



Commission for Energy Regulation

An Coimisiún um Rialáil Fuinnimh

Consultation Paper

**Proposal for Modification of the Commission's
Procedures for Assessing Small-Scale Licence
Applications**

20th January 2003

CER/03/009

Introduction

The Commission for Energy Regulation ('the Commission') proposes to establish a less onerous process for the assessment of authorisation and licence applications by small-scale generators. The Commission wishes to minimise regulatory burdens on smaller market participants, in particular, licensing requirements should not act as a barrier to entry.

It is proposed that generators less than or equal to 5MW should be assessed in the following simple manner and technically assessed in-house since facilities with this capacity are unlikely to have a significant impact on the security of the system.

Financial Assessment

Current Financial Assessment

Presently all applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- Statement of accounts for the last 2 years;
- A certificate of no adverse change if more than 3 months have passed since the end of the accounting year covered by the accounts submitted;
- If the company is a special purpose vehicle, a statement of the relevant parent company accounts and guarantees;
- An outline 5-year business plan in relation to application, including information on project finance.

Proposed Financial Requirements

Requirement for applicants to submit the following:

- Information on directors and principal shareholders;
- A short business plan.

Where applicant has AER Funding/PPA

- Information on directors and principal shareholders;
- Confirmation that the applicant has applied for AER funding or has a PPA.

While it will not routinely request or assess financial information the Commission will reserve the right to request its submission.

Technical Assessment

The technical evaluation will be conducted in-house for applicants less than or equal to 5MW. The following will be required:

- Technical specifications of each unit within the plant;
- Use of experienced construction engineers;

- Confirmation from the applicant that the proposed generating station does not use nuclear fission;
- Connection offer from the Distribution System Operator;
- Planning permission;
- A comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (if applicable);
- A construction and commissioning programme.

Fee Scales

It is proposed to amend the fee-structure to reflect the new assessment procedure for generators less than or equal to 5MW and to increase the fees in line with inflation (4.5%).

Current fee-scale

Installed Capacity	Authorisation to Construct	Licence to Generate
	€	€
< 1MW	32	32
1MW to < 15MW	254	51
15MW to < 50MW	952	190
50MW to < 100MW	1,905	381
100MW to < 200MW	6,349	1,270
200MW to < 500MW	15,872	3,174
500MW +	19,046	3,809

Revised fee-scale

Installed Capacity	Authorisation to Construct	Licence to Generate
	€	€
< 1MW ≤ 5MW	35	35
5MW ≥ 15MW	270	55
15MW to < 50MW	995	200
50MW to < 100MW	1,995	400
100MW to < 200MW	6,635	1,330
200MW to < 500MW	16,590	3,320
500MW+	19,905	3,980

