



An Coimisiún
um Rialáil Fóntas
**Commission for
Regulation of Utilities**

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Clarification Note

On the ECP-1 Decision

Capacity Relocation

Information Paper

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Capacity Relocation under ECP-1

The CRU's ECP-1 decision (CRU/18/058) has provided a three-month grace period for contracted projects to relocate capacity to a site with planning permission. In order to avail of this measure, a project had to be contracted as of the date of publication of the ECP-1 decision, i.e. 27 March 2018.

The industry has raised concerns with the CRU that the above cut-off date is too restrictive and that capacity relocation should also be open to projects which:

- became contracted after the date of the ECP-1 decision; or
- are not yet contracted, but have already been issued a connection offer; or
- are still in process of receiving one.

The CRU notes that the above categories relate to 94 applicants who, as per CRU direction of 2 November 2017 (CRU/17/309A), were deemed “in process” by the system operator¹ or had live connection offers. At the time of the consultation on the ECP-1 proposed decision, those applicants were asked to make a decision on whether to:

- continue their processing (albeit with no option to relocate capacity); or
- suspend it and wait for clarity on the ECP-1 final decision.

The majority of projects (56) decided to suspend their processing, while 38 projects decided not to wait for ECP-1.

Given that those decisions were taken at a transitional time, the CRU sees some merit in recognising this and clarifies that the option to relocate capacity to a consented site is also open to the above categories.

¹ For a definition of an applicant “in process”, see CRU/17/309A available at https://www.cru.ie/document_group/electricity-connection-policy/.

The CRU notes that the above projects were either put on hold at their request or their offer issuance might have otherwise been delayed by the implementation of CRU/17/309A. As a result, those projects are not yet contracted or became contracted only after the ECP-1 decision. This was not the intention of the CRU to deny those projects the opportunity to relocate capacity to a consented site, and put them in a disadvantaged position in comparison to those projects which became contracted before the publication of the ECP-1 decision.

Extending the option to relocate capacity to a consented site to the above categories of projects is in keeping with the overarching objective of ECP-1, which is to facilitate progression of projects instead of encouraging them to keep hoarding capacity at locations where they cannot progress. This should result in a more efficient use of scarce network capacity, translating into lower system costs for end consumers. The CRU also understands that allowing those projects to relocate might, in certain cases, facilitate offer issuance for the ECP-1 batch.

The CRU notes that the grace period for requesting capacity relocation remains as per the ECP-1 decision, i.e. one month following the ECP-1 batch closure. This is to ensure that the additional relocation requests coming from the above categories of projects will not unnecessarily delay the commencement of the ECP-1 batch processing timeline.