

All interested parties,
stakeholders in Northern Ireland,
and other regulatory bodies.

Ref: NET/E/TH/25

Date: 16 November 2018

To whom it may concern

Approval of SONI TSO and NIE Networks DSO Proposal for the General Application of Technical Requirements in accordance with Articles 13-28 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631 establishing a network code on requirements for grid connection of generators

In accordance with Article 13-28 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631, establishing a network code on the requirements of grid connection of generators (hereafter referred to as RfG), on the 16 May 2018 the Utility Regulator (UR) received the TSO's (SONI – The System Operator in Northern Ireland) and the DSO's NIE Networks (Northern Ireland Electricity Networks) proposal for the general application of technical requirements for grid connection of generators methodology (the RfG proposal.)

Background

This letter provides detail on the decision of the UR, on the RfG proposal put forward by SONI and NIE Networks. The proposal was submitted in accordance with Articles 13-28 of the RfG by the TSOs and DSOs, which relate to Northern Ireland.

SONI and NIE Networks conducted a public consultation on the RfG proposal from 20th December 2017 until 9th February 2018¹. Five individual responses to this consultation were received, and the TSO and DSO addressed the concerns of the respondents in their submitted proposal to the Regulatory Authorities.

The RfG code identifies that power system requirements in different synchronous areas can be different due to varying sizes. Therefore the RfG recognises that some of the requirements for general application should be specified at National level. Numerous requirements for general application exist in Northern Ireland in the Grid and/or Distribution Codes. DS3 (“Delivering a Secure, Sustainable Electricity System”) has updated a number of the parameters and requirements which are not revisited within this RfG proposal. In the proposal a number of assumptions are made, most notably the two below:

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<http://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/Consultations/NetworkCodeConsultation/RfG%20Parameter%20Consultation%20Northern%20Ireland.pdf>

- “Where the requirement provided in the RfG is an existing requirement in Northern Ireland, the requirement is made mandatory nationally under the RfG.
- Where the requirement provided in the RfG is not an existing requirement in Northern Ireland, the requirement is not made mandatory nationally under the RfG.”

Decision

The UR has reviewed the RfG Proposal in line with the requirements of the RfG, the wider objectives of Regulation (EC) 2016/631 and the UR’s statutory duties and obligations.

In line with the Regulatory Authorities’ agreement, this letter approves SONI and NIE Network’s proposal for the general application of technical requirements for grid connection of generators methodology, in line with the requirements set out in regulation 2016/631.

Next Steps

We request that SONI and NIE Networks publish this decision on the RfG Proposal methodology, on the internet.

If you have any queries regarding the information contained within this letter please contact jody.oboyle@uregni.gov.uk or aidan.girvan@uregni.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Hedley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tanya Hedley
Director of Networks