



Commission for Energy Regulation

An Coimisiún um Rialáil Fuinnimh

**PROPOSED PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION
ON GENERATION CONNECTION
APPLICATIONS**

A CONSULTATION PAPER

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Commission for Energy Regulation has been approached by the electricity TSO¹ with a proposal to publish on its website more detailed information with respect to generators with a completed application to connect to the network. The Commission sees merit in this suggestion and sets out a proposal in this Consultation Paper.

2. Background and Current Practice

- 2.1 The TSO and the DSO² have a general duty to protect confidential information received from parties with an application to connect to the network. Regulation 9 of the European Communities (Internal Market in Electricity) Regulations, 2005 (“SI 60 of 2005”) states that:

“The transmission system operator shall preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information obtained by it in the discharge of its functions...”

Regulation 12 of SI 60 of 2005 similarly requires that:

“The distribution system operator shall preserve the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information obtained by it in the discharge of its functions...”

- 2.2 The current practice is that the TSO displays on its website, www.eirgrid.com, the date of an applicant’s completed generator connection application, the status of its application, proposed location by county, capacity and interacting group. This is according to a unique and anonymous reference number and applies for transmission and distribution applicants. An example is shown below.

Internet Ref:	Status	Location	Application Completion Date	MEC Change (MW)	Interacting Group
TG23	Application in Process	Leitrim	19/03/04	31.525	TG23, TG32, TG37, TG51, DG42, DG43, DG44, DG46, DG51, DG53, DG55, DG59, DG60, DG64, DG65, DG87, DG98, DG99, DG101, DG124, DG142, DG173, DG192, DG195, DG196, DG198, DG204, DG208
TG24	Application in Process	Cork	12/05/04	87	TG24, TG29, TG31, TG34, TG43, TG48, TG50, TG54, TG61, TG63, DG03, DG04, DG35, DG49, DG50, DG56, DG57, DG70, DG71, DG76, DG78, DG79, DG80, DG82, DG83, DG84, DG93, DG107, DG110, DG111, DG112, DG113, DG115, DG117, DG118, DG119, DG122, DG123, DG127, DG132, DG140, DG141, DG147, DG149, DG150, DG151, DG152, DG153, DG164, DG165, DG166, DG199, DG200, DG199, DG200, DG203, DG207

¹ Transmission System Operator, ESB National Grid.

² Distribution System Operator, ESB Networks.

3. Proposed Publication of Information

3.1 Following an approach from the TSO, the Commission now proposes that more detailed standardised information of all completed connection applications for generators is published on the TSO's website. The following information is proposed for publication:

- Applicant's name;
- Applicant's contact details;
- Applicant's date of completed application;
- Status of application, for example in progress or issued;
- Specific location, including grid co-ordinates;
- Capacity of the project; and,
- Interacting group where applicable (with all the above details available separately for each member of this group).

No additional information would be published as part of this process.

3.2 The Commission is proposing to issue a direction to the system operators to publish this information, pursuant to Section 34 (1) of the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999, which states that:

“the Operator shall offer to enter into an agreement for connection to or use of the transmission or distribution system, subject to terms and conditions specified in accordance with directions given to the Operator by the Commission under this section from time to time”

3.3 The Commission notes that transmission applicants have signed a confidentiality agreement with the TSO. This is worded such that the proposed information can be released and published when directed, as proposed above, by the Commission. Subsequent to the issuing of the direction, all current applicants would be informed in writing by the system operators that the information (shown in paragraph 3.1) will be published on the TSO's website.

4. Rationale for Proposal

4.1 This proposal would aid transparency for all applicants considering connection to the network, be they renewable generators under the group processing regime or conventional generators under the single processing regime. Knowledge of the specific location of other applicants may give a new entrant an indication as to how likely it is that its connection application would need to be reworked (and therefore delayed). It would also particularly benefit renewable generators subject to the group processing approach. This is because they often interact with a large volume of other connection applications and this forms the basis of the cost of their connection offer. Therefore the specific location of other

applicants could be particularly useful for assessing how economically viable an area is for connection. In general, applicant contact details would also aid information transfer for all in the industry.

- 4.2 Provision of the proposed level of information is in line with other processes such as planning applications. The level of information proposed is not, therefore, considered commercially sensitive on the basis that it would become publicly available in any event once planning permission is applied for.
- 4.3 Regulations 6 and 10 of SI 60 of 2005 state that the TSO/DSO shall respectively:

“provide all those using and seeking to use the transmission system with the information they need, on a timely basis, for efficient access to the transmission system”

“provide all those using and seeking to use the distribution system with the information they need, on a timely basis, for efficient access to the distribution system”

This proposal, by seeking to increase transparency for those connected to and seeking to connect to the network, is in keeping with this legislation.

5. Invitation to Comment

- 5.1 Any comments on this proposal, which is aimed at increasing transparency, should be sent to Andrew Ebrill at the Commission, at aebrill@cer.ie, no later than 17:00 on Tuesday 4th July 2006.