



Commission for Energy Regulation

An Coimisiún um Rialáil Fuinnimh

Decision on Transmission Connection Agreements and Use of System Agreements

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Abstract:

EirGrid has recently submitted revised versions of its Connection Agreement and Transmission Use of System Agreements, which it issues to parties that are connecting to the electricity transmission system, to the CER for approval. This paper approves the versions published alongside this paper.

The amendments proposed by EirGrid are primarily related to CER's August 2009 decision on Electricity Network Connection Policy (CER/09/138).

These submissions follow a public consultation process in 2011 which preceded extensive discussions between the CER, TSO and TAO in addition to further bilateral consultation with the respondents to the public consultation.

Target Audience:

This Decision paper is for the attention of members of the public, the energy industry, customers and all interested parties. It will be of particular interest to members of the energy industry that are interested in connecting generators to the electricity transmission network in Ireland.

Related Documents:

[CER/09/138](#)
[CER/10/232](#)

Decision on Electricity Network Connection Policy
Consultation on transmission connection agreements and use of system agreements

Executive Summary

EirGrid has recently submitted to the CER, for approval, revised versions of the suite of documents that make up its connection offers. These submissions follow a public consultation process in 2011 which preceded extensive discussions between the CER, TSO and TAO in addition to further bilateral consultation with the respondents to the public consultation. It is noted that the CER had not formed a view on the suite of documents published with CER/10/232. The CER considered it appropriate to elicit the views of industry before forming its own view. Therefore a formal review of the suite of documents commenced on the conclusion of the consultation process, this was followed by a period of engagement with the TSO, TAO and the respondents to the consultation paper.

The revisions are primarily related to CER's decision in August 2009 on Electricity Network Connection Policy (CER/09/138).

The TSO is now directed to implement the new connection agreements. The TSO is also directed to conduct regular Connection Agreement Reviews in 18 month intervals, commencing 18 months from the publication of this paper.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Commission for Energy Regulation

The Commission for Energy Regulation ('the CER') is the independent body responsible for overseeing the regulation of Ireland's electricity and gas sector's. The CER was initially established and granted regulatory powers over the electricity market under the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999. The enactment of the Gas (Interim) (Regulation) Act, 2002 expanded the Commission's jurisdiction to include regulation of the natural gas market, while the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 and the granted the CER additional powers in relation to gas and electricity safety. The Electricity Regulation Amendment (SEM) Act 2007 outlined the CER's functions in relation to the Single Electricity Market (SEM) for the island of Ireland. This market is regulated by the CER and the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (NIAUR). The CER is working to ensure that consumers benefit from regulation and the introduction of competition in the energy sector.

1.2 Purpose of this paper

To give effect to amendments to the connection agreements necessitated by CER's decision in August 2009 on Electricity Network Connection Policy (CER/09/138).

1.3 Background Information

The terms and conditions which apply currently to users of the grid or parties that are connecting to the electricity transmission network have largely been in place since 2006.

The CER has in recent times made connection policy decisions which impact on the terms and conditions of the existing transmission connection agreement and the transmission use of system (TUoS) agreements; in particular the CER's Decision on Electricity Network Connection Policy¹.

The Electricity Regulation Act 1999, as amended, requires EirGrid to give effect to any changes to the terms and conditions for connection to and use of the transmission system as directed by the CER from time to time:

34.—(1)the Board 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 Board by the Commission under this section from time to time.

¹ [CER/09/138](#): Decision on Electricity Network Connection Policy

Accordingly, earlier this year, EirGrid submitted to CER a suite of amended TSO documents which collectively make up the contracts that it issues to parties that apply for connection to the electricity transmission system. The TAO submission was subsequently finalised and the final versions of the documents for approval were submitted in June 2013. These documents are:

- Connection Agreement
- General Conditions
- Schedule 10 Contestable
- Schedule 10 Non-Contestable m
- Schedule 12 – Transfer of Ownership Checklist
- TUoS Agreement for Suppliers
- TUoS Agreement for Distribution Connected Generators and Autoproducers

EirGrid's original submission was issued for a public consultation which concluded in February 2011, there then took place bilateral engagement with the CER taking into account industry responses and EirGrid's subsequent revisions. Later in 2011, and into 2012, the CER and EirGrid engaged directly with the respondents to the consultation. Further revisions and bilateral discussions between the CER and EirGrid took account of the issues raised by industry.

EirGrid's final submission was issued in 2013 and has been reviewed by the CER. This paper approves this suite of documents, published alongside this Decision.

1.4 Scope and impact

The CER approves the process for amending existing Connection Agreements as set out in EirGrid's letter of June 2013, published with this paper. In summary the costs associated with updating the Connection Agreements will not be to the account of the customer and will be updated in the following order:

1. Gate 3 signed Connection Agreements
2. Non-Gate 3 signed Connection Agreements, not yet connected
3. Gate 3 unsigned Connection Agreements
4. Non-Gate 3 signed Connection Agreements, connected

2.0 Next steps

The CER directs EirGrid to now amend the connection agreements as approved and report annually to the CER on the process of amending the existing Connection Agreements.

The CER is aware that this review of the Connection Agreements has been a particularly long process. This has, in part, been due to the extensive nature of the review. Therefore, in an effort to reduce the scope of subsequent reviews of the Connection Agreements the CER considers that more routine revisions are appropriate and will reduce the scope of subsequent revisions necessitated by changes in policy.

EirGrid is directed to review the Connection Agreements and associated documents every 18 months and consult publicly on any proposed changes before submitting the proposal to the CER for approval. Where EirGrid, having completed its review, is of the opinion that no revisions are required it shall issue a consultation to that effect.