



27th June 2017

Renewables Grid Liaison Group

Minutes of Meeting No21

| Attendees | |
|--|--|
| Utility Regulator | Tanya Hedley (TH) Neil Bingham (NB) Kieran McCann (KMcC) |
| NIRIG | Rory Mullan (RM) Andy McCrea (AMcC) |
| NIE Networks | Michael Atkinson (MA) Ian Craig (IC) Brian Moorhead (BM) Sinead Ferris (SF) David McDonald (DMcD) |
| SONI | Louis Fisher (LF) Nick Fullerton (NF) Conor O'Dogherty (CO) Helen Gallagher (HG) Raymond Smyth (RS) |
| Department for the Economy - Energy Renewables Division | Trevor McBriar (TMcB) |
| NISTA | Neil O'Brien (NO'B) |
| Offshore Representative | No attendee |
| Ulster Farmers Union | No attendee |
| Energy Storage Representative | No attendee |
| Apologies | Gary Hawkes Chris Osborne Eimear Watson Michael Harper Brian Pope Michael Harper Meabh Cormacain |

| No | Item | Action |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Apologies | |
| 2 | <p>Minutes and actions from previous meeting</p> <p>Minutes agreed for publication</p> <p>Actions from previous meeting</p> <p><u>Action 1</u> NIE Networks and SONI to produce prediction to 2020 on meeting 2020 RES target.</p> <p>LF commented that SONI were still working through this with NIE Networks. TH stated she expected to see a range and MA stated that it was well developed. MA stated that something should be available within a few days. TH suggested Monday 3rd July. NF commented that due to internal signoff it may be later that week. TH asked for it to be flagged that on a number of previous occasions SONI give the impression that delays are due to internal signoff.</p> <p><i>Not Complete</i></p> <p><u>Action 2</u> NIE Networks and SONI to review 25.4% consumption figure for 2016.</p> <p>LF explained the figure was correct.</p> <p><i>Completed</i></p> <p>TH asked for a copy of the most recent report to be forwarded.</p> <p><u>Action 3</u> UR to engage with DfE on rebates.</p> <p><i>Not Complete</i></p> <p>In the absence of policy direction the UR to re-engage at a later stage.</p> <p><u>Action 4</u> Ministerial Briefing Pack.</p> <p><i>Not Complete</i></p> | <p>SONI/NIEN</p> <p>SONI</p> <p>UR</p> |

| No | Item | Action |
|----|---|--------|
| | <p>In the absence of policy direction the UR to re-engage at a later stage.</p> <p>Action 5 Date of next meeting.</p> <p><i>Complete</i></p> | UR |
| 3 | <p>Update on Renewables Connected</p> <p>MA gave an update/presentation on the status of renewable generation.</p>  <p>27_06_17 RGLG 3. Presentation NIE.pdf</p> <p>Items covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase 1 progress update - Renewable generation status - Connected renewable generation growth - NI renewable generation technology mix - Cluster update <p>Presentation will be uploaded onto UR website.</p> <p>NO'B asked MA if he could quantify the capacity remaining at Kells. MA explained that there was strong interest equating to approximately 60MW leaving an approximate capacity of 30MW.</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Phase 2 Update</p> <p>On behalf of NIRIG, Meabh Corrigan had asked BM to raise the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outcomes from the connection policy decision paper - Transmission development planning ATRs <p>BM stated the following presentation would cover off the questions.</p>  <p>27_06_17 RGLG 4. Presentation Joint NI</p> <p>Items covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Licence condition regarding offer extensions - Where capacity exists - Where there is no capacity - Options - Options outcomes | |

| No | Item | Action |
|----|---|--------|
| | <p>The following was raised during the presentation:</p> <p>RM asked about the lack of capacity at transmission level. LF explained that SONI could not refuse to make offers based on a lack of capacity rather there is no firm transmission capacity left and offers could be made on a zero firm access basis. RM stated that there was a lack of understanding as to what 'no capacity meant' citing the example of distribution offers being withheld due to a lack of transmission capacity. BM stated that a model was being developed as to how capacity is allocated and show where the different constraints are. It was further explained that NIE Networks can only make an offer based on firm capacity. Where there are restrictions, even if due to the transmission network, an offer won't be made due to the uncontrollable nature of the distribution connected generators.</p> <p>TH referred to option A and the notion of dismantling the existing queue to remove older applications that were holding capacity. BM stated that this was not an issue as there weren't any applications holding capacity. The current queue has been shaped using a policy developed through consultation between NIE Networks/SONI/Industry. TH asked was any appetite to dismantle the current queue order. RM made the point that to make that type of decision knowledge of what was planned for the future would be required.</p> <p>RM asked about the transmission plan. RS referred to the NIE Networks/SONI transmission investment plan and 10 year statement. Thermal and phase angle issues highlighted. The next step to remove the current constraints the generators have is dependant on future 275/400kV works. TH stated that in terms of timescales it should be remembered that the North/South interconnector was proposed in 1994. Also, any 275/400kV works would have to be considered in terms of value to consumers. RM stated that the information flow needs to continue to keep stakeholders updated.</p> <p>LF commented that some certainty and information on constraints would be required so that decisions could be made on viability.</p> <p>NO'B stated that from a micro and a small scale point of view Option B would be preferred. A speedy yes or no would allow a positive decision to be made.</p> <p>Plan in RP6 that may allow further connections at distribution level'</p> <p>AMcC asked in terms of the cleansing process how will it operate – would it be on the basis of planning for example. BM replied that these types of questions will form part of the consultation process.</p> <p>BM asked if it would be considered an incentive to refund application fees associated with no capacity before an agreed date. After that date the refunds would not be offered. The</p> | |

| No | Item | Action |
|----|---|--------|
| | <p>assumption being only those with a serious intent would remain. RM said in his opinion that applicants did not expect to see a refund from an application, only an offer regardless of how unattractive. BM stated from NIE Networks experience numerous applications were made with the expectation they would get their money back if the offer wasn't forthcoming.</p> <p>RM said he would take these questions up with NIGIR and BM stated that he welcomed all feedback and ideas.</p> <p>The feasibility of making a transmission plan with every application verses an overall plan was discussed.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note: NIE Networks and SONI have now scheduled a joint industry workshop on "Phase 2" in the Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim on Friday 18th August.</i></p> | |
| 5 | <p>Hybrid Plant</p> <p>CO gave a presentation on Hybrid Plant.</p> <p>All Ireland Working group currently being formed. Considerable interest expressed so far.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>DfE – General Update</p> <p>TMcB stated that the Department was awaiting the outcome of the recent election. He was hopeful that future energy policy, including renewables, would be progressed at an early stage irrespective of the Minister's identity.</p> <p>The Department was expecting supporting evidence from NIRIG to support zero subsidy CfDs.</p> <p>Before the collapse of the Assembly the Minister had instructed officials to consider NIRO related risks to ensure that there are no vulnerabilities similar to those identified in the RHI. This work will continue over the coming months. TMcB advised that the Department was reasonably confident that there are no major issues.</p> <p>RM asked about the process for the consideration of progressing grid policy i.e. rebating, into legislation in the current political environment. TMcB advised that the matter should be formalised in writing and explained that legislation could not be developed in the absence of an Assembly.</p> | |
| 7 | <p>Contestability Update</p> <p>SF gave update on current status:</p> <p>4 contestable offers issued, 1 accepted.</p> <p>16 ICPs now registered.</p> <p>NF stated that as yet SONI did not have transmission contestable offers to issue yet and were still working on the indemnity issue with NIE Networks.</p> <p>RM stated that one of the issues may be difficulty in getting the</p> | |

| No | Item | Action |
|-----------|---|---------------|
| | first participant 'through the door' due to the learning curve on both sides. DMcD stated that NIE Networks are happy to go through, and test at a high level the systems set in place, with industry. | |
| 8 | <p>Network Codes Post Brexit</p> <p>Raised by NIRIG – RM stated that with the Network codes are due May 2018 and was enquiring as to what was happening.</p> <p>LF stated that a workshop was being run in September 2017 covering both North and South on the 'Requirement for Generators'. There has already been a consultation on the ranges and bandings.</p> <p>DMcD stated that some impact assessments have been carried out D-Code.</p> | |
| 8 | <p>AOB</p> <p>RP6 – Final decision imminent.</p> | |
| 9 | <p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>UR to set next date – September 2017</p> | UR |

Summary of Actions

| Action No. | Action Description | To be Actioned by |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | NIE Networks and SONI to produce prediction to 2020 on meeting 2020 RES target. | NIE Networks/SONI |
| 2 | SONI to forward copy of latest consumption report | SONI |
| 3 | UR to engage with DfE on rebates. | UR |
| 4 | Ministerial Briefing Pack. | UR |
| 5 | Date of next meeting September 2017. Date to be confirmed. | UR |