

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

4<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Our Ref – CNO/E/TH/213

Dear Robin,

**RE: Direction under Condition 16 (12) of SONI's Licence  
Kilroot Derogation from warm heat state notification time**

**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 Limited, approved by the Utility Regulator (the **UR**) and applied by SONI Limited 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.
1. On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 AES UK & Ireland (on behalf of Kilroot Power Station) submitted a request to the UR for a lifetime derogation from the following requirements of the SONI Grid Code:-

*Section CC.S1.2.3.4 (a) (ii) - Start-Up and Ramp Rates*

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

2. The UR has taken into account SONI's support of the derogation from Section CC.S1.2.3.4 (a) (ii) of the Grid Code based on the following factors set out in SONI's report dated 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017:-
  - the plant operator and owner is best placed to manage the technical parameters of the plant to maximize longevity and reliability;
  - the request to change the warm start-up time to 6 hours (one hour above the max allowed in Grid Code) does not adversely impact day to day system security;
  - there are no material impacts on consumer costs as far as SONI can determine; and that
  - maximising the lifetime of this plant is of benefit to N. Ireland consumers.
  
3. The UR also considered SONI's comment that whilst a lifetime derogation was requested, this plant is forecast to close by 2024, based on information provided to SONI in the latest Generation Capacity Statement. As such, the duration of this derogation aligns accordingly.

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

**Direction**

1. Pursuant to its power under paragraph 12 of Condition 16 of the licence, the UR directs that the Licensee is relieved of its obligations under Condition 16 of the Licence Document to implement, comply with and enforce, in relation to Kilroot Power Station, Section CC.S1.2.3.4 (a) (ii) of the SONI Grid Code.
2. This direction applies until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.
3. This direction relates solely to Kilroot Power Station and does not set a precedent for future derogations.

Signed .....

**Name: Tanya Hedley**

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