



An Coimisiún
um Rialáil Fóntas
Commission for
Regulation of Utilities

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For the attention of:

Ms Rosemary Steen
Director, External Affairs
EirGrid
Block 2, The Oval
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Mr Joe Duignan
Manager Commercial and Renewable Regulation
ESB Networks
Phase 1 Building
Leopardstown Road
Foxrock
Dublin 18

2 November 2017

Ref: D/17/19787

Re: Direction to the system operators on the transition to ECP-1

Dear Rosemary and Joe,

As you are aware, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) is currently reviewing the existing approach for connecting generation resources to the electricity transmission and distribution system in Ireland.

In that regard, the CRU consulted in December 2015 on developing an enduring connection policy (ECP) that would replace the existing connection approach (CER/15/284).

Further to CER/15/284, the CRU has today, 2 November 2017, issued a proposed decision setting the rules for the first stage of that policy, ECP-1 (CRU/17/309) and, following this consultation, expects to publish a final decision in that matter in quarter one 2018.

Pending the final decision, and in order to facilitate timely transition from the existing connection approach to ECP, the CRU hereby directs EirGrid Plc and ESB Networks DAC, in their respective capacities as Transmission System Operator and Distribution System Operator, pursuant to Section 34(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999, as amended, as follows:

As of today (2 November 2017):

1. Suspend accepting any new generation or storage applications greater than 11kW under the non-GPA direction (CER/09/099) or otherwise, after 2 November 2017.
2. Suspend processing any further applications under CER/09/099 other than those already in process.¹
3. Suspend processing any new requests for capacity relocation (including new requests for those projects already contracted) after 2 November 2017, where such requests involve relocation beyond 100 meters from the original site specified in the relevant application.
4. Write to the existing applicants who have live connection offers providing them with an option to defer acceptance of their offer pending the outcome of the consultation on ECP-1, so that they would have the option to be processed under ECP-1 as per final CRU decision.
5. Write to the existing non-GPA applicants in process providing them with an option to suspend processing of their application pending the outcome of the consultation on ECP-1, so that they would have an option to be processed under ECP-1 as per final CRU decision.

For the purpose of point 4 and 5 of this direction, the system operators are directed to write to applicants at the address specified in the system operators' lists of generation applications published at the relevant system operator's website. Applicants will have **20 business days** to respond to the system operator's letter. Applicants who do not respond to the system operator within the above timeframe will be assumed to have chosen the option to remain in process for connection under CER/09/099.

In relation to **applicants with live connection offers**, if the applicant elects to defer the acceptance of their offer, such offer will be deferred until no earlier than one month following the final CRU decision on ECP-1. Live connection offers of applicants will be extended by 20 business days, as appropriate.

¹ **"Non-GPA applicants in process"** are, as of today, 2 November 2017, those applicants that:

- applied for a grid connection under CER/09/099; and
- are currently first at the node; and
- their application is currently being processed by the system operators i.e. they have paid the balance of application fees; and
- have been scheduled to receive a connection offer.

In cases where there is a queue of existing non-GPA applicants at a node and the preceding non-GPA applicant has received and accepted a connection offer (or it has expired or has been formally rejected), the relevant system operator may deem the next applicant in the connection queue to be a "non-GPA applicant in process" provided that the balance of all application fees required is paid within 30 business days of the issuance of the invoice by the relevant system operator.



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In relation to **applicants in process**, if the applicant elects to suspend processing of their application, processing will be suspended until no earlier than one month following the final CRU decision on ECP-1.

This direction should be read in conjunction with the ECP-1 proposed decision CRU/17/309 and the ECP-1 accompanying rulesets (CRU/17/310 and CRU/17/311). For the avoidance of doubt, this direction is intended to have suspensive effect on processing to cover the period up to the final CRU decision on ECP-1 only. Any further treatment of the applications referenced in this direction will be as per the final CRU decision on ECP-1.

Pending the final CRU decision on ECP-1, this direction will have precedence over the CRU's previous decisions in relation to connection policy. In the event of conflict or inconsistency between the previous CRU decisions in relation to connection policy and this direction, this direction will take precedence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garrett Blaney', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Garrett Blaney
Commissioner