Proposed modification to the SONI Limited Transmission Licence made under the Electricity (Priority Dispatch) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

30 October 2013
About the Utility Regulator

The Utility Regulator is the independent non-ministerial government department responsible for regulating Northern Ireland’s electricity, gas, water and sewerage industries, to promote the short and long-term interests of consumers.

We are not a policy-making department of government, but we make sure that the energy and water utility industries in Northern Ireland are regulated and developed within ministerial policy as set out in our statutory duties.

We are governed by a Board of Directors and are accountable to the Northern Ireland Assembly through financial and annual reporting obligations.

We are based at Queens House in the centre of Belfast. The Chief Executive leads a management team of directors representing each of the key functional areas in the organisation: Corporate Affairs; Electricity; Gas; Retail and Social; and Water. The staff team includes economists, engineers, accountants, utility specialists, legal advisors and administration professionals.

Our Mission

Value and sustainability in energy and water.

Our Vision

We will make a difference for consumers by listening, innovating and leading.

Our Values

Be a best practice regulator: transparent, consistent, proportional, accountable, and targeted.

Be a united team.

Be collaborative and co-operative.

Be professional.

Listen and explain.

Make a difference.

Act with integrity.
Abstract

SONI Limited, currently holds a transmission licence. Under the Electricity (Priority Dispatch) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (hereafter referred to as the Regulations) changes to existing transmission licences are required in order to comply with the Regulations. DETI has formally requested that the Utility Regulator to make the appropriate modifications to the existing transmission licences. This document sets out the relevant licenses modifications.

Audience

Electricity industry participants, statutory bodies, consumer groups and other wider stakeholders.

Consumer impact

The modifications will ensure compliance with the Regulations, which provide that priority should be given to electricity generation from renewable, hybrid, high efficiency co-generation and waste energy plants. In essence the modifications provide that SONI Limited shall comply with the “Priority Dispatch Principles” as published and updated from time to time. The Priority Dispatch Principles set out in detail how SONI Limited shall give priority to the generation listed.
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Licence Modification Notice: SONI Limited Transmission Licence

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LICENCE MODIFICATION NOTICE
SONI LIMITED TRANSMISSION LICENCE

1 In pursuance of its powers under Article 3(1) of the Electricity (Priority Dispatch) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (hereafter referred to as the “Regulations”); The Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment (hereafter referred to as the “Department”) has formally requested the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (hereafter referred to as the “Authority”) to modify the transmission licence of SONI Limited to comply with the regulations.

2 The reasons for the proposed modification is to comply with the regulations.

3 The effect of the proposed modifications is that SONI Limited will be required by licence to comply with article 11AB (Conditions on transmission licences relating to priority dispatch) of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992, as amended by the regulations.

4 In practice SONI Limited currently complies with the proposed licence conditions, therefore there will be no additional costs associated with this modification.

5 The above modifications will take effect from 28 November 2013, unless representations or objections are raised before this date.

6 Representations or objections with respect to the proposed modifications may be made on or before 5pm 27 November 2013 to:

Andrew McCorriston
Utility Regulator
Queens House
14 Queen Street
Belfast
BT1 6ED
Email: Andrew.mccorriston@uregni.gov.uk
Modification to SONI Limited Transmission Licence

Insertion of Condition 9a

Priority Dispatch of Renewable Generation

1. The Licensee shall comply with the Priority Dispatch Principles.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1 the Licensee’s obligation to comply with the Priority Dispatch Principles is an obligation to comply with the provisions of the Priority Dispatch Principles in so far as they are applicable to the activities undertaken by the Transmission Operator Business.

3. The Authority may from time to time (following consultation with the Licensee and such (if any) other licences holders as the Authority shall consider appropriate) issue directions relieving the Licensee of its obligations under paragraph 2 in respect of such parts of the Priority Dispatch Principles and to such extent and subject to such conditions as may be specified in those directions.

4. In this Condition:

“Priority Dispatch Principles” means the principles, processes, rules and criteria determined and published by the Authority for the purposes of ensuring that certain types of generation sets are afforded priority dispatch in accordance with the requirements of Article 16(2)(c) of Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, as amended from time to time by the Authority.