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25-11-03
Mr. David Naughton,
The Commission for Electricity Regulation,
Plaza House, Belgard Road,
Tallaght, Dublin 24

Re: Comments re CER proposed direction on the resumption of connection offers to wind generators published Nov 2004 (CER/04/354)

Dear Mr. Naughton,

I refer to the above and to the ongoing delay which is being experienced in obtaining connection offers. Redwind Energy wishes to make some comments with regard to the form and content of the proposed direction.

We would generally welcome the form and content of the proposed direction, particularly with regard to the speeding up of the overall process. With regard to this we would propose to the CER that there is another category within the applications which should be considered.

The CER document in point 9 of the background makes reference to :
'applicants who are ready and best placed to connect in the immediate to short term, identified, prioritised and allowed to proceed without delay.'

As you may be aware, Redwind Has constructed two phases of a windfarm at Meenailta near Ballybofey, Co. Donegal. Redwind applied to increase its capacity by 3.4 MW using the existing line and substation. Full planning permission has been obtained for the additional turbines. We would question the validity of the phase 3 connection application being treated as a new application, given that there is an operational connection agreement, of which this is an extension.

Discussions with ESB Networks revealed that there would be some upgrading works required to facilitate the additional capacity, but that the existing infrastructure would be adequate to accommodate the additional 3.4 MW. The connection reference for this project is DG55.

On receipt of a connection offer for this extension, Redwind could have the additional 3.4 MW in place within 8 months, as there is an offtaker available for the power and finance is available.

The project is well placed to connect to the system in the short term, and as connection agreements and indeed infrastructure are already in place, we would therefore respectfully request that the commission considers adding projects which involve extensions and additions to existing infrastructure to the tier 1 list.

Yours sincerely,

John Ward

J. Ward