



Gaelectric Developments Ltd.

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Jean Pierre Miura,
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Philip Newsome,
Commission for Energy Regulation,
The Exchange,
Belgard Square North,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.

25th July 2014

By email to: jeanpierre.miura@uregni.gov.uk and pnewsome@cer.ie).

Re: Response to the "Integrated Single Electricity Market (I-SEM) High Level Design for Ireland and Northern Ireland from 2016 Draft Decision Paper", SEM-14-045

Dear Jean Pierre and Philip,

Gaelectric is an independent wind and energy storage development company operating within Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and North America. To date Gaelectric is developing a wind energy portfolio of 14 projects with planning consent in Ireland, with its first wind farm becoming operational in May 2011. Ten projects are currently at various stages in the planning and permitting process in Northern Ireland. In the USA, Gaelectric currently manages a portfolio of up to 400MW capacity land options with permitting in progress.

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Gaelectric started construction of its first Northern Ireland based wind farm at Carn Hill, near Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim in early 2012. The project was commissioned in March 2013. Gaelectric has also recently commenced construction of a 42MW wind farm at Dunbeg, Limavady, Co. Londonderry which will be commissioned in August 2014.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the I-SEM High Level Design Draft Decision Paper.

We support the IWEA response to this consultation. We note that this is the most important consultation for the industry in recent times and will have a significant impact on the future of the electricity system in Ireland. As an industry we are in the process of an energy transition, which is set to continue into the future, to an energy system with increased levels of renewable generation. **It is essential that the market design is fit for purpose for a market which will have 40% of electricity produced from renewables (primarily wind) in 2020, and that the suitability of the market for the trading of electricity from wind energy is given appropriate consideration from day one.** A long-term stable market which encourages investment and appropriately reflects costs is needed.

The IWEA response to this proposed decision highlights the areas of the proposed decision of which the wind industry are supportive as well as highlighting where changes are required to ensure an appropriate market framework for wind energy into the future.

IWEA have restated their preference for a long term price based capacity remuneration mechanism, and highlighted concerns around the proposed reliability options, noting that any design principle of a CRM needs to ensure that wind generation receives fair payment for its capacity credit contribution to system security.

On the basis of legal advice, IWEA is of the view that if the Proposed CRM were to be adopted, there is a potential for it be challenged legally on grounds that participants in the wind sector have a legitimate expectation of receiving remuneration payments under the Current CRM. We would further argue that the Proposed CRM discriminates against participants in the wind sector in contravention of overarching European policy aims of preventing discrimination against renewables in the I-SEM, on the basis of a lack of cost-reflectiveness and that there could also be disproportionate interference with property rights contrary to Article 1.

IWEA has also presented a number of further considerations for the SEM Committee with reference to the renewable energy targets, the requirements under the RES Directive, and the need for a market that is accessible, transparent and fair for all generators.

It is essential that a detailed project plan is provided by the SEM Committee which gives information in relation to the different workstreams which need to be brought forward and the timeframes associated with them. This should be published without delay.

In conclusion we would like to thank the SEM Committee for the opportunity to engage on this issue and to highlight the particular importance of this consultation given the significant implications it has for the viability of the wind sector.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Daly,
Chief Operations Officer, Gaelectric Developments Ltd.