

Robin McCormick  
SONI LTD  
Castlereagh House  
12 Manse Road  
Belfast  
BT6 9RT

6th April 2018

Our Ref – CNO/E/TH/337

Dear Robin,

**RE: ERE Developments Limited  
Direction under Condition 16 (12) of Transmission Licence**

**Whereas:**

- (A) SONI Limited (**SONI**) holds an electricity transmission licence granted to it on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007.
- (B) The licensee is authorised to participate in the transmission of electricity for the purpose of giving a supply to any premises or enabling a supply to be so given.
- (C) The Grid Code is required to be prepared by SONI, approved by the Utility Regulator (the **UR**) and applied by SONI to permit the development, maintenance and operation of an efficient, co-ordinated and economical Transmission System.
- (D) Paragraph 1 of Condition 16 of the Licence requires the licensee to comply with the provisions of the Grid Code insofar as applicable to it. Paragraph 6 of Condition 16 specifies the content of the Grid Code including: connection conditions; operating code; planning code; a set of scheduling and dispatch codes and a metering code.
- (E) Paragraph 12 of Condition 16 of the licence provides that the UR may issue directions (after consultation with the licensee), relieving the licensee of its obligations to implement or comply with, or to enforce against any other person any provision of, the Grid Code in respect of such parts of the Transmission system to such extent as may be specified in the directions.
- (F) On 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 ERE Developments Limited submitted a document (**the derogation request**) to the UR requesting lifetime derogations from two requirements of the SONI Grid Code in relation to Lisahally Power Station. On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 ERE Developments Limited submitted an updated derogation request to correct a numbering anomaly. The Grid Code

requirements which ERE Developments Limited has requested to derogate from are as follows:-

**CC.S1.2.3.4**

*Start-Up and Ramp Rates*

*(a) A Generating Unit must be capable of Start-Up:*

- (i) from cold within 14 hours;*
- (ii) from warm within 5 hours;*
- (iii) from hot within 3 hours.*

*The block Load on synchronising must be no greater than 40 MW.*

*(b) A Generating Unit which is in a hot condition must be capable of ramping up from part-load pursuant to a Dispatch instruction at a rate of at least 3% of MCR per minute.*

*(c) A Generating Unit must be capable of de-loading at a rate of at least 3% of MCR per minute.*

**CC.S1.2.3.3**

*A Generating Unit must be capable of remaining Synchronised to the NI System at an Output which is no greater than the lower of 80 MW or 40% of maximum continuous rating.*

(G) In its consideration of the derogation request, the UR has consulted with NIE Networks, SONI, ERE Developments Limited and has appointed Consultants to produce a technical assessment. Having reviewed Consultants' report (enclosed) together with the submissions from the parties to date, the UR has decided to follow the Consultants' recommendations which are:-

- There is a need to investigate the capability of using steam turbine bypass to reduce electrical output without adjusting the furnace. This should include a combination of design review, testing (if appropriate) and high level (initially) feasibility of any necessary modifications to establish the capital cost of enabling such functionality.
- ERE should carry out controlled testing to confirm the level of electrical output reduction and rate of reduction achievable through the furnace controls while maintaining emissions within the prescribed levels. This would be testing similar to the grid connection testing that appears to have been undertaken in 2015, but include emissions data to confirm ramp rates that still enable compliance with the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) emissions limits.
- All testing should be independently witnessed and the data recorded submitted to the Authority.
- ERE should pursue the potential for a derogation against the IPPC permit's emissions limits to enable closer compliance to Grid Code.

(H) The UR considers it appropriate that ERE Developments Limited should now engage appropriately qualified personnel to conduct the testing and

investigations set out in the Consultants' recommendations and produce a report for the UR on the findings. The UR would expect that SONI engage and co-operate with ERE Developments Limited to facilitate this as required.

- (I) In the interim, the UR deems it appropriate to extend the terms of the derogations granted in the Direction dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 for a further limited period. This will allow sufficient time for the requisite testing and investigations to be carried out and for UR analysis of the results prior to reaching a final decision on the derogation request.

**The Utility Regulator now gives the following Direction:**

1. Pursuant to its power under paragraph 12 of Condition 16 of the licence, the UR directs that the Licensee:-
  - a. is relieved of its obligations under Condition 16 of the Licence Document to implement, comply with and enforce, in relation to Lisahally Power Station, Section CC.S1.2.3.4 of the SONI Grid Code.
  - b. is relieved of its obligations under Condition 16 of the Licence Document to implement, comply with and enforce, in relation to Lisahally Power Station, Section CC.S1.2.3.3 of the SONI Grid Code. Lisahally Power Station must comply with the following requirement:-  
*"A Generating Unit must be capable of remaining Synchronised to the NI System at an output which is no lower than 70% of maximum continuous rating."*
2. The following conditions shall apply:
  - This Direction applies until 17th August 2018.
  - This Direction relates solely to Lisahally Power Station and does not set a precedent for future derogations.
3. This Direction is dependent on the requisite tests and investigations being carried out a timely manner to allow for the necessary consideration of relevant issues in line with the UR's Guidance Document on Derogation Requests<sup>1</sup>. We would expect that SONI engage with ERE Developments Limited to enable their provision of a timeline to the UR by 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to include the dates of testing and investigations. We would also expect that SONI co-operate with ERE Developments Limited as required to facilitate the testing and investigations.

Signed .....

Name: Tanya Hedley

Authorised by and on behalf of the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uregni.gov.uk/sites/uregni/files/media-files/Guidance%20Document%20on%20Derogations%20-%20February%202017.pdf>