

# **NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTRICITY plc**

## **Revisions to the Grid Code**

### **Consultation Paper**

#### **Metering**

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2002**

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

1. Northern Ireland Electricity plc (“NIE”), in accordance with its obligations under paragraph 2 of Condition 18 of the Transmission and Public Electricity Supply Licence Document (the “Licence”), believes that the time has come to review, in consultation with authorised electricity operators liable to be materially affected thereby, the NIE Grid Code (the “Grid Code”) and its implementation in certain respects.
2. This review relates to amendments to the Metering Code section of the Grid Code (the “Metering Code”) to permit Second Tier Suppliers and Relevant Exempt Self Suppliers to subcontract the performance of their Registrant duties contained in the Metering Code. The changes have been discussed at a number of Grid Code Review Panel Meetings.
3. This Consultation Paper describes the proposed amendments and their effect, has attached to it an Appendix which sets out the proposed amendments to the existing Metering Code, and seeks your comments on those proposed amendments.
4. Following receipt of comments from those authorised electricity operators which it has consulted by this Paper and the expiration of the period for making comments referred to in Section 9 of this Consultation Paper, NIE will, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Condition 18 of the Licence, send to the Director General of Electricity Supply for Northern Ireland (the “Director”):
  - (a) a report on the outcome of its review, including the consultation process;
  - (b) the proposed revisions to the Metering Code which NIE (having regard to the outcome of such review) reasonably thinks fit for the achievement of the objectives of the Grid Code referred to in sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1 of Condition 18 of the Licence; and
  - (c) any written representations or objections from authorised electricity operators (including any proposals by such operators for revisions to the

Metering Code not accepted by NIE in the course of the review) arising during the consultation process and subsequently maintained.

5. The revisions to the Metering Code proposed by NIE and sent to the Director then require approval by him and will, if he approves them, come into force on such date (or dates) of which you will be notified by NIE, in accordance with the Director's approval.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND THEIR EFFECTS

6. Background and Changes

- 6.1 To reflect greater flexibility in dealing with metering, NIE believes that Second Tier Suppliers and Relevant Exempt Self Suppliers should be permitted to subcontract the performance of their Registrant duties contained in the Metering Code. This is currently reflected in the Second Tier Guidelines, and the Grid Code changes are to bring the Grid Code provisions into line with them. The person to whom they subcontract will be termed "Appointed Meter Operator". The provisions include the fact that Second Tier Suppliers and Relevant Exempt Self Suppliers need to demonstrate to NIE that the proposed subcontractor has the necessary capabilities, qualifications and authorisations to so act as the Appointed Meter Operator. The term "Appointed Meter Operator" is used to differentiate it from the term "Meter Operator" as used in the Supply Regulations. Second Tier Suppliers and Relevant Exempt Self Suppliers will remain responsible for performing their duties as Registrants.
- 6.2 The right to subcontract a Registrant's duties under the Metering Code is expressed to meet the approval requirements on subcontracting contained in the Use of System Agreement.
- 6.3 Accordingly, the Metering Code has been reviewed and amendments proposed to the Main Code section of the Metering Code.
- 6.4 NIE also proposes some further minor amendments to the Metering Code, which have arisen as a result of undertaking the review, which are in addition to the changes permitting Second Tier Suppliers and Relevant Exempt Self Suppliers to subcontract. They are as follows:
  - (a) include requirements that Second Tier Suppliers and Relevant Exempt Self Suppliers establish that such supplier has the necessary capabilities, qualifications and authorisations required to exercise and perform rights and obligations under the Metering Code, to the same extent as when subcontracting to an Appointed Meter Operator, to bring the provisions in line;

- (b) insert definitions for “Operational Date” (and, consequently, “Eligible Customer”), currently referred to in Agreed Procedure 8 (Second Tier Customer registration) (“AP8”) but not defined to ensure consistency with the Second Tier Guidelines. The definition of Operational Date is taken from the Second Tier Supply Guidelines;
- (c) amend the reference to “operational date” in AP8 to “Operational Date”, consistent with the practice of capitalising defined terms;
- (d) provide for a minor amendment to the definition of “Disputes Procedures” in the Metering Code to make it clear that the disputes procedures in PPAs between NIE and Generators only applies to disputes between NIE and Generators where the relevant Generating Unit the subject of a dispute is subject to a PPA. This clarifies the position in relation to the changes previously introduced to reflect wider competition;
- (e) renumber MC17.3 and MC17.4 to improve the numbering convention; and
- (f) make some typographical corrections and/or clarify or complete one or two provisions.

In addition, the Metering Code and Agreed Procedures do, in some instances, refer to “Interested Party” rather than “Interested User”. Interested User is the defined term in the Grid Code and references to Interested Party should be to Interested User, and so we have proposed amendments to the Metering Code and Agreed Procedures where these references occur.

- 6.5 A copy of the proposed changes, marked on extracts from the existing Grid Code, is attached as the Appendix to this Paper. The changes are shown electronically marked, for ease of reading.

## C. COMMENTS

- 7. We would be grateful to receive your comments on, or any suggestions you may have in relation to, these proposed amendments to the Metering Code by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2002, in order that we can prepare our report to the Director.
- 8. Your formal responses should be in writing and addressed to:

Brendan Woods  
 Northern Ireland Electricity plc,  
 Headquarters  
 P O Box 2  
 Danesfort, Belfast  
 Northern Ireland  
 United Kingdom

**Northern Ireland Electricity plc**  
**10<sup>th</sup> June 2002**

**APPENDIX**  
**PROPOSED GRID CODE CHANGES**