

TDPNI 2018-2028,
SONI Ltd,
12 Manse Road,
Belfast,
BT6 9RT

By e-mail to: info@soni.ltd.uk

Our Ref.: CLS_SONI_LTR_360

Date: 31 January 2019

Re: Coillte Submission to (draft) SONI Transmission Development Plan Northern Ireland 2018-2027

Dear Sir/Madam,

Coillte welcomes the opportunity to make this submission on the **(draft) SONI Transmission Development Plan Northern Ireland 2018-2027**.

Coillte believe's that the Transmission System Operator's (TSO) have a key role to play to enable the transition to a decarbonised electricity system. Eirgrid and SONI have been recognised on a global scale to be leading with grid innovations and at the cutting edge of renewable energy integration. While huge success has been achieved through the DS3 program, there are concerns in relation to the general level of network development taking place across the wider transmission system in the recent years. Further transmission system development is core to enable the required transition of our electricity system towards 2030 and beyond. When looking at the climate change agenda it is important that the key enablers across the island are looked at as a whole and to this end an All-Island approach is central to position ourselves for future success.

Enabling Critical Infrastructure

Coillte is concerned at the absence of detailed information in your draft Transmission Development Plan specifically in relation to the Renewable Intergration Development Project (RIDP). RIDP is already noted as key ATR for many wind farm projects in Donegal and there still appears to be an absence of firm plans for its delivery. This is a key piece of infrastructure that has a major role to play to unlock a significant portion of renewable wind generation in the north-west.

Further to this, a real concern is in relation to projects such as the Coolkeeragh_Trillick 110kV reinforcement being put on hold. Coillte strongly encourages the TSO to undertake robust analysis of all the infrastructure development options in this region to enable further renewable deployment in north east Donegal.

Coillte would be happy to engage in dialogue with the SONI at any stage in relation to the points made herein and share our wider plans for the region that require the support of the TSO.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Lynch

Head of Renewable Energy
(by email – no signature required)

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