

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**Renewables Grid Liaison Group**

**Minutes of Meeting**

<b>Attendees</b>	
<b>Utility Regulator</b>	Tanya Hedley (TH) Jody O'Boyle (JOB) Kieran McCann (KMCC)
<b>NIRIG</b>	Peter Gregg (PG) Andy McCrea (AMCC)
<b>NIE Networks</b>	Michael Atkinson (MA) Ian Craig (IC) Brian Pope (BP) Nigel Crawford (NC) Sinead Ferris (SF)
<b>SONI</b>	Eimear Watson (EW) Gerry Hodgkinson (GH) Karen Creighton (KC)
<b>Department for the Economy - Energy Renewables Division</b>	Joanne Adair (JA)
<b>NISTA</b>	Neil O'Brien (NO'B)
<b>Offshore Representative</b>	
<b>Ulster Farmers Union</b>	
<b>Energy Storage Representative</b>	Michael Harper (MH)
<b>Apologies</b>	Mervyn Adams (MA(d)) Aidan Bradley (AB) Stephen Thompson (ST) Roger Henderson (RH) Billy Graham (BG) Alison Clydesdale (AC) Chris Osborne (CO) Gary Hawkes (GH)

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/NIEN - Renewable Integration Status Report update and circulate <i>Completed</i>  <u>Action 2</u> SONI - Transmission study results To be updated under agenda item 5  <u>Action 3</u> NIEN - Issue Consultation Paper <i>Completed</i>  <u>Action 4</u> NIEN - to provide update on Clusters, 2nd Transformer, Rebate Policy, Long Cables. Issue Consultation Paper To be updated under agenda item 8  <u>Action 5</u> NIEN - to convene Cluster group for update To be updated under agenda item 8  <u>Action 6</u> NIEN to publish Managed Connections consultation paper <i>Completed – 16<sup>th</sup> March</i>  <u>Action 7</u> NIEN - to arrange Managed Connection Workshop <i>Completed – 25<sup>th</sup> March</i>  <u>Action 8</u> NIRIG - to circulate over-installation paper NIEN - to arrange Managed Connection Workshop <i>Completed – 25<sup>th</sup> March</i>  <u>Action 9</u> NIEN - to circulate next meeting date <i>Completed</i>	
3	<b>Summary of Connection Application/Offer Proposal Decision Paper</b> MA gave background to current situation and a summary of the decision paper that was issued on 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2016 The summary covered the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• numbers connected, committed and currently applied for</li> <li>• capacity levels</li> <li>• feedback from consultation process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ strong support of use of planning</li> <li>○ interim measures that would allow connection</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ strong support for over installation</li> <li>○ zero export</li> <li>● case for using planning permission for export applications as a filtering mechanism for allocating the limited remaining capacity</li> <li>● phase 1 and phase 2 grouping – with Phase 1 focused on using remaining capacity</li> <li>● how to deal with applications once remaining capacity exhausted</li> <li>● how analysis was undertaken</li> <li>● grouping of initial applications and early view of likelihood, or otherwise, to connect</li> <li>● phase 1 capacity of approximately 20% of applications will have opportunity to connect dependant on capacity and fault levels</li> <li>● capacity reserved for designated clusters</li> <li>● phase 1 capacity impacting and non-capacity impacting applications and the use of planning approval as a filter mechanism for the former</li> <li>● queue integration date 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016</li> <li>● 25MW limit for zero export considered at both transmission and distribution levels. This figure will be kept under review.</li> </ul> <p>Supporting slide handed out (attachment) depicting the connected, committed and applied for renewable generation against transmission capability.</p> <p>EW stated that the queue date is the latter of either the application date or planning approval date. As SONI had not changed their policy on planning approval this principle was crucial to allow the transmission and distribution queues to be considered on an equal basis.</p> <p>AMcC asked if applications would still be accepted after the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016. MA confirmed the intention is that phase 1 would remain open until the remaining capacity in the network was exhausted.</p> <p>NO'B stated that NIE and SONI should be commended regards what has been achieved to date on this piece of work.</p> <p>AMcC stated that NIE and SONI had been in a very difficult position regarding this process and the industry as represented by NIRIG felt that that NIE and SONI had gone about this process in a very workman like way with the outcome, level of contact and interaction being greatly appreciated.</p> <p>NO'B asked if there was any chance the August/September target of phase 1 offers being made could slip. MA stated that we currently have an extension from the UR until the end of August. Of those where an offer can be made, out of the applications received so far, it is NIE Networks intention to have the majority issued</p>	

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	<p>before the end of August.</p> <p>NIE and SONI will continue to work closely after the 17<sup>th</sup> June to formulate how all the offers will be made, as some will require SONI's input.</p> <p>MA explained that the cluster offer process was based on capacity of a minimum of 90MW at each cluster currently in process as per the Decision Paper.</p>	
4	<p><b>Renewables Integration Status report</b></p> <p><u>SONI Update</u></p> <p>Previous report published 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016</p> <p>NI Constraints Report that was presented at previous meeting in Feb has been finalised and was published on the SONI website in May.</p> <p><u>Network Status Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North/South Interconnector. PAC issued letter to SONI on 1<sup>st</sup> March outlining their proposal for the new public enquiry. For Northern Ireland appeal due to start on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016, Armagh City Hotel. Will be split into two parts – legal validity of appeal and main part of appeal (to be held at a later date). PAC received one submission on legal matters (from SEAT - Safe Electricity for Armagh and Tyrone). SONI provided written response on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016.</li> <li>For Republic of Ireland – 12 weeks public oral hearing, concluded on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016. Determination expected by Q4 2016.</li> <li>• Omagh – Tamnamore 3<sup>rd</sup> line. SONI still going through any outstanding pre-construction works. Partial Article 40s for 70% of the line and NIE Networks have commenced construction activities in permitted sections.</li> <li>• Curraghmulkin cluster. SONI progressing pre-construction works. NIE Networks have begun detailed design work. Planning application submitted on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 to Fermanagh and Omagh council. Decision expected in July 2016. Compulsory wayleaves likely to be required and a joint vesting application to secure the lands for the substations.</li> <li>• Garvagh cluster. SONI preparing the information required for the connection arrangement and also the charges applicable to Garvagh. This will feed into the pre-construction approval submission to the UR.</li> <li>• Kells cluster. NIE Networks have been informed of the connection method. Next step is to gather information and costs for NIE Networks to submit to the UR for pre-construction approval.</li> <li>• Cam and Newtown Stewart clusters. Put on hold. May form</li> </ul>	

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	<p>part of phase 2 process.</p> <p>SSG Load Forecasting Project – underway with different models being considered by QUB. The historical data doesn't have corresponding weather data and this is making the work quite challenging. Initial findings are that using the same historical methods for load forecasting won't be sufficient going forward as small scale generation is at a level where it is having a significant impact on the system demand.</p> <p><u>NIE Networks SSG Update</u></p> <p>In pre-construction - c320 jobs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5% in survey (target completion end June/early July)</li> <li>• 40% at lease stage (almost complete)</li> <li>• 35% at wayleave stage</li> <li>• 20% have had final balances issued</li> </ul> <p>In construction phase – c120 jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 at 90% or greater completion</li> </ul> <p>Letters have been issued to all small scale jobs to explain eligibility of any potential grace period.</p> <p>All customers at final balance stage have been contacted to remind them of urgency regarding getting payments through.</p> <p>Some jobs are unable to complete as customer hasn't their element of works complete (eg turbines or PV panels not in place)</p> <p>NO'B asked for those who accept offers, which may be made over the next few months, when would they expect connection. NC commented that each project can differ greatly but under normal conditions if there is substantial legal and/or survey work required this would push a connection towards the mid/latter part of 2017. However, until the analysis of the current applications are complete it would be too early to give guidelines on connection times.</p>	
5	<p><b>Transmission Reinforcements</b></p> <p>Background - Medium term plan close to completion. Does not provide enough reinforcement for total connected and committed generation let alone the additional 1200MW currently under consideration.</p> <p>Through the RIDP project, EirGrid and NIE Networks developed a post medium term plan. In light of the recent changes this has been reviewed. Close to concluding on the optimal development proposals. KC presented an update on this review (attachment).</p> <p>SONI to provide a summary presentation for the RGLG section of the UR website. (post meeting note – action complete)</p>	SONI

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6	<p><b>Contestability in Connections</b></p> <p><u>SONI Update</u></p> <p>Contestability timeline for transmission works has been pushed out to the end of August 2016.</p> <p>SONI have submitted the Transmission Charging Statement to the UR for review on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016.</p> <p>SONI and NIE Networks have submitted revised draft TIA to the UR on 18<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>Since then, SONI and NIE Networks have been working closely to ensure the TIA reflects the contractual arrangements that need to be in place to cover both SONI and NIE Networks. Latest revision is to be sent to the UR later today.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- using revised TIA, put together subsidiary documents</li> <li>- draft contractual documents</li> <li>- producing draft connection and construction offers</li> <li>- aligning charging statements between SONI and NIE</li> </ul> <p><u>NIE Networks Update</u></p> <p>Presentation on the introduction of contestability of electricity connection in Northern Ireland for distribution connections.</p> <p>Presentation by SF (attachment).</p> <p>The UR stated that it was very impressed with the amount of work that had gone into this and the user friendly nature of the website.</p>	
7	<p><b>SSG update on 2.3M substation reverse power investments</b></p> <p>Out of the 38 substations that were identified in this second phase of reinforcement works 15 have already been completed.</p> <p>Works started in Feb 2016 and the majority of the remaining 23 are due to complete this summer and the remainder completed by the end of 2016.</p> <p>Estimated release of capacity 80-100MW</p>	
8	<p><b>NIE Networks Project 40</b></p> <p><u>Project 40</u></p> <p>Clusters sub-group– this group has been inactive over the last few months and is dependant on phase 2 of the current process and whether or not clusters remain as a mechanism for future connections.</p> <p>Long cable analysis now complete. Some offers based on longer cable solutions have now been made. Policy document to be published shortly.</p> <p><u>Managed Connections</u></p> <p>Responses to consultation document now published. Feedback</p>	

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	<p>pertaining to the consultation process and levels of engagement were very positive. NIRO closure cited as a major factor in whether to continuation with the project.</p> <p>Pilot scheme continuing to run. Two keys issues remain unsolved – communications and generator interface. At this point no commitment being made to pursue on a commercial basis (e.g. procurement of equipment). NIE Networks will review the position again with industry once the position around NIRO closure is clearer.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Move from G59/1 to G59/2</b></p> <p>NIE Networks continue to meet with the Academic institution preforming the risk analysis on the G59 protection and Loss of Mains protection settings for the Northern Ireland distribution system.</p> <p>The Academic institution has completed the background data analysis and is on schedule to provide NIE Networks with a draft report for the LSG studies in Q3 2016. On completion, NIE Networks are to engage with HSE(NI) to determine if the associated risks are acceptable. Phase 2 will examine the risks associated with moving the SSG G59 protection and loss of mains settings which, is due to be completed Q4 2016.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>EW asked JA if a date had been decided on the closure of the small scale on-shore wind NIRO. JA stated that the papers were with the minister. The consultation had closed on 9<sup>th</sup> May with c120 responses of which 93%, who expressed a preference, wanted a June closure which was in line with the departments preferred option. JA stated the department would still be minded to do that and it was there aim to have a June closure.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>TBA - September</p>	<b>NIE Networks</b>



## Summary of Actions

<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Action Description</b>	<b>To be Actioned by</b>
<u>New Actions</u>		
<b>1</b>	Transmission reinforcement presentation to be circulated	<b>SONI</b>
<b>2</b>	NIE to circulate next meeting date	<b>NIEN</b>