

**NIRIG response to the NIAUR proposed decision on the Rate of Change of Frequency (ROCOF)
Modification to the Grid Code**

27th September 2013

The Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group (NIRIG) is a joint collaboration between the Irish Wind Energy Association and RenewableUK. NIRIG represents the views of the large and small scale renewable electricity industry in Northern Ireland, providing a conduit for knowledge exchange, policy development support and consensus on best practice between all stakeholders.

NIRIG welcomes the opportunity to comment on the NIAUR proposed decision on the Rate of Change of Frequency (ROCOF) Modification to the Grid Code. Northern Ireland has a policy objective of 40% electricity generation to come from renewable sources by 2020. In order to achieve this, large amounts of renewables will be required on the electricity system and for this to be managed efficiently the SNSP levels will need to increase. The introduction of this grid code modification is an essential component of raising the SNSP limit from 50% to 75% in the coming years. Increasing the SNSP limit on the system will reduce wind curtailment and provide greater investment certainty in renewable energy on the island of Ireland. Any delays to the increase in SNSP being implemented will undermine the investment case and likely cause a fall-off in build rate.

NIRIG agrees with the NIAUR opinion that an increased RoCoF standard is required in order to facilitate the 40% renewables target contained within the Strategic Energy Framework and strongly supports the proposal to accept the SONI proposal to introduce a 1 Hz/s RoCoF standard into the Northern Ireland grid code.

NIRIG would also support the timelines for the introduction of this standard and would note that it is essential that there are no delays in the delivery of the proposed modification.

The DS3 programme is an extensive programme with a number of other key initiatives aimed at raising the SNSP level. NIRIG believes that these other initiatives should also move forward as a

matter of urgency to ensure no further delays in the delivery of the DS3 programme and its associated benefits.

NIRIG welcomes the opportunity to engage in this consultation and is available to meet or discuss any of these issues further.