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Date: 25/04/2019

Our Ref: NET/E/TH/92

Dear Lisa,

Request for Extension of Time to Issue a Connection Offer for Connection Application at Carnalbanagh Wind Farm, NIE Networks reference 16/04526, until 28 March 2020

Thank you for your letter dated 1 April 2019 concerning consent from the Authority for NIE Networks to extend the required three month timeline to issue a connection offer to **Carnalbanagh Wind Farm Connection Application**.

Request for further connection offer extension

Within your correspondence you have noted that Carnalbanagh Wind Farm applied on 4 April 2016 and had not achieved planning permission and therefore under the Phase 1 queuing principles that were being applied at this time, Carnalbanagh did not effectively gain a position in the queue.

In the joint NIE Networks and SONI 'Consultation on Connecting Further Generation in Northern Ireland' dated the 31 January 2018, it was outlined how the 'Phase 1' Connections process and queuing principles were no longer suitable going forwards due a number of factors.

Following the closure of the consultation, NIE Networks issued the 'Distribution Generation Application and Offer Process' Statement which became effective on the 18 May 2018. On the 18 May 2018 NIE Networks were able to determine that Carnalbanagh Wind Farm was second in the queue for the remaining capacity at the first 90MW at Kells Cluster.

The offer is subject to the outcome of another connection offer and therefore an extension is requested to enable NIE Networks the ability to formulate accurate terms for connection in accordance with its Distribution Licence.

Applicant Consultation

The applicant in question has consented to the proposed extension.

Affected Parties Consultation

NIE Networks confirmed there are two affected parties as they are currently in the queue behind Carnalbanagh for the assigned transmission node (Kells Cluster). NIE Networks has consulted both verbally and via written correspondence with the affected parties who have supported this extension request.

The Authority's decision

The extension would allow the applicant to remain in the connection queue for the first 90MW at Kells Cluster where there is an opportunity for network capacity to become available that would facilitate the connection of this proposed project. This extension would facilitate a fair and transparent network capacity allocation and queuing process for the capacity available for the first 90MW at Kells Cluster.

Enabling this application to remain in the queue presents a potential benefit by providing a greater opportunity for the remaining capacity for the first 90MW at Kells Cluster to be fully committed. The extension would enable NIE Networks to progress the connection design and production of a connection offer subject to capacity becoming available.

The relevant section of the distribution licence is within Condition 30. This requires a connection offer to be made not later than 3 months unless consent to a longer period has been approved by the Authority.

Given the feedback from NIE Networks and having considered the request and reviewed the response from the connection applicant and the affected parties, the Authority is able to agree an extension period until **28 March 2020**.

Yours sincerely,



Tanya Hedley
Director of Networks