

EirGrid and SONI conducted a public consultation on the future development of the Transmission Forecast Statement (TFS) in late 2012. In this consultation, the TSOs outlined a number of proposals aimed at improving the TFS:

- Expand to a 10 year horizon
- Adapt the generator opportunity section
 - to highlight the link between system reinforcements and the provision of firm access
 - to include possible opportunities for generation beyond those which are currently contracted or have connection offers
- Provide maximum and minimum short circuit levels over a ten year horizon
- Provide information on minimum short circuits levels under specified system operating conditions.

The feedback received generally endorsed each of the above proposals.

The consultation also sought proposals from industry participants on further possible ways to improve the statement. The additional proposals concern:

- Grid development delivery
- Constraint levels
- Harmonic distortion levels
- Recent network developments

These additional proposals, along with the TSO's final proposals for the 2013 and future statements, are discussed below:

1. Expanding to a Ten Year Horizon

The statement will be renamed the "Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement" (TYTFS) with most of the document's content covering a ten-year timeframe rather than the previous timeframe of seven years. Going forward:

- a) Transmission system developments in both Ireland and Northern Ireland will be illustrated and discussed over the ten year horizon.
- b) The maximum and minimum short circuit values will remain for years 1, 4 and 7 for the forthcoming statements¹.
- c) The demand opportunity analysis will remain for years 1, 4 and 7 for this and future statements.

Expanding the coverage of the statement will align the TYTFS with the EirGrid Transmission Development Plan, EirGrid & SONI All-Island Generation Capacity Statement and ENTSO-E Ten Year Network Development Plan, while offering a longer term perspective on the development of the transmission systems.

¹ See section 3.

2. Revised Generator Opportunity Chapter

The opportunities for potential additional generation in Northern Ireland will be provided for the final year of the statement in future statements. In other words the statement will report the generator opportunities for year 10 instead of year 7.

For the 2013 statement, the generator opportunities analysis for Ireland will be adapted to capture the following:

- a) The relationship between transmission system reinforcements and the creation of additional firm access will be reported.
- b) Specific nodal analysis will be undertaken to determine possible opportunities for generators beyond that which is currently connected, contracted or with a connection offer.

The appropriateness of this format will be reviewed annually to ensure relevancy for future statements.

3. Short Circuit Levels

Maximum and minimum short circuit values will be provided for years 1, 4 and 7 for the forthcoming statements. The TSOs had originally proposed to provide short circuit values for years 1, 4 and 10, however, the legal advice received was that this would necessitate a change in EirGrid's TSO licence. Therefore for the 2013 statement short circuit levels will continue to be provided for years 1, 4 and 7. Further consideration will be given to whether it is appropriate to seek a change in the EirGrid TSO licence to facilitate provision of short circuit values for years 1, 4 and 10. This consideration will be informed by any feedback received from industry participants.

For future statements, we propose to provide minimum short circuit levels under specified operating conditions by considering network and/or generator outage scenarios. This cannot be provided for the 2013 statement as further interaction with industry is necessary to ensure the basis of the calculation methodology is appropriate and the information provided beneficial to industry participants.

4. Grid Development Delivery

The Northern Ireland section on grid development delivery will not change. The section of the Transmission System chapter related to Ireland will in the future include information on the scale of grid development historically delivered and the scale of development upon which the statement's analysis is based.

This section will also include commentary on the risks associated with system developments. This information will be included in this statement and will be reassessed annually to determine if the TYTFS is the most suitable vehicle for this information in the future.

5. Constraint Levels

Information regarding potential constraint levels across the transmission network will not be included in the 2013 statement as, in Ireland, the Gate 3 Constraint Reports are being produced on a similar timescale to the release of the TYTFS. These reports will discuss constraint levels to a far greater depth than could be facilitated in the TYTFS. SONI also intends to publish information on constraint levels at 110 kV and 275 kV nodes on completion of an ongoing consultation process. EirGrid and SONI believe there will be sufficient information regarding constraints already in the public domain but we remain open to providing additional information on network constraints in future statements.

6. Harmonic Distortion Levels

Information on the existing and future potential harmonic distortion levels across the transmission system will not be included in the 2013 statement. The TSOs are currently working on a new harmonic screening analysis tool and methodology and are open to the inclusion of relevant information in future statements.

7. Recent Network Developments

Information on network developments initiated by the TSOs (and/or NIE) between the data freeze date and publication date of the TYTFS will be included in future statements. Therefore, recently capitally approved projects, project terminations and projects with significant changes in estimated completion dates will be explicitly noted. All study scenarios will remain based on the information as of the data freeze date.

8. Document Structure

The structure of the statement will remain largely unchanged as it is a well-established and understood structure of chapters and appendices, with the chapters largely providing a textual snapshot of concepts and statistics and the appendices providing tabular or illustrative information expanding on that provided in the chapters.

The aim of the revised TYTFS remains to enable identification of connection opportunities for existing and potential users of the transmission system of Ireland and Northern Ireland and providing information on the designs, performance and technical capabilities of the system. Recognising the changing needs of the industry we will continue to provide as much information as possible over a ten year horizon and on an all-island basis.

We are committed to stakeholder engagement. Please contact us at tfscconsultation@eirgrid.com or enquiries@soni.ltd.uk if you feel your proposal/feedback has been misunderstood or overlooked.

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