

Utility Regulator Finance and Network Assets
Queens House
14 Queens Street
Belfast
BT1 6ED

8 March 2024
Our Reference: GTS-1008

For the Attention of : Mr. A Craig

Grid Team services Support for Northern Ireland Electricity “NIE”

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) as they endeavour to secure the necessary budget requirements for RP7. As a crucial player in the energy sector, NIE plays a pivotal role in providing essential services to communities across Northern Ireland, and their proposed investment in RP7 is critical for the continued growth and sustainability of our energy infrastructure.

NIE has consistently demonstrated a steadfast commitment to reliability, innovation, and sustainability in their operations. Through strategic planning and continuous investment, they have not only improved the quality and efficiency of their services but have also embraced advancements in technology and renewable energy integration.

The successful execution of RP7 is not only imperative for NIE's continued growth and competitiveness but also for the benefit of consumers and the broader energy landscape. This investment will allow NIE to modernize its infrastructure, enhance grid resilience, and effectively meet evolving regulatory standards.

Moreover, NIE's proposed budget requirements for RP7 are aimed at driving meaningful progress towards a more sustainable and resilient energy future. By supporting their budgetary needs, the regulator would facilitate the implementation of critical initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions, promoting renewable energy adoption, and improving grid efficiency.

Furthermore, as contractors to NIE, we are deeply invested in the success of the network renewal program. Through our partnership with NIE, we have experienced substantial growth over the years, increasing our workforce and fostering new talent within the industry. With the support of NIE, we are committed to doubling our workforce over the next three years. However, the aging networks and the resultant skills gap pose significant challenges that can only be overcome with a high level of investment.

The global industry for electrical materials is under immense pressure, with demand growing from all quarters. Our staff are being recruited from countries as far afield as Australia and Canada. In order to remain an attractive work location and continue to meet the demands of NIE and other clients, we must address these short-term challenges. These additional inflationary pressures further burden our clients financially, and we urge

the regulator to consider these factors when evaluating NIE's budget requirements for RP7.

In conclusion, I implore the Electricity Regulator to give due consideration to NIE's budget requirements for RP7. By doing so, the regulator will not only support NIE's continued success but also contribute to the advancement of Northern Ireland's energy transition goals and the overall well-being of its citizens.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sean Convery

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Managing Director

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