

Gareth McLaughlin
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12th April 2013

Dear Gareth

RE: Consultation on Generator Connection Process

I am writing to you in response to the joint SONI and NIE consultation on the 'Allocation of Transmission FAQ in Northern Ireland and ITC Methodology to determine FAQs'.

Alongside its significant onshore wind interests in Northern Ireland, Bord Gáis Energy (BG Energy) holds, as part of a joint venture with OpenHydro, a lease from the Crown Estate to develop a tidal energy project up to 100MW at a site offshore of Torr Head, off the coast of County Antrim. As an entity with significant generation interests in Northern Ireland, we very much welcome the consultation from NIE and SONI and hope that a decision can be made and clarity provided to investors in the near future.

As part of its joint venture with Openhydro, Tidal Ventures, BG Energy has made some substantive comments with respect to the need to recognise the system and security benefits of tidal projects as well as the substantial risks faced by a technology that is in development stages. As such we call for the inclusion of tidal projects in the ITC analysis at the soonest possible date to provide greater certainty to the project developers and to reduce certain controllable risks.

As a member of NIRIG, BG Energy also supports the response submitted by NIRIG and requests further analysis by SONI and NIE on the impact of the connection of offshore projects on the development of the grid and the operation of the system.

BG Energy would like to reiterate that we would welcome a decision on the allocation of transmission FAQ and the ITC methodology at the earliest possible date to allow NIE and

SONI to progress their respective ITC analysis, to provide clarity with respect to FAQ dates and as such, to enable the further development of renewable generation in Northern Ireland. As can be seen from the relative halt on the development of renewable projects over the past number of years, developers will not invest without greater clarity on the availability of FAQ. Therefore, it is critical to the achievement of Northern Ireland's renewable targets that this consultation is concluded in a reasonable and timely manner.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Murray
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Bord Gáis Energy

{sent by email}