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Elena Ardines
Utility Regulator
Queens House
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18 January 2013

Dear Elena

Consultation on Draft Forward Work Programme (FWP) 2013-14

NIE welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Utility Regulator's (UR) consultation paper. We have the following comments.

The first is in respect of the UR's intention to 'determine and implement offshore connection policy, and consult on new offshore generation licensing'. NIE notes the UR's target completion date is the end of Q4 of the 2013-14 FWP year (or Q1 of 2014 the calendar year). NIE agrees that this is a realistic timeframe and would encourage the UR not to let this timetable slip, as the knock-on implications this would have could potentially jeopardise the ability of Northern Ireland to meet DETI's renewable generation targets.

Our second comment is in respect of the UR's intention to 'consult on the arrangements for the rollout of smart metering'. NIE notes the UR's target completion date is also Q4 of the 2013-14 FWP year. However, NIE would ask if there is any scope to bring forward this timetable. The timeframe to achieve the DETI target of rollout by 2020 is already very challenging. Consider also that in Great Britain, it has taken several rounds of consultation to finalise all the details. Presumably the initial consultation here will focus mainly on principles, and if the experience in GB is any



guide, further consultations will be needed. This initial consultation should therefore be carried out without delay.

We would be happy to discuss the points we raise in this letter further with you, if that would be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Carl Hashim', written in a cursive style.

Carl Hashim
Regulation Officer

L 130118 – Response to 2013-14 FWP