



Consultation on the future
development of the **All-Island
Transmission Forecast
Statement**



Foreword & Summary

Welcome to our consultation on the future development of the All-Island Transmission Forecast Statement (TFS). This document currently aims to enable identification of connection opportunities for existing and potential users of the transmission system of Ireland and Northern Ireland and provide information on the designs, performance and technical capabilities of the system over a seven year horizon.

We have entered a period of very significant change in the electricity industry as we move towards low carbon sources of generation and in doing so meet the challenge of delivering the infrastructure required to future-proof Ireland's and Northern Ireland's electricity needs. Recognising the changing needs of the industry, we believe it is appropriate to review the form and content of the TFS to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

We have developed a number of proposals which we believe will improve the information contained within the statement. These include expanding the timeframe of the TFS from seven to ten years and providing additional information on generation opportunities. We also plan to rename the document to the Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement (TYTFS).

We are committed to stakeholder engagement - listening to you and acting on what you tell us - and we are now seeking your views on our proposals. It is important that we understand your views on whether our proposals provide you with what you require to make your business decisions and plan for the future.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to present your views and propose your own changes to the document. We look forward to receiving your responses over the next four weeks: **please provide your responses by the 23rd of November 2012.**

Regards,

Simon Grimes

Transmission Access Planning Manager, EirGrid

Dick Lewis

Grid Operations Manager, SONI



1.0 Key Features of the Current TFS

EirGrid and SONI, under their respective licence obligations, are obliged to publish on an annual basis a statement which outlines demand and generation projects, network development proposals, short circuit current levels and opportunities for connection. Historically EirGrid has met this obligation through the publication of the Transmission Forecast Statement while SONI has done so through the publication of the Transmission System Capacity Statement (TSCS)¹. In 2012 EirGrid and SONI combined their respective documents and produced the first All-Island Transmission Forecast Statement².

In relation to the transmission system of Ireland and Northern Ireland the TFS currently aims to:

- Provide information and analysis on electricity demand, generation, system performance/capabilities/designs and other related information.
- Describe the expected electricity demand forecasts and existing and future committed generation projections.
- Assist existing and prospective new users of the transmission system in assessing the opportunities available to them for making new or further use of the system.
- Analysis utilises a seven year study period based on the contracted background i.e. any generation or demand project which has a signed connection agreement. This contracted background for generators is available on our websites.
- Outline the expected development of the transmission system.
- Provide an overview of the technical requirements, standards and governance arrangements in both jurisdictions.
- Enable third parties to undertake their own power flow analysis by the provision of system data.

The TFS is prepared in accordance with Section 38 of Ireland's Electricity Regulation Act, 1999 and Condition 33, Part 1 of Northern Ireland's "Licence to Participate in the Transmission of Electricity". The form of the statement, and any future changes to it, are subject to agreement with the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) and the Utility Regulator for Northern Ireland (UREGNI).

The latest edition of the TFS was published in April 2012 and is available on our websites².



¹ And previously the Transmission Seven Year Statement

² <http://www.eirgrid.com/aboutus/publications/transmissionforecaststatement2012-2018/>
<http://www.soni.ltd.uk/upload/All-Island%20Transmission%20Forecast%20Statement%202012-2018.pdf>

2.0 Looking Forward- Proposals for a New Document

Since the publication of the first All-Island TFS last April, EirGrid and SONI have been considering ways in which the TFS might be improved.

We now propose to:

- **Expand the TFS to a ten year statement.**
This will align the TFS timeframe with that of the All-Island Generation Capacity Statement, the Transmission Development Plan and the European Ten Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) while also recognising the longer term outlook required by potential investors in new generation plant.
- **Adapt the generator opportunity section (see NOTE 1) to provide additional information on:**
 - ▶ How developments in the transmission system are linked to the provision of firm access.
 - ▶ Possible opportunities for generation beyond that which is currently contracted or has a connection offer.



What are your views on the additional generator opportunity information?
(ref. Feedback Form Q5)

NOTE 1: GENERATOR OPPORTUNITIES

The TFS was conceived at a time when potential future developments on the transmission system were less numerous and more predictable than they are today. Going forward the analysis of future generator opportunities against a contracted background seems increasingly inadequate as it could present an unrealistic outlook. For example, given the current hiatus on Gate 3 connection offers, analysis on the basis of the contracted background would, for next year's TFS, indicate an unrealistically positive outlook. Similarly, in the future, assuming all contracted generation will proceed could present an equally extreme case.

We considered several scenario based analysis methods with varying connection offer acceptance levels, however it was felt that this information was deducible from the results of EirGrid's routine analysis of Firm Access Quantities (FAQs³) for all non-firm and partially-firm generators.

Recognising the above, we intend to provide additional information on how specific transmission reinforcement and new build projects facilitate the provision of firm capacity which will further aid customers in assessing future generator opportunities.

³ <http://www.eirgrid.com/customers/gridconnections/generatorconnections/firmaccessquantities/>

- Continue to provide information and analysis on **demand opportunities over a seven year horizon** (years 1, 4 and 7). Continuing with a seven year horizon is considered appropriate given the shorter term investment planning horizon for new demand connections.
- Maintain the availability of **network development maps, data tables and network models** in electronic format.
- Provide information on **expected developments in the transmission system over a ten year horizon**.
- Provide information on **maximum and minimum short circuit levels over a ten year horizon** - years 1, 4 and 10 (see NOTE 2).
- In addition all **current licence obligations** relating to information provision will continue to be met e.g. **forecast power flows, generation and demand projections, circuit parameters, system data**.
- Rename the document to the **Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement (TYTFS)**.



What are your views on the additional minimum Short Circuit Level information?
(ref. Feedback Form Q6)

NOTE 2: SHORT CIRCUIT LEVELS

Short Circuit Levels (SCLs) indicate the strength of the transmission system in an area. SCLs will vary over the longer-term as the system is developed and also on a daily basis depending on how the power system is operated. We want to ensure that the SCL information provided in the TFS enables customers to determine the expected performance and Grid Code compliance of their plant.

We propose to continue to provide minimum and maximum SCLs under intact network conditions. However, given the importance some customers place on getting an accurate picture of minimum SCLs we are minded to also provide minimum SCL information under potential stated system operating conditions by considering network and/or generator outage scenarios.

3.0 Our Consultation Process

Compared to many other industry documents the TFS is not consultative in nature and, although feedback is sought, no structured process exists to gather industry views. Given the evolution of the electricity industry since the document was first conceived it is now considered timely and appropriate to consult on the form and content of the document to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Feedback can be provided in the following ways:

- Written inputs can be submitted to
 - ▶ Richard Crowley, EirGrid, The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; or
 - ▶ Noel Hanrahan, Operation Planning, SONI Limited, Castlereagh House, 12 Manse Road, Castlereagh, Belfast BT6 9RT
- Electronic responses can be sent to tfsconsultation@eirgrid.com or enquiries@soni.ltd.uk
- A downloadable and editable PDF version of this document is available at:

<http://www.eirgrid.com/transmission/transmissionforecaststatement/>
or
<http://www.soni.ltd.uk/documents.asp>

All responses must be provided by Friday 23rd November 2012.

During December and January we will analyse the feedback, amend the proposals and seek the necessary regulatory approvals. In the early part of next year we will publish information on the feedback received and outline our final proposals for the TYTFS 2013.

We anticipate TYTFS 2013 being published in August 2013.



What are your views on our consultation process?
(ref. Feedback Form Q8)

Requests for further information should be sent via email to tfsconsultation@eirgrid.com or enquiries@soni.ltd.uk.

Contact details including your name, telephone number (and any organisation represented) will greatly assist us in acknowledging and responding to your correspondence.

4.0 Feedback Form

1. Overall, were you satisfied with the content of the All-Island Transmission Forecast Statement 2012-2018?

- ☐ Extremely satisfied
- ☐ Slightly satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Slightly dissatisfied
- ☐ Extremely dissatisfied

2. What are your thoughts on the current format of the TFS?

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Poor	Very Poor
Chapter and Appendix Structure					
All-Island Format					

3. What are the most important elements of the TFS to you? Please rank them from 1 to 7 in order of importance with 1 as most important, with an explanation as to why the information is important.

	Ranking	Commentary on Importance
Development Plans		
Demand Opportunities		
Generation Opportunities		
System Model Files		
Short Circuit Levels		
Transmission System Characteristics		
System Performance		

4. What are your views on the proposed changes to the document?

5. What are your views on the additional generator opportunity information?

6. What are your views on the additional minimum Short Circuit Level information?

7. Is there other information you would like to see in the document and what would you use it for?

8. What are your views on our consultation process?

9. Please provide any additional comments

10. Personal Information

Name

Email

Phone

Company

Role

Number of years using the Statement

Feel free to attach additional pages and documents in support of your proposal