



Gate 2 Connection Offers - Timeline and Direction

Commission for Energy Regulation

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1. Background

Following consultation with market participants, on 16th June 2006 the Commission published a Direction (CER/06/112) to the electricity system operators on the criteria to be applied in Gate 2 of the processing of renewable generator connection applications. This stated that the first 500 MW of applicants in the application connection queue, along with other applicants who met particular “system optimisation” criteria, were eligible for connection to the electricity network in Gate 2. Subsequently ESB Networks, as the distribution system operator, carried out a process to analyse which applicants were eligible for Gate 2 under these criteria¹. This process was finalised and approved by the Commission’s independent technical auditor, SKM, as published in November 2006.

Since then the application processing fees have been collected from eligible Gate 2 applicants. The final number of renewable generator projects now eligible to receive an offer to connect to the network in Gate 2 is 122, equivalent to 1,321 MW in terms of capacity. Almost all of this renewable generation capacity is from wind power. Gate 2 will therefore provide the opportunity to dramatically increase the amount of wind generation in the country over the coming years. It means that Ireland is now on course to meet the EU target of 13.2% of electricity consumption coming from renewable sources by 2010, as well as the Irish Government target, as outlined in its recent Green Paper “Towards a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland”, of 15% of electricity consumption coming from renewable sources by that year.

The Commission now publishes a Paper on the estimated timeline for the issuance of connection offers from EirGrid and ESB Networks to these Gate 2 renewable generators, to provide them with an estimate as to when they can expect to receive their offers. The Paper also includes a direction to the system operators regarding modification requests to Gate 2 connection agreements.

2. Gate 2 Offer Timeline

Studies are being undertaken by the system operators to ensure that Gate 2 generators are connected in such a manner as to meet network security and operating standards, as well as to minimise the overall costs of connection in so far as possible. The studies are necessary in order to issue connection offers to Gate 2 generators, which include information on the method of connection, the estimated cost and completion date of shallow connection works, and the anticipated date for the completion of any necessary deep reinforcements. Separately an estimate of the likely level of constraints on generator output prior to the completion of these deep reinforcements will also be provided to generators. This information shall be provided to the individual applicants after the deep reinforcements have been identified for the Gate.

¹ The transmission system operator, EirGrid, identified the extensions to existing transmission connected facilities that were eligible for Gate 2 inclusion.

To allow Gate 2 connection offers from EirGrid and ESB Networks to be issued as efficiently and as quickly as possible, these studies will be completed and offers will roll out to renewable generators in geographic groups across the country. The estimated timeline for the issuance of offers has been agreed between the Commission and EirGrid/ESB Networks and is shown below, in aggregate by group (Figure 1) and showing individual generators within each group (Figure 2).

The agreed timeline involves Gate 2 connection offers being rolled out to groups from April, with the majority of the eligible Gate 2 projects being issued an offer by the end of August 2007. Projects in the remaining two groups, E and F, are expected, due to the large number of generators being connected in the South West region (greater than the entire number in Gate 1), to have their offers issued by the end of December 2007.

It should be noted that the timeline for the issuance of Gate 2 offers is a preliminary estimate and, while the system operators will endeavour to meet it, it is subject to change. For Groups E and F in particular, due to the large number of generators connecting in this area, a specific review of the timeline will be carried out by EirGrid in September and any likely changes will be advised to the individual applicants in those groups at this stage.

The estimated timeline for the issuance of Gate 2 connection offers is shown in Figures 1 and 2 on the following pages. Any queries on this issue should be directed to Andrew Ebrill at the Commission, at (01) 4000 800 or aebrill@cer.ie.

3. Acceptance of Offers / Disputes

For clarity, as stated in the Gate 2 Direction of June 2006 (CER/06/112), the 50 business day validity period for connection offer acceptance by an applicant will expire 50 business days after either the offer or the constraint information has been issued, whichever is later. Any dispute of a connection offer must be submitted to the Commission by business day 25 of the 50 day offer period.

4. Direction on Modification of Agreements

ESB Networks has requested that modification requests to signed connection agreements be dealt with by the system operators *after* the final group of Gate 2 offers has been issued (expected December 2007), rather than within three months of the modification request being submitted, as is currently the case for distribution-connected generators. The Commission considers that this request, which is designed - and will - prevent modification requests delaying the roll out of Gate 2 connection offers, is reasonable. While it is acknowledged that it will cause some inconvenience and delays to some applicants seeking modifications, it is essential in the interests of all applicants that the Gate 2 process rolls out as quickly as possible. The Commission therefore directs, under Section 34(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999, that connection agreements signed between the system operators and Gate 2 projects allow for requests for

modifications to be dealt with by the system operators after the final group of Gate 2 offers has been issued.

Figure 1: Timeline for Roll-out of Offers to Gate 2 Groups

Area	Targeted Date for Offers to Issue to Customers	Number of Applicants	MW (rounded)
G (North East)	Mid Apr 07	3	14
I (South)	Mid Apr 07	1	2
C (Midlands)	Mid May 07	3	13
D (Mid West)	End May 07	4	66
H1 (Midlands-South West)	Early July 07	14	162
H2 (South East)	Early Aug 07	15	118
A (North West)	Mid Aug 07	20	204
B (Mid-North West)	Late Aug 07	12	104
E (South West)	End Dec 07	44	594
F (South West)	End Dec 07	6	44
Total		122	1321

Figure 2: List of Generators in Each Gate 2 Group

Customer Name	Internet Code*	MEC (MW)
Area A (North West)		
Meenanilta (3)	DG55	3.4
Sorne Hill (2)	DG59	6.5
Flughland (1)	DG60	9.2
Three Trees (1)	DG98	4.25
Meenkeeragh (1)	DG99	4.2
Sorne Hill Single Turbine (3)	DG124	2.3
Glackmore Hill Extension I	DG225	1.4
Glackmore Hill Extension II	DG228	0.3
Meenadreen South (1)	DG65	3.6
Croaghnameal (1)	DG198	4.3
Meenadreen (2)	TG51	82
Kilcar (1)	DG142	2.55
Silver Hill WF	DG221	3.2
Seltanaveeny (1)	DG53	5.4
Garvagh (Glebe) (1)	TG23	31.525
Tullynahaw (1)	TG32	26.7
Moneenatieve (2)	DG208	0.29
Caranne Hill Extension	DG210	1.598
Tullynamoyle	DG214	9
Edenmore (1)	DG97	2.55
Area Total A		204.263
Expected Delivery Date		Mid August 2007

Area B (Mid-North West)		
Ounagh Hill (1)	DG64	6.9
Carrowleigh	DG159	27.25
Bunnyconnellan	DG160	28
Kingsmountain (2)	TG40	11.05
Kingsmountain (3)	TG46	4.25
Raheen Barr (2)	DG47	8.5
Lenanavea (2)	DG162	2.55
Lenanavea (3)	DG163	3.4
Lenanavea (1)	DG161	3.4
Cloonlusk (1)	DG139	4.25
Mace Upper (1)	DG206	2.55
Cuillalea Extension	DG906	1.7
Area Total B		103.8
Expected Delivery Date		Late August 2007

Area C (Midlands)		
Leabeg (1)	DG66	4.3
Roosky (1)	DG103	3.6
Skrine (1)	DG102	5
Area Total C		12.9
Expected Delivery Date		Mid May 2007

Area D (Mid West)		
Keelderry (1)	TG49	29.75
Loughaun North (2)	DG73	24
Booltiagh (2)	TG38	3
Booltiagh (3)	TG39	9
Area Total D		65.75
Expected Delivery Date		End May 2007

Area E (South West)		
Knocknacaheragh (1)	DG56	4
Dromada (1)	DG141	46
Athea (2)	DG04	17
Tooradoo (1)	DG199	5
Caherlevoy (1)	DG111	3.6
Beale (3)	DG110	1.7
Cloghboola (1)	DG50	46
Dromadda Beg (1)	DG150	2.55
Cloghanaleskirt (1)	DG151	10
Muingnate (1)	DG70	10.2
Kerry LFG (1)	DG132	1
Knockagoum (1)	DG82	14
Cahercullenagh Upper WF	DG220	4.25
Muingnatee WF II	DG229	0.85
Maghanknockane (1)	DG83	12
Mount Eagle III	DG218	1.7
Knockaneden (1)	DG118	9
Brandon Hydro-Power Scheme (1)	DG207	0.85
Wedcross Extension I	DG226	4
Wedcross Extension II	DG227	0.5
Cordal (1)	DG49	35.85
Coolegrean (1)	DG122	18.5
Glentanemacelligot (1)	DG57	18
Carrigans (1)	DG112	1.7
Scartaglen (1)	DG71	14
Barna (1)	DG80	5.95
Dromdeveen (2)	DG79	16.5

Glenduff	DG234	6
Knockacummer (1)	TG24	87
Foildaun (1)	DG203	13.8
Foilgreana (1)	DG76	6
Curragh (1)	DG187	18
Cummeennabuddoge (1)	DG174	5
Caherdowey (1)	DG85	10
Coomagearlahy (2)	TG50	20.5
Gortnakilla (1)	TG54	18
Boggeragh (1)	TG29	57
Esk (1)	DG149	6
Killavoy (1)	DG200	18
Grouse Lodge (1)	DG78	15
Carrons (1)	DG113	2.5
Carrons (2)	DG164	2.5
Slievereagh (1)	DG117	3
Pluckanes (1)	DG166	0.85
Area Total		593.85
Expected Delivery Date		End December 2007

Customer Name	Internet Code*	MEC (MW)
Area F (South West)		
Burren [Cork] (2)	DG58	9
Glanta Commons (2)	DG48	8.4
Bantry Bay Seafoods (1)	DG193	2
Derryvacoreen (1)	DG75	17
Coomatallin (2)	DG114	3.05
Reenascreena (1)	DG54	4.5
Area Total		43.95
Expected Delivery Date		End December 2007

Area G (North East)		
Crowinstown (1)	DG105	5
Dunmore Extension	DG246	3
Mountain Lodge (3)	TG52	5.82
Area Total		13.82
Expected Delivery Date		Mid April 2007

Area H1 (Midlands - South West)		
Glenough (1)	DG68	33
Reisk (1)	DG129	3.9
Garracummer (1)	DG90	22
Cappagh White (1)	TG41	16.1
Tooreen (1)	DG156	4
Falleennafinnoga (1)	DG155	4
Holyford (1)	DG194	9
Moanvaun (1)	DG197	3
Curraghraigue (2)	DG100	2.55
Knocknagappagh (1)	DG169	1.7
Templederry (1)	DG184	3.9
Blakefield (1)	DG170	0.9
Lisheen (1)	TG55	55
Borrisnafarney Windfarm	DG205	2.55
Area Total		161.6
Expected Delivery Date		Early July 2007

Area H2 (South East)		
Ballyduff (1)	DG106	4
Ballynancoran (1)	DG125	4
Kennystown (1)	DG126	3.6
Ballymartin (1)	DG130	6
Castledockrill (2)	DG172	2
Cronelea Upper (2)	DG180	1.7
Greenoge (1)	DG183	2.6
Gibbeet (1)	DG185	14.8
Castledockrill (3)	DG189	3.3
Castledockrill (4)	DG201	16.1
Cronelea (2)	DG63	4.5
Rahora (1)	DG67	4.3
Gortahile (1)	DG69	21
Castledockrill (1)	DG88	20
Ballywater (2)	TG35	10.5
Area Total		118.4
Expected Delivery Date		Early August 2007

Area I (South)		
Crocane (1)	DG167	1.7
Area Total		1.7
Expected Delivery Date		Mid April 2007