

Nicola Paton
Head of Customer Service

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www.nationalgrid.com

Dear Industry Colleague,

Connection Application and/or Use of System Application – Interim Restrictions on Availability Policy Statement

Following the [National Grid open letter consultation](#) dated 19 March 2015 regarding our proposed policy on the provision of interim Restrictions on Availability to developers through their Connection Offer and/or Use of System Offer (where a User participates in the Balancing Mechanism), this open letter seeks to inform industry of the resulting decision in respect of the aforementioned policy. Please note that certain terms herein are defined in the Connection and Use of System Code.

I would first like to thank all of our stakeholders who have taken time to consider, respond and discuss this policy with us in recent months. We greatly appreciate both your time and views.

We are now pleased to inform industry that having duly considered all feedback received, some of which has been summarised below, **National Grid will now only consider applications for an advanced connection date, specifically through use of interim Restrictions on Availability, for projects which have been granted planning consent.**

Please note that this policy statement does not affect your current contracted position nor your ability to apply for a Design Variation (as per paragraph 2.15 through 2.18 of the Security and Quality of Supply Standards) in respect of your connection design at your discretion.

This policy will be immediately applied for any relevant new Connection Application and/or Use of System Application which is submitted. Any applications which are currently within the application process will be unaffected by this policy statement. If you would like to better understand what this policy statement could mean for any of your current or future connection applications to National Grid please contact your Customer Account Manager.

Of the five consultation responses received, three were fully supportive of the policy but with two providing a caveat that there is a need for better provision of information to allow developers to adequately assess the commercial risk for their project(s) both before and after interim Restrictions on Availability are contracted. National Grid is currently exploring how best to provide customers with the desired level of information whilst ensuring it is of the required standard.

One of the three fully supportive respondents also went further and stated that the policy should be broader in scope and prioritise consented projects over unconsented projects wherever there is competition for scarce grid capacity. This point will be further considered through our wider work on the future allocation of grid capacity.

The remaining two responses were broadly supportive but both respondents questioned why this policy could not instead be applied on an appropriate locational basis.

After consideration we have concluded that a locational approach will not be as suitable as unconsented projects wishing to contract for interim Restrictions on Availability, in network areas with greater levels of 'restricted capacity' available, would not be impacted by this policy if applied on a non-locational basis. The reason is that such 'restricted capacity' would become available to them upon gaining planning consents, unless provided to other parties which may have already obtained the relevant consents in advance.

We intend to publish further guidance to support and provide clarity for the application of this policy in due course but in the meantime if you would like to discuss the above or have any questions, either generally or specific to an individual project, please speak to your Customer Account Manager in the first instance or contact Mike Oxenham via e-mail at Michael.Oxenham1@nationalgrid.com.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Paton
Head of Customer Service

For and on behalf of
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc