



LIGHTSOURCE
SWITCHING ON SUNLIGHT

Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited
120 Malone Road
Belfast
BT9 5HT
1st April 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

**REF: Consultation Response: Northern Ireland Electricity/SONI – Alternative Connection
Application and Offer Process Proposal**

We are writing to express our views on issues related to the Northern Ireland Electricity's Network (NIE) and SONI'S Alternative Connection Application and Offer Process Consultation Paper of 4th March 2016.

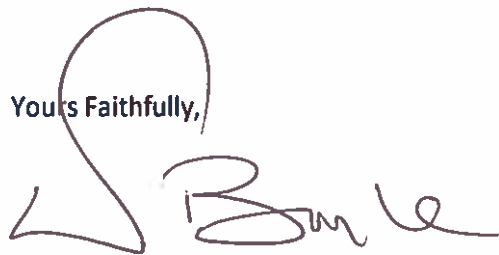
Lightsource Renewable Energy Holdings Ltd is Europe's leading solar PV developer having delivered a portfolio of over 1.3GW of solar PV projects across the UK, investing over £2.0bn in just 5 short years.

To date we have secured full planning approval for 5 Northern Ireland projects (58MW) caught in the moratorium and stalled awaiting grid offers. This would represent development investment of circa £60M. Subject to receiving viable grid connection offers, our plans are to develop at the very minimum 100MW of large scale PV systems in Northern Ireland over the next twelve to eighteen months, with an anticipated total investment of £120 million.

We strongly believe that the introduction of interim measures to facilitate the early issuing of connection offers will provide significant opportunity for further investment in Northern Ireland. Therefore we are writing in support for the prioritisation of the following subset of applications:

- New applications and extensions in areas with transmission capacity;
- Applications for zero export;
Northern Ireland demonstrates some of the highest energy prices in Europe, therefore limiting competitiveness. Applications for zero export will provide huge savings to large energy users, reducing energy costs by way of direct private wire connections (PPA). These are valuable savings, particularly for the manufacturing industry in Northern Ireland, currently supporting over 85,000 jobs;
- Application to over install generation and cap Maximum Export Capacity (MEC) to the existing MEC;
- Applications for a change in Technology or additional technologies at an existing site; and
- Applications to utilise the remaining capacity at existing clusters.

In conclusion, we reiterate that renewable energy projects play a vital role in the provision of more self-sustainable energy infrastructure for Northern Ireland. Improvements within this area will reduce energy costs and carbon emissions for industries, unlock further investment into local communities and inevitably create vital full time job opportunities.

Yours Faithfully,


Nick Boyle
Chief Executive Officer
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