



Commission for Energy Regulation

An Coimisiún um Rialáil Fuinnimh

Quarterly Bulletin

ALL-ISLAND ENERGY MARKET FORUM

Inside this issue:

On 12th March 2004, an Energy Industry Forum was held in Drogheda to inform the electricity, gas, renewable energy industries and interested parties on progress made to date, by the All Island Energy Market Joint Steering Group, on overseeing the development of an All-Island Energy Market. The forum was attended by industry groups, the two regulatory authorities and the two Governments at ministerial level, working toward the objective of an All-Island Energy Market.

Several presentations were made by various members to discuss the progress and development of specific issues which included wholesale market trading, interconnection, emissions trading and gas networks. The forum also discussed more strategic issues, including the requirement for prioritisation and direction at government level to further progress toward an All-Island Market. It was agreed at the forum that the Joint Steering Group would prepare a high-level strategy paper that would address the key economic and social requirements and benefits that would be expected from the All-Island Market initiatives. The discussion arising from the strategy paper would further assist in progressing priority areas already agreed at previous All-Island forums.

To date, the following priority areas have been agreed and identified as requiring further development:

- cross-border trading in electricity
- electricity system interaction and integration
- all-island gas network
- co-ordination of regulatory activities
- climate change, emissions and renewable energy
- energy efficiency policies

For further information, please contact Priti-Dave Stack at pdave-stack@cer.ie.

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RELAUNCH OF VIPP4

On 23rd April, the CER published the ‘VIPP4 Re-launch Principles Paper’. Comments on the paper were received from four parties and were considered in advance of the CER publishing final decision paper on the VIPP4 re-launch on 7th May 2004. In the VIPP4 re-auction of non-green capacity, ESB will offer 120 options, plus any relinquished options from VIPP4. Each option entitles the successful bidder to purchase 1MWh per unit. The timetable for the relaunch is outlined below. For further information, please contact Siobhán Dinneen at sdinneen@cer.ie.

Principles paper and timetable releases	23 rd April 2004
Closing date for comments to principles paper	30 th April 2004
Publish final principles paper	7 th May 2004
Publish Invitation to Bid and Contracts	14 th May 2004
Final date for submission of bids	21 st May 2004
CER evaluation of bids	24 th May 2004
ESB PowerGen sign contracts and suppliers are notified	25 th May 2004

100% OPENING OF THE ELECTRICITY RETAIL MARKET TO COMPETITION – FEBRUARY 19TH, 2005

As of 19th February 2004, 56% of the electricity market was opened to competition, when an additional 12,000 commercial and industrial customers became eligible to change supplier. A total of 14,000 customers can now switch to a licensed independent supplier of their choice.

Development and testing of Market Opening IT Systems

In February, the CER approved the market processes that will apply on full market opening in 2005. These market processes had been subject to substantive and useful consultation with the Retail Market Implementation Group (RMIG) since 2001. The CER continues to host regular RMIG meetings to discuss the development and implementation of the market processes and the more technical issues relating to the IT infrastructure and standards that will be required to support the market processes and data exchange between market participants on full market opening.

In order to ensure that market participants can implement the relevant market IT systems required to facilitate market opening, all market participants will be required to incorporate adequate planning, preparation and testing of IT systems and market processes into their work programmes.

In March 2004, the CER issued the guidelines and framework for Retail Market Readiness Testing to the Market Implementation Group for discussion. This provides guidance to suppliers in relation to systems testing and the testing of market processes. In May, the CER appointed an Independent Retail Market Test Coordinator to plan, monitor and validate the testing that will be required by the various market participants. The Independent Retail Market Test Coordinator will report to the CER on progress and assessment of individual market participant's readiness to participate on full market opening on a regular basis.

In quarter 1, the CER also circulated a high level plan that outlined key time lines relating to IT system testing and to the consultations and decisions that will be published by the CER to the RMIG. As a matter of priority, the CER has focused on publishing consultations that will relate to consumer codes of practice that will be required by ESB Networks and suppliers to ensure consumer are protected in fully liberalised market place.

Service Level Agreements

The CER will also consult with both suppliers and the public on the service level agreements that will be provided by ESB Networks to suppliers for full market opening. The CER expects that, as a consequence of the new IT infrastructure and the revised and agreed market processes, ESB Networks should deliver increased efficiencies in their services to customers and suppliers alike.

Consumer Protection in the Liberalised Electricity Market

With the adoption of the new EU Electricity Directive (2003/54/EC) and its transposition into Irish law, certain requirements will be placed on suppliers with respect to consumer protection. The Commission envisages modifying the existing electricity supply licence to give effect to this legislation by February 2005. However, suppliers have requested that the Commission give an indication of the obligations that suppliers will face before the licence modification process commences.

On 31st March, the Commission published a consultation paper outlining the issues which the Commission believes will be possible new licence requirements for suppliers. For further information please contact John O'Connell at joconnell@cer.ie

Customer switching & arrears in the newly opened marketplace

Within the RMIG working group, suppliers have expressed concern that full market opening may result in an increased incidence of customers switching suppliers to avoid bill payment, a practice known elsewhere as 'debt hopping'. In January 2004, the CER published a consultation paper which outlines a number of possible approaches that could be used to mitigate 'debt hopping', together with a brief description of a number of approaches adopted in other countries. While suppliers have indicated their preference for a formal notification or objection procedure, which would indicate to interested parties that a customer is in arrears, the CER is mindful of the need for commensurate measures to be put in place to protect customers and to maintain public service in a fully liberalised market. These measures are currently being developed in line with European legislation.

100% OPENING OF THE ELECTRICITY RETAIL MARKET TO COMPETITION – FEBRUARY 19TH, 2005 (CONTD.)

Having consulted with industry, the CER, in agreement with RMIG, has agreed to await the enactment of legislation before progressing this issue. Therefore the CER will revisit the issue of ‘debt-hopping’ in late 2004. For further information please contact John O’Connell at joconnell@cer.ie

Supplier Forum

The CER will initiate a separate forum with suppliers to discuss issues relating to consumer awareness programmes and requirements, leading up to full market opening.

For further information on any aspect of electricity retail market opening, please contact Priti-Dave Stack at pdavestack@cer.ie.

ELECTRICITY TARIFF STRUCTURE REVIEW

Since 2001, electricity tariffs have been reviewed by the Commission on an annual basis with the aim of providing cost reflective tariffs for full market opening in 2005. To date, the primary focus of these reviews has been on the overall monetary level of tariffs.

In November 2003, the Commission commenced a review of the underlying structure of these charges. This review has included detailed analysis of:

- Transmission Use of System Charges (TUoS) and Connection Policy
- Distribution Use of System Charges (DUoS) and Connection Policy
- Public Electricity Supply (PES) tariffs charged to final consumers

Last December, the Commission commenced the design phase of this review with the publication of a paper outlining tariffing objectives. Existing tariff structures were also documented in this consultation paper. This paper was followed by an information paper outlining the tariff structures applied in a number of other countries.

Next steps include the publication, for consultation, in May 2004, of a list of alternative tariffs, as well as the possible cost allocation methodology used for calculation of these alternatives.

The tariff structure design phase, which will conclude with a decision on alternative tariffs in June, will be followed by the implementation of tariffs contained in this decision.

For further information on the review of electricity tariff structures, please contact Niall Lawlor at nlawlor@cer.ie

IRELAND – WALES ELECTRICITY INTERCONNECTION

The Commission is actively promoting the development of electricity interconnection between Ireland and Wales. This follows earlier studies carried out by third parties as well as from the Commission’s own policy deliberations. The Government’s first preference would be for merchant interconnection. The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources has requested the Commission to assess the commercial interest in such a project. Should sufficient interest not be forthcoming, it is intended that the Commission will host a competition for the construction, management and ownership of an interconnector(s) on a regulated basis. Such a measure would require amending existing legislation. Minister Dermot Ahern TD has indicated that the Government would be willing to introduce a Bill in the near future if required. The Commission recently published an advertisement in the Financial Times and the national newspapers inviting interested parties to make submissions on the potential for merchant interconnection between Ireland and Wales before 30th April 2004.

Upon completion of this consultation process, the Commission will then report to the Minister. Should a competition for a regulated interconnector be warranted, the Commission would intend proceeding with the issuing of tender documentation shortly after that date. For further information, please contact Cliona McNally at cmcnally@cer.ie or John O’Connell at joconnell@cer.ie.

MARKET ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTRICITY / MARGADH AIBHLÉISE NA HÉIREANN (MAE) UPDATE

Significant progress has been on the detailed design of the MAE in the 1st Quarter 2004, with the Commission having issued a number of papers relating to the design of new wholesale market:

Treatment of Dominance

On 4th February 2004, the Commission issued a background paper (CER 04/053) on the treatment of ESB Dominance under the MAE. The CER acknowledges that the recognised method to deal with market dominance is disaggregation. However, disaggregation of ESB does not fall within the remit of CER. In the absence of a Government decision to disaggregate ESB, the CER must develop alternative methods for dealing with dominance within the MAE.

In considering the principle of ESB regulation under the MAE, the Commission has identified a number of objectives that must be met in order to ensure that this approach is successful, namely:

1. Non-ESB participants in the MAE should see a market (e.g. spot prices and other features) that functions as a working and competitive market; and
2. ESB and its component entities (e.g. power plants) should exhibit behaviour and performance that resemble their likely behaviour and performance as a disaggregated and privatised participant in the market.

Further to these objectives, ESB prepared a paper outlining their proposals for regulation under the MAE in accordance with CER objectives. On 4th February, the CER published this proposal for comment (CER 04/054) from interested parties. Following on from this, the Commission is currently developing its approach to regulate ESB under the MAE. This approach, along with CER's high-level work plan, will be published in May 2004.

Demand-side Participation

The MAE consultation paper (CER 03/230), issued September 12th 2003, sought industry comment on the issues of demand-side participation. The comments received indicated that additional consultation was needed on this issue.

On 13th February 2004, the Commission issued a discussion paper on demand-side participation (CER 04/064), which included a number of draft decisions in relation to:

- how demand side bidding will be permitted as an explicit mechanism for accommodating the demand side within the market
- price formation and settlement rules that should apply to demand side bidding
- the involvement of the demand side in the ancillary services market

The Commission's decision on demand-side participation (CER 04/113) within the MAE was issued on 19th March 2004.

Settlement and Security Cover

On March 19th 2004, the CER issued a consultation paper on the appropriate settlement timelines and security cover requirements under the MAE (CER 04/110). The closing date for comments on this consultation paper is April 9th 2004. The Commission will make its decision on these issues in May 2004.

The Commission is committed to reaching decisions on all areas of the MAE design which impact ESB National Grid's system procurement process by May 2004. To inform the decision process, the Commission has established a number of Expert Groups. The groups meet regularly to discuss and debate the options available to the Commission in their particular areas of expertise. In addition, the MAE Implementation Group, a body with representatives from all market participants, meets on a monthly basis to ensure the timely implementation of the wholesale market and to ensure that all parties are prepared to participate in the market.

MAE Expert Groups

The following is a summary of the work undertaken by the Expert Groups in quarter one 2004:

Market Rules Expert Group

On February 13th, the Commission handed over Version 0.5 of the MAE Rules to ESB National Grid and their consultants, Charles Rivers Associates (CRA), for further development. This document contained drafts of Part One of the Rules which contains legal and governance issues and of Part Two which contains the market rules in text format.

MARKET ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTRICITY / MARGADH AIBHLÉISE NA HÉIREANN (MAE) UPDATE (CONTD)

Charles River Associates will now take on the development of the Rules document. This will entail issuing 'detailed design reports' to the Commission and the MAE Rules Expert Group on various elements of the rules that require further work and on areas where decisions made by the Commission post February 13th need to be incorporated. These reports will be discussed at fortnightly Expert Rules Group meetings and ultimately signed off by the Commission following discussion. Once all the aspects of the rules that require more work have gone through this process, a market rules specification document will be prepared by CRA. This will contain an integrated, detailed outline of the MAE Rules and associated schedules and will provide the basis for system procurement specs and guidance to legal drafters of the MAE Rules. CRA are not due to complete the market rule specifications document until the end of July 2004.

Interconnector Expert Groups

The work of the two Interconnector Groups, the Joint TSO Trading Interfaces Group and the Interconnector Expert Group, has continued throughout quarter 1. The groups met on a frequent basis to debate the issues relating to interconnector trading under the MAE. The process has resulted in CER's publication of a number of working papers to the Expert Groups and the development of four (4) options for consideration. Interconnector Trading Options Paper (January 28th 2004)

- Interconnector Trading Option 4 (February 16th 2004)
- Four (4) Options for the Management of Interconnection (1st March 2004)

The System Operators North and South, SONI and ESGNG, presented an interim report on the four options from a system operation perspective in early March and market participants outlined their preferences among each of the options. It is expected that a final decision on the most appropriate arrangement for Interconnector trading in the MAE will be made early in the 2nd Quarter of 2004.

Financial Transmission Rights (FTR) Expert Group

Under the MAE, generators will be paid the Locational Marginal Price (LMP) for the energy they dispatch and suppliers will pay the Uniform Wholesale System Marginal Price (UWSMP) for the energy they demand. It is likely that generators and suppliers will enter into contracts to hedge against variances in the UWSMP. However, generators are still exposed to price differences between their LMP and the UWSMP. Financial Transmission Rights are financial instruments which allow market participants to manage this

risk. The CER must decide upon the design, governance, administration and allocation of FTR's in the MAE. A consultation paper on these issues was published in November 2003 (CER 03/280). At the request of the MAE Implementation Group, an FTR Expert Group was established in March, 2004 to further the issues in relation to this decision, which will be issued in May 2004.

CHP / Renewables Expert Group

The CHP / Renewables Expert Group is progressing the decision on treatment of CHP and Renewable generation within the MAE which was first consulted upon in October 2003 (CER 03/280). The group meets on a monthly basis to debate the issues relevant to this decision, including:

- Priority dispatch
- Charging of Reserves
- Pricing

In tandem with this, ESB NG is reviewing the technical requirements included in the Grid code for Wind Generators. A number of these decisions will inform the Commission's decision on the treatment of CHP / Renewable plant, particularly the minimum sized plant to which their decisions apply. The Commission will issue its decision on the treatment of CHP and Renewable Generation within the MAE in May 2004.

MAE Communications

The CER will organise an industry forum in the second quarter of 2004 to review the decisions made to date that will feed into the MAE Detailed Design document. In addition, a customer forum will be organised during the same period to communicate with all interested customer and their representative groups to review the design of the MAE and the impact the new wholesale market will have on customers.

MAE Website

A new section of the CER website dedicated to the MAE is being developed and will be online in May 2004. This section will highlight MAE developments, consultations and decisions. Links will also be provided to the work programs of the various expert groups enabling interested parties to access all minutes, discussion documents and presentations from the Expert Group Meetings.

GAS MARKET DEVELOPMENTS

Gas Tariff Review

On 10th May, the Commission published a consultation paper to inform customers, market participants and other interested parties about the Commission's approach to reviewing Bord Gáis' Natural Gas Supply tariffs and the structure of Bord Gáis' Distribution Use of System tariffs. The paper also invites feedback on issues associated with current tariffs and future tariff structure options.

The main reason for conducting this review is the need to move towards more cost reflective tariffs in the context of developing a competitive natural gas marketplace. Any cross-subsidisation between customer categories in the gas market has the effect of distorting/hampering competition.

A key issue addressed in this paper concerns the market cost of gas and its impact on retail gas prices. Due to favourable long-term contracts entered into as the supplier to the franchise market, Bord Gáis Éireann Energy Supply's (BGS) weighted average cost of gas (WACOG) is currently lower than the current market cost of gas. The long-term contracts from which BGS derives its WACOG benefit will expire in 2006 and BGS will need to replace those contracts with new ones (at market cost). Thus, over time, BGS's costs will approach market costs and, as a result, it is likely that there will be an upward pressure on natural gas supply prices, particularly in the franchise market. In the meantime how potential windfall gains from this benefit are dealt with in the future also needs to be addressed.

In addition to the above, the paper deals with the review of the Regulated Tariff Formula (RTF) as a means to regulating BGS' supply activities in the competitive market sector. It also deals with the means by which BGS' allowable revenues are to be controlled.

It is expected that the outcome of the review will be implemented from 1st October 2004. Responses to this consultation paper are due by 5pm on 2nd June 2004.

Entry Exit – Revised Implementation Date

In July 2003, the Commission directed Bord Gáis Transmission (BGT) to implement an Entry/Exit regime to replace the current point-to-point regime in Ireland. Since that date, the Commission has published a number of consultation papers and in January of this year commenced publication of the the detailed business rules.

Initially, five papers were published for comment, those concerning capacity, allocations, nominations, balancing and shrinkage. A large number of comments were received and, over the past two months, the Commission and its advisors have been engaged in detailed discussions with Bord Gáis regarding the issues raised during the consultation process. In addition, further papers were published on congestion management and the Contractual Matrix.

Bord Gáis has expressed concerns that a number of the issues raised fall outside the scope of the Entry Exit process and as such have taken longer than anticipated to address. Shippers have been kept informed of progress via the Gas Market Implementation Group (GMIG). At a meeting of the group on April 23rd, shippers were advised by Bord Gáis that, in order to meet the 1st October implementation date, the time allowed for consultation on shipper training and market trailing and testing in the new code may have to be reduced. It was then agreed by the group that, if postponement of the implementation date was possible in order to facilitate greater consultation on the new code and increased time for shipper training and market training and testing, then the Commission should consider that possibility. The Commission has since engaged with Bord Gáis in detailed discussions on the matter and will shortly be directing Bord Gáis to move the implementation date to 1st April 2005.

Entry Exit - Transporter/Shipper Contractual Matrix

In 2003, the Commission directed Bord Gáis Transmission (BGT) to implement an Entry/Exit regime to replace the current point-to-point regime in Ireland. In addition, Directive 2003/55/EC will come into force on 1st July 2004 and will require the opening of the gas market to 'eligible customers'. In order to comply with these two new requirements, BGT has commenced a process of reviewing and revising its current contractual arrangements.

As part of this review, BGT has proposed to the Commission that the Transmission System and Distribution System, together the Transportation System, be operated as a combined system as permitted by the Directive. BGT, as a consequence, proposes that it implements a Unified Code of Operations in respect of the Transportation System. Accordingly, on May 6th, the Commission published a BGT document (Cer 04179) setting out the proposed contractual relationships between the Transporter and Shippers under the new entry-exit capacity regime. The Commission invites comments on this high level document by close of business on Friday the 21st of May 2004.

GAS MARKET DEVELOPMENTS (CONTD)

Bord Gáis Transmission's Financial Security Policy

On 23rd April, the Commission published Bord Gáis financial security policy. To date, Bord Gáis has required shippers to provide security cover equivalent to three months transmission capacity. The Transporter has now applied to the Commission for an amendment to this policy.

The Shippers Conditions Precedent of a Bord Gáis Standard Transportation Agreement for both Transmission and Distribution connected sites provides that the Shipper shall be required to have obtained and provided to the Transporter financial security as described in Schedule 2 of the STA. Bord Gáis has submitted to the Commission its latest Financial Security Policy document for approval. Bord Gáis will implement this policy within two months of the Commission's approval of the policy.

The Commission welcomes comments from interested parties on any aspects of this paper which may be accessed on the Commission's website. Comments may be forwarded to Elaine Wallace at the Commission, no later than Friday, May 21st.

Gas Market Opening Working Group

On February 12th, the Commission approved four of the five Gas Market Opening Working Group (GMOWG) business rules: Forecasting, Allocation & Reconciliation (FAR), Transportation, Metering Data Services (MDS) and Siteworks. At that time, the Gas Point Register (GPR) Business Rules paper was not signed off by the Commission as the GMOWG participants could not reach a consensus on the Change of Shipper by Supplier (CoS) process. Other aspects of the GPR business rules were agreed however. Alternative proposals for a Change of Shipper process were drafted by the Commission and presented to the GMOWG for comment. Accordingly, on April 16th, the Commission signed off on the final Gas Point Register Business Rules. Each of the papers has been discussed at further meetings of the GMOWG and Bord Gáis has since base-lined four of the documents, Siteworks, Meter & Data Service, FAR & GPR. Currently, a number of papers are under consultation with the group as part of Phase II of the GMOWG process, these include proposals on Transmission and Distribution Billing, Market Opening Interim Arrangements, Change Control Process and Generic Messaging. In addition, the Commission recently agreed with industry the format of the letter informing customers of their eligibility from 1st July next. This letter will inform newly eligible customers that their contact details will be included in the new gas

eligible customer list that will issue to customers before July 1st, together with their right to request that their details be removed from that list should they so require.

A Regulatory Framework for Gas Storage

Marathon Oil Ireland Limited (Marathon) has recently commenced preliminary discussions with the Commission concerning the possible provision of storage facilities at its Southwest Kinsale Gas Field from April 2005. Such a facility would be the first storage facility to be made available in Ireland, and may be of significant strategic and commercial importance to industry participants.

Discussions with Marathon have centred on the likely regulatory regime for storage, in the context of existing and proposed legislation. Marathon has expressed a wish to have a regulatory framework in place for storage in time for the gas year 2004/05. On 18th March, the Commission published a document setting out options for the most appropriate regulatory regime for the Southwest Kinsale facility. In particular, it looks at the features of negotiated and regulated third party access regimes, and at the particular form that either regime may take in the context of the Irish market. In addition, the Commission published a separate document, prepared by Marathon, setting out its proposals in relation to appropriate arrangements for the Southwest Kinsale Facility. Comments were invited on both of these papers as a first step in the establishment of a regulated storage facility.

Competition for Gas Supply Franchise to new areas

On 31st October 2003, the Commission for Energy Regulation announced its intention to hold a competition for the award of the franchise for the supply of natural gas to Galway (including Oranmore), Athlone, Ballinasloe, Tullamore (including Clara) and Mullingar. The Commission received five expressions of interest from parties interested in bidding in this competition. The winner of the supply competition will be awarded the right to supply natural gas to the five towns. On Friday 23rd April 2004, the Commission made regulations governing the conduct of the competitive process and made the final documentation regarding the competitive process available to the interested parties. This marked the commencement of the formal competitive tender process: 28th May 2004 being the closing date for bids from interested parties. It is the Commission's intention to arrange for the successful bidder to commence the supply of natural gas in the five towns by 31st July 2004. In the interim period, pending the appointment of a new supplier, the Commission has conferred the supply functions upon Bord Gáis Éireann.

RENEWABLES THIS QUARTER

Future Renewable Support Mechanism

In December 2003, the Minister launched a consultation process on a future renewable support mechanism post-AER and future renewable energy targets. The Commission is actively participating in this review. On the 27th February 2004, the Commission made a submission to the Department's Consultation regarding "Options for Future Renewable Energy Policy, Targets and Programmes". This submission is published on www.cer.ie

Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources establishes Renewable Group

On May 6th, 2004, Dermot Ahern TD, Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources established a group involving key players in the renewable energy sector to report back on developing and expanding energy delivered from green sources. The group will comprise representatives from the Minister's own Department, the Commission for Energy Regulation, Eirgrid, Sustainable Energy Ireland, and the Northern Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. In addition, a sub group of industry and sectoral interests will nominate to the development group. The group will also include some outside experts.

National Allocation Plan, 2005-2007

The Emissions Trading Directive establishes a Community-wide scheme for greenhouse gas emissions trading from 2005-2007 and 2008-2012. Emissions trading will initially be restricted to CO₂ emissions from certain activities, including energy. The first National Allocation Plan (for the trading period 2005-2007) has been completed within the timeline set by the directive i.e. 31st March 2004. The Commission submitted its comments to the EPA on the Draft National Allocation Plan on the 10th March 2004 (published on www.cer.ie), as part of its public consultation process and the CER is further considering the appropriate treatment of these costs.

Connection Offers To Wind Generators

On 24 March 2004 the Commission published on its website a letter from ESB National Grid (ESB NG) dated 22 March regarding proposals for future grid connection offers to wind generators. These proposals were submitted in the context of an earlier request from ESB National Grid that, among other things, a moratorium on issuing new connection offers to wind generators be extended to 31st March. The Commission had agreed to that earlier request.

The Commission was in correspondence with ESB National Grid on 25 March regarding clarification of ESBNG's letter of 22 March. The ESBNG proposals and the clarification correspondence were discussed at the Wind Steering Group later that day.

The Commission is interpreting the most recent proposals from ESB National Grid to the effect that future policy on grid connection offers to wind generators should be determined by the four criteria set out in the ESBNG letter of 22 March under the heading "Further Considerations." The Commission has advised the Wind Steering Group that it will make the substantive decision on these proposals from ESBNG before end April 2004. This decision is also intended to coincide with the adoption of the final version of the new Grid Code for Wind. Both System Operators have agreed that no offer to a wind generator will issue before that date. The Commission has received some submissions on the ESBNG letter of 22 March and is considering these. The Commission invites other interested parties to make submissions to it as early as possible to help inform the Commission's forthcoming decision on future connection policy for wind generators

New Grid Code for Wind

ESB National Grid, in its capacity as Transmission System Operator, has submitted the new Grid Code for Wind for the Commission's approval. The new Grid Code for Wind was formulated by the TSO in conjunction with the Wind Grid Code Consultation Group. The Consultation Group comprised ESBNG, CER, IWEA, WTG (Wind Turbine Generator) manufacturers, SEI, the DSO, SONI (System Operator Northern Ireland) and ESBPG. The Group convened for the first time in October 2003. In light of the moratorium introduced on WTG connections in December 2003, the Commission directed that the work of this Group be accelerated.

The information contained herein may be derived from a variety of sources. The Commission has attempted to ensure that the information contained in this Bulletin is correct. The Commission accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any damage howsoever caused by reliance upon the information contained within this Bulletin.



Commission for Energy
Regulation
Plaza House, Belgard Road,
Tallaght, Dublin 24

Phone: (01) 4000 800, Fax: 01 4000850, www.cer.ie

Further information, please contact
Carol Kelleher, Editor
Email: ckelleher@cer.ie