

**NIE/SONI**

31st March 2016

Dear Sirs,

**Response to Consultation Questions:**

**Question 1: Do you have any additional suggestions for consideration in relation to continuing to apply the existing connection application and offer process given the recent influx of connection applications received?**

We are in support of any interim measures that can process project connection offers for projects that have obvious capacity available at their relevant node between now and June 31st.

**Question 3: Do you agree that the Batch Process is the most pragmatic alternative connection application and offer process to deal with the recent influx of applications? Do you have any other suggestions or specific comments on the proposed approach?**

We understand that NIE will communicate estimated connection costs for each batch participant once the transmission node is initially assigned. It would make sense to disclose who are the other participants in the same Group, their MEC and location.

**Question 5: Do you agree with the types of connection applications that are proposed to be included in the Batch? Please provide reasons for any views expressed.**

We disagree with the requirement for Auto-Producer sites with zero MEC to be processed through the batch system.

**Question 10: Are there any further considerations for the TSO and DNO before this type of connection can be facilitated?**

We suggest that the size of the cluster should vary to suit Sub-Set or Group size, i.e. not every 90MVA cluster suits all. As this is driven by transformer standard sizes, it may be worth considering using smaller transformers (63MVA, 31.5MVA, etc).

**Question 18: Can you suggest any alternatives to ensure that customers are committed to their connection application?**

We are in favor of introducing a connection charge bond and MEC bond, this measure will benefit "real projects" against other projects unlikely to secure planning or go ahead.

Question 24: Do you agree that the offer acceptance criteria outlined above strikes the right balance between ensuring that applicants are committed to their projects, without being too onerous that applicants will not be in a position to accept their offer?

We agree with main proposals for offer acceptance criteria (8.14)

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Brown", is written over the printed name and title.

Justin Brown  
Director