> <p>MA stated that NIE Networks and SONI would produce these timeline figures and were continuing to work closely on all aspects of the process.</p> <p>NIE Networks to notify the UR and DfE when the notification letters are being released.</p> <p>AMcC stated they were meeting with the minister in the next few weeks to discuss the policy publication.</p> <p>MA stated, and GH confirmed that it has been a very close iterative process between NIE Networks and SONI to determine capacity available. In general it has been reasonably well received by those involved.</p> <p>AB stated that a significant number of batch applications (c50) have now exited the process following the closure of the NIRO for small scale on-shore wind. Queries about the OFGEM criteria are taking up a considerable amount of time.</p>	<p><b>NIEN Networks</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Renewables Integration Status report</b></p> <p><u>SONI Update</u></p> <p>GH gave an update on the review of RIDP and explained that cost benefit analysis of the various development options was ongoing.</p> <p>GH explained that the options had been developed on the basis of a number of future generation scenarios and that the objective of the cost benefit analysis was, taking account of the uncertainty around those scenarios, to identify the optimal least regrets phased development plan. GH proposed that SONI present an update on the CBA at the next RGLG meeting.</p> <p>GH reported that SONI Grid Development are now preparing to carry out site investigations at a number of substations for the establishment of voltage support.</p> <p>North/South – GH reported that the initial PAC hearing in June had</p>	<p><b>SONI</b></p> <p><b>SONI</b></p>

No	Item	Action
	<p>considered various legal arguments. Following consideration of the PAC's report from that hearing, the Department for Infrastructure has asked the PAC to proceed to stage 2 of the public inquiry. The stage 2 timetabling has still to be confirmed.</p> <p>The Small scale forecasting project is continuing but no outputs to present as yet.</p> <p><u>NIE Networks Update</u></p> <p>MA gave an update on cluster infrastructure. Gort, Tremoge and Rasharkin all at advanced stage of construction. Current expected energisation dates of late Dec (Gort), late Oct (Tremoge), early Nov (Rasharkin).</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> line remains a critical item for Gort. Some landowner consent issues remain.</p> <p>Curraghmulkin cluster advancing through pre-construction. To accelerate delivery, works have taken place in advance of planning permission. These works were undertaken at financial risk to the developer. Planning permission now granted (end July 2016). Expected energisation date of before end Dec 2018.</p> <p>Garvagh cluster pre-construction approval submitted to the UR. Expected to be a 2019/20 completion date.</p> <p><u>Small Scale Generation</u></p> <p>NC - From last meeting overall reduction in small scale generation jobs in pre-construction to 250. Majority of jobs at wayleave and leasing stage. These jobs are challenging in that they generally are jobs involving larger amounts of work and the consenting process is getting increasingly difficult. NIE Networks are streamlining procedures and increasing resources in an attempt to meet March 2017. It should be noted that some jobs may fall after March 2017 and should qualify for Grid Extension if required.</p> <p>Increase in small scale generation jobs at construction to 135. A third of these are 90% complete. All jobs currently at construction are expected to meet the NIRO closure subject to no developer delays.</p>	
5	<p><b>Contestability</b></p> <p><u>SONI Update</u></p> <p>GH stated that some difficulties relating to contractual arrangements between NIE Networks and SONI are being worked through. These require to be resolved to enable contestability in respect of transmission connections to progress.</p> <p><u>NIE Networks Update</u></p> <p>SF stated that on the distribution side 3 contestable offers now issued. To this date none have been accepted (all are still inside</p>	

No	Item	Action
	<p>the acceptance period window).</p> <p>9 companies now accredited through Lloyds to work in Northern Ireland.</p>	
6	<p><b>NIE Networks Project 40</b></p> <p>MA stated that an update had been held with NIRIG last week.</p> <p>Long Cables analysis complete and policy document to be published shortly.</p> <p>Managed Connections – now a much clearer picture regards what is possible but the position on the NIRO has made it unlikely that parties will want to pursue managed connections as an option.</p> <p>Offer Documents – deposit levels and security payments has been reasonably successful</p> <p>Cluster Methodology – good progress made up to a point but the recent capacity level issues have negated the requirement for 2<sup>nd</sup> transformers at cluster locations.</p> <p>Managed Connections Pilot – IC gave summary of pilot scheme. This has given a much better understanding of the requirements. Some substantial issues still to resolve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interface development between turbine and NIE Networks controller required</li> <li>• communications solution technically and financially challenging</li> <li>• enforcing non-compliance</li> <li>• contractual agreements covering lifetime of installation</li> </ul> <p>At the last work shop It was becoming apparent that the potential additional costs involved would make many project unviable even with NIRO still in place. It was agreed at that time we would not pursue any further development until the NIRO closure order was published. Now, in light of the NIRO closure it is considered unlikely that there will any take up of managed connection for small scale generation.</p> <p>It was agreed that we would reconvene with the working party to detail the findings.</p>	<p><b>NIE Networks</b></p>
7	<p><b>Move from G59/1 to G59/2</b></p> <p>ST – The move started at the beginning of 2015 and one of the main drivers is the 75% of non-synchronous generation on the system which will feed into the G59 process.</p> <p>NIE Networks engaged an academic institute to carry out analysis work. This was split into two phases (large and small scale) and a draft report was issued to NIE Networks on the first phase (large scale) in August 2016. The conclusion of this report is a need to change some settings e.g. ROCOF, vector shift, over/under frequency. The analysis did indicate a risk of fatality and this risk</p>	

No	Item	Action
	<p>falls within the HSE ALARP region. To mitigate this we are continuing with the requirement for NVD protection which moves the risk into the HSE broadly acceptable range.</p> <p>The D-Code review panel have been briefed mid-Sept on the findings of the report and are now considering amendments to D-Code and this will be followed up in the next DCRP meeting (end of 2016). We have been engaging with HSE to determine if the associated risks are acceptable.</p> <p>Monthly meetings with the academic institute are now moving forward with Phase 2 (small scale generation) and this should be complete by the end of 2016.</p> <p>In parallel we are looking at arrangements within GB and intend to move away from G59/3 to the new equivalent Engineering Recommendation G99 with the introduction of the RfG Codes. Following this we intend to review G83/1 with a view to moving to the new equivalent Engineering Recommendation G98. It would be our intention to attempt to make these changes by the end of 2017.</p>	
8	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>CMcC – Summary on Call for Evidence</p> <p>Scope to include Distribution, Transmission, Load &amp; Generation, all customers types</p> <p>Examples of Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficient and timely connections.</li> <li>• Protection of consumers from high bills - balance of construction of more network to overcome capacity problems at increased cost to consumer verses benefits to customers</li> <li>• Complex/uncertain market</li> <li>• Connections policy going forward in light of changes</li> </ul> <p>CMcC made reference to the consumer engagement research piece in RP6 which cites connection, service, transparency, engagement and if improvements can be made and is there a role for connections policy outside RP6.</p> <p>The UR is publically committed to carrying out this review as detailed in the UR Forward Work Plan. It seems like a good point to carry this out in light of high stakeholder interest, publication of the NIE Networks/SONI decision paper and with the closure of NIRO.</p> <p>The Call for Evidence will be quite an open document with more questions than answers at this point. It will be about understanding what the scope and focus of the review should be.</p> <p>It will consist of three sections – strategic priorities, current connections policy, developments in the market.</p> <p>Publication is expected in the next few weeks but may depend on feedback from minister. It is expected to take a year to complete.</p>	

<b>No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>A connections review working group will be setup plus stakeholder workshops.</p> <p>GH made the point that deeper system reinforcement reflected the aggregated impact of multiple connections to the network and asked the question if this review would cause a delay in development decisions to be made by NIE Networks/SONI. TH stated there was no intention during the review period to have any impact on current processes.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>UR to set next date</p>	<b>UR</b>

## Summary of Actions

<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Action Description</b>	<b>To be Actioned by</b>
<b>1</b>	NIE Networks to notify the UR and DfE when the notification letters are being released.	<b>NIE Networks</b>
<b>2</b>	Cost benefit analysis of larger investment beyond the medium term plan	<b>SONI</b>
<b>3</b>	Update on RIDDIP	<b>SONI</b>
<b>4</b>	Publish Long Cable Report	<b>NIE Networks</b>
<b>5</b>	Next Meeting Date	<b>UR</b>