

Peter Bingham  
Interim Director for System Planning,  
Engineering, and Technology  
Ofgem  
10 South Colonnade  
Canary Wharf  
London  
E14 4PU

National Grid ESO  
Faraday House  
Gallows Hill  
Warwick  
CV34 6DA

paul.wakeley@nationalgrideso.com  
07920 702512  
nationalgrideso.com

29 September 2023

## Publication dates for Transitional Centralised Strategic Plan, through licence condition C11 and C27.

Dear Peter,

The Electricity System Operator (ESO) has obligations in relation to Network Planning through our Transmission Licence to produce the Network Options Assessment (NOA), as set out in Standard Condition C27, and the Electricity Ten Year Statement (ETYS), as set out in Standard Condition C11. We are writing to seek Ofgem's direction to delay publication of the NOA and the ETYS technical appendices to 31 March 2024.

As part of the transition to the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP), and with the development of the Holistic Network Design under the Offshore Transmission Network Review, the ESO's approach to network planning has changed, and continues to evolve ahead of changes to licence conditions expected as part of the Future System Operator implementation. Therefore, we are writing to seek a direction from Ofgem pursuant to our current Conditions C27 and C11 related to the publication of the next Transitional CSNP (TCSNP), which includes the NOA and the ETYS technical appendices.

Ofgem has already issued two directions in relation to the publication of the NOA and the ETYS technical appendices, to enable the timing of the next TCSNP, from which the existing 31 December 2023 publication date derives:

- Ofgem's direction<sup>1</sup> on 29/11/2022 allowed us to publish the next Network Option Assessment by 31 December 2023 (instead of 31 January 2022, licence C27).
- Subsequently, under licence condition C11 for the ETYS publication due by 30 November 2023, Ofgem allowed us in a direction<sup>2</sup> on 21 August 2023, to publish the Electricity Ten Year Statement (ETYS) technical appendices by 31 December 2023 instead of 30 November 2023, to align publication with the TCSNP. The ETYS itself has already been published in accordance with the 30 November 2023 deadline in our licence.

This change in publication date is to allow for an additional senior governance process for the TCSNP to be established between the ESO, Ofgem, Government and GB's Transmission Owners – as requested by all parties. It also reflects that the HNDPUE recommendations were produced later than we had originally envisaged when the current date was set and allows for in-depth stakeholder engagement. The development

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/decision-and-directions-allowing-national-grid-electricity-system-operator-limited-publish-its-electricity-ten-year-statement-etys-31-january-2023-and-updated-network-options-assessment-noa-report-31-december-2023>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/direction-national-grid-electricity-system-operator-limited-publish-its-electricity-ten-year-statement-etys-technical-appendices-31-december-2023>

of the TCSNP is being done in close collaboration with the Transmission Owners, who as planned, will see draft and final recommendation prior to the publication date.

We believe that the proposed change of date is in the overall interest of consumers, to ensure we have a fully developed, supported plan for the future network. We do not believe that the delay will have any material impact on security of supply, competition, sustainable development, or other party's non-compliance.

We expect to publish the TCSNP (including the NOA and ETYS Technical Appendices) by the end of February 2024. We ask that the Authority directs that we publish by 31 March 2024, with the expectation it will be published earlier. This provides some contingency if there is a delay to the complex publication for a short period, though our full intention is to publish in February.

We therefore seek Ofgem's direction to publish the next NOA, and the ETYS technical appendices by 31 March 2024.

Yours sincerely

Paul Wakeley  
Head of Strategic Network Development

