

Cer06/241

3rd November 2006

Our ref: 30224

Mr. John Shine
Managing Director
ESB Networks
27 Lower Fitzwilliam Street
Dublin 2

Re: Gate 2 Renewable Generator Connection Applicants

Dear John,

I refer to the Commission's direction of 16th June 2006 (CER/06/112) on the criteria for Gate 2 renewable generator connection offers, and to the subsequent reports submitted by the system operators on the qualification of applicants for Gate 2.

The Commission has reviewed the system operators' reports proposing which applicants meet the criteria set out in the June Direction and should, therefore, be included in Gate 2. These were submitted to the Commission by EirGrid on 4th August, followed by a progressive submission by ESB Networks of the detailed analysis of each Gate 2 group over the period 7th September through to 18th October. The final Gate 2 qualification list was submitted to the Commission by ESB Networks on 3rd November 2006.

The Commission has also engaged an independent technical consultant, Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM), to undertake a technical audit of these reports. This audit exercise included extensive meetings and correspondence with the operators on all aspects of the Gate 2 process. I attach a copy of the technical auditor's report. As you will see, this concludes that the Gate 2 application process has been undertaken by the system operators in a rigorous and well documented manner and that the findings of the process are consistent with the requirements of the Commission's June 2006 direction.

The Commission has therefore now concluded that the applicants identified by the system operators for qualification in Gate 2 have been correctly determined in accordance with the criteria as published in the Commission's June direction. Accordingly, the Commission approves the applicants proposed by the system operators for qualification for inclusion in Gate 2.

The Commission requests that all applicants who have qualified for inclusion in Gate 2 who have not already been so informed - i.e. the system optimisation qualifiers - should be advised to this effect as a matter of urgency and invoiced

for their application processing fee. Shortly thereafter, the Commission will publish the list of applicants who have qualified for inclusion in Gate 2 on its website.

The Commission would like to take this opportunity to thank both system operators for their extensive and professional work in carrying out the Gate 2 processing exercise and for their co-operation with the Commission for the purpose of the technical audit.

Yours sincerely,

Michael G. Tutty
Commissioner

C.C Mr. Dermot Byrne, Chief Executive, EirGrid.