

CUSC CMP447: List of Excepted Works

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This publication implements the proposed designation process in the ‘Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC) CMP447: Removal of designated strategic works from cancellation charges/securitisation’ code modification, for Ofgem to publish a list of strategic transmission works designated as “Excepted Works” which are exempt from CUSC User Commitment cancellation charges and securities liabilities.

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1. CUSC and CMP447

Overview of CUSC User Framework, CMP447 decision and definition of Excepted Works.

Background

- 1.1 In January 2026, Ofgem approved the Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC) modification CMP447: Removal of designated strategic works from cancellation charges/securitisation.¹
- 1.2 Under the CUSC framework, Users² seeking connection to or use of the transmission system that trigger specific works are required to provide securities and potential cancellation charge liabilities, to protect consumers from the risk of stranded assets or costs should projects not proceed. The National Energy Systems Operator (NESO) identified a defect in CUSC arrangements³-approved strategic transmission works that are not triggered by their connection and would proceed regardless.
- 1.3 Through the CMP447 modification, strategic transmission works may be designated as Excepted Works where they are not dependent on a specific generator and are approved and delivered under a price control mechanism. This designation means that such works are exempt from User Commitment cancellation charges and associated security liabilities. NESO is responsible for identifying and recommending eligible works, with Ofgem reviewing and publishing these recommendations as appropriate. This publication fulfils the agreement under CMP447,⁴ for Ofgem to publish a list of Excepted Works.

CUSC User Commitment

- 1.4 The CUSC⁵ is the contractual framework for connecting to and using the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). NESO is responsible for managing and updating the CUSC. All changes are reviewed by the CUSC Modifications Panel and approved by the panel or Ofgem.
- 1.5 CUSC Section 15, 'User Commitment Methodology' (UCM), sets out the methodology and principles applied by NESO in the application and calculation of

¹ [CMP447 Decision: Removal of designated strategic works from cancellation charges/securities](#)

² Defined in [CUSC Section 11](#) - a person who is a party to the CUSC Framework Agreement other than The Company.

³ The Authority refers to GEMA, the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority. The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) supports GEMA in its day-to-day work. This decision is made by or on behalf of GEMA.

⁴ [CMP447 Decision: Removal of designated strategic works from cancellation charges/securities](#) at p. 15

⁵ [Connection and Use of System Code \(CUSC\) | National Energy System Operator](#)

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the liabilities (Cancellation Charge) placed on Users that trigger works to connect to the system, and the securities (Cancellation Charge Secured Amount) Users are liable for if a project is terminated or reduces capacity before or after the Trigger Date.⁶

- 1.6 Users are required to provide a liability to cover two types of assets: Attributable Works, related to investment driven directly by an individual User's connection; and Wider Works, relate⁷ to investment in network assets relied upon by the connecting User but delivered for the benefit of multiple Users.⁸ The extent of a User's liabilities therefore depend on whether the relevant works are driven by that User's connection or delivered for wider system benefit.
- 1.7 If a User terminates its project or reduces capacity before the Trigger Date, it is liable only for the costs associated with their Attributable Works (the Attributable Works Cancellation Charge). If termination or reduction occurs after the Trigger Date, the User is liable for both the Attributable Works Cancellation Charge and the Wider Cancellation Charge.⁸ These arrangements are set out in Section 15⁹ (User Commitment Methodology) of the CUSC10 and are reflected in the System Operator Transmission Owner Code (STC).¹¹

CMP447 Modification

- 1.8 CMP447 was proposed by NESO in January 2025 to address a defect in the CUSC User Commitment framework. Under the existing rules, Users were required to post financial securities for strategic transmission works that had already received regulatory approval and would proceed irrespective of their connection. This created unnecessary financial burdens and barriers to entry for new generation projects.¹²
- 1.9 The approved CMP447 modification updates the CUSC with amendments to Sections 11 and 15 to broaden the definition of "Excepted Works" to include strategic transmission works built through Ofgem's price control frameworks (e.g.

⁶ Defined in CUSC Section 15 - The Trigger Date will be (a) the 1 April which is three Financial Years prior to the start of the Financial Year in which the Charging Date occurs or (b) where the Charging Date is less than three Financial Years from the date of the Construction Agreement, the date of the Construction Agreement (in which case the Financial Year in which such date falls is the relevant Financial Year within the Cancellation Charge Profile working back from the Charging Date)

⁷ [CMP447 Decision: Removal of designated strategic works from cancellation charges/securitisation](#) at pp. 1-2

⁸ A component of the Cancellation Charge that applies on and after the Trigger Date as more particularly described in Part Two of the User Commitment Methodology.

⁹ [CUSC Section 15 - User Commitment Methodology](#)

¹⁰ [Connection and Use of System Code \(CUSC\) | National Energy System Operator](#)

¹¹ [System Operator Transmission Owner Code \(STC\) | National Energy System Operator](#)

¹² [CMP447 Decision: Removal of designated strategic works from cancellation charges/securitisation](#) at p. 11

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ASTI, LOTI and MSIP) which are not dependent on a specific User connection and would proceed regardless of whether an individual project connects.

- 1.10 Designation as “Excepted Works” removes the requirement for Users to provide cancellation charge securities and liabilities associated with these strategically designated works, as the risk of stranded assets is effectively mitigated through price control funding.
- 1.11 Under CMP447, NESO is responsible for reviewing strategic transmission projects and identifying those that are not generator dependent and are already funded through price control arrangements. On the basis of NESO’s recommendation, Ofgem may then assess and determine whether the proposed works meet the criteria to be designated as “Excepted Works”.¹³ The designation process is “intentionally light-touch and practical”¹⁴ and is neither prescriptive nor codified in the CUSC. The process will follow the steps outlined in [Annex 9 of the Final Modification Report, which, while not legally binding, offers a useful reference for the practicalities of the designation process.](#)
- 1.12 Not all strategic or reinforcement works are automatically excepted and works that remain attributable to a specific User’s connection continue to attract User Commitment liabilities in line with the CUSC. Designation is subject to Ofgem’s evaluation and discretion, and a final list of designated “Excepted Works” may be published following this assessment.

¹³ [Condition E2.8](#) of NESO’s licence, provides for matters arising under and specified in the CUSC to be referred to the Authority for determination, including, for example, designation under s 11 of the CUSC of certain projects as ‘Excepted Works’.

¹⁴ [CMP447 Decision: Removal of designated strategic works from cancellation charges/securitisation](#) at pp. 14-15

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2. CMP447 List of Excepted Works

Overview of CMP447 list of Excepted Works recommended by NESO and approved by Ofgem.

List of Excepted Works

Code or Reference	Description	Transmission Owner
AC5	Extension of 2GW AC5 and AC6 HVDC subsea link (Phase 1 (Provisional ASTI project)) from South West Scotland to North West Wales to 4GW (WCD4) (Phase 2 (tCSNP2 project))	NGET & SPT
AC6	2 GW, ± 525 kV HVDC cables from T-Point to Pentir	NGET
AENC	New 400 kV double circuit north E. Anglia	NGET
ATNC	New 400 kV double circuit south E. Anglia	NGET
Banniskirk 400 kV Substation	Construct a new 400 kV substation Banniskirk (Previously known as 'Spittal 2') close to the existing Spittal 275 kV substation in Caithness	SHET
BBNC	New 400 kV double circuit Beaulieu-Blackhillock	SHET
BDUP	Upgrade the existing network to a higher voltage between Beaulieu and Denny	SHET & SPT
BDUP	Beaulieu-Denny 400 kV upgrading	SHET
BIDC	Arnish – Beaulieu 1.8 GW HVDC Link	SHET
BKUP	Upgrade the existing network to a higher voltage between Blackhillock and Kintore	SHET

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Code or Reference	Description	Transmission Owner
BLN2	Beauly to Loch Buidhe 275kV Reinforcement	SHET
BLN4	Beauly-Loch Buidhe 400kv reinforcement	SHET
BPNC	New 400kv double circuit Blackhillock- Peterhead	SHET
BPRE	Reconductor second Bramford – Pelham – Braintree – Rayleigh Main Circuit	NGET
BTNO	New 400kv double circuit Bramford- Twinstead	NGET
CGNC	New 400kv double circuit Creyke Beck- Humber	NGET
CMN3	New circuit between South Eastern Scotland and North West England	NGET & SPT
CMNC	New South East Scotland to Harker 400kV doublecircuit	NGET & SPT
CVUP	Clydesmill to Strathaven 400kV Reinforcement	SPT
DBNC	Beauly to Dounreay 400kV Double Circuit Addition	SHET
DLRE	Loch Buidhe - Dounreay 275kV Double Circuit OHL reconductoring	SHET
DLUP	Windyhill – Lambhill – Denny North Reinforcement	SPT
DNEU	Denny SGT2	SHET & SPT
DSNO	Dounreay – Orkney 220kV Subsea HVAC Cable Link 1	SHET
DSUP	Replace the existing 275kV double circuit OHL from Dounreay - Thurso - Spittal with a new 400kV double circuit	SHET

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Code or Reference	Description	Transmission Owner
	OHL. Install new 400kV substations at Dounreay and Thurso with 2x400/275kV SGTs at each site to connect to the existing 275kV substations.	
DWNO	Denny-Wishaw 400kv reinforcement	SPT
DWUP	400kV single circuit corridor south from Kincardine North, on existing OHL routes, to Clyde's Mill substation.	SPT
E2DC	Torness-Hawthorn Pit HVDC	SPT & NGET
E4D3	Peterhead-Drax HVDC	SHET & NGET
E4L5 (EGL3)	Peterhead-south Humber HVDC / New offshore HVDC link between Peterhead and the East Coast of England (Eastern Green Link 3)	SHET & NGET
ECU2	East Coast onshore 275kV upgrade	SHET & SPT
ECUP	East Coast onshore 400kV incremental reinforcement -The project will establish a 400kV circuit between Denny North and Windyhill, via Lambhill, on the existing 275kV circuit	SHET & SPT
ECUP	East Coast Phase 2 400kV Reinforcement	SHET & SPT
ECVC	Eccles 400kV substation voltage control	SPT
EDEU	400kv upgrade Brinsworth-Chesterfield-High Marnam	NGET
EDN2	New 400kv double circuit Chesterfield-Ratcliffe-on-Saur	NGET
EGL5	Eastern 2GW HVDC Subsea Link: Longside to Lincolnshire connection (HND North/South Cluster IA - Previously AC1, AC2, AC3, AC4)	NGET & SHET

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Code or Reference	Description	Transmission Owner
EHRE	Elvanfoot to Harker OHL Conductor Replacement	NGET & SPT
ESCF	Reconfigure Stalybridge - Thorpe Marsh 400kV circuit	NGET
FSU1	Harker to Stella West via Fourstones upgrade from 275kV to 400kV, installation of Quadrature Booster	NGET
GWNC	New 400kv double circuit Humber-Lincolnshire	NGET
HBNS	Establish a new substation at Harburn.	SPT
HGNC	Harburn to Gala North 400kV Double Circuit Addition	SPT
HWUP	Uprate Hackney, Tottenham & Waltham Cross	NGET
KILN	New 400kV substation and associated Overhead Line (OHL) connection at Kiln Lane, Friston	NGET
LCU2	Kincardine North - Currie B5 Reinforcement	SPT
LPUP	Peterhead - Persley – Kintore - Kincardine 400kV Upgrade	SHET
LRN4	New South Lincolnshire to Hertfordshire double circuit	NGET
LRN6	New 400kV double circuit from South Lincolnshire to Hertfordshire	NGET
LRNC	New double circuit from South Lincolnshire to Rutland	NGET
LTRE	Reconductor Lackenby to Thornton 400kV double circuit	NGET

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Code or Reference	Description	Transmission Owner
LWUP	New 400kV substation north of Kincardine and connect to Denny North at 400kV	SPT
MRU1	Upgrade the existing Mersey ring of circuits and substations to allow for more capacity (Phase 1 of 2)	NGET
MRU2	Upgrade the existing Mersey ring of circuits and substations to allow for more capacity (Phase 2 of 2)	NGET
NHNC	New circuit from north east Scotland to the Central Belt	SHET & SPT
NOR6	Reconductor Norton to Osbaldwick 400kV double circuit	NGET
OPN2	New 400kv double circuit Norton-Osbaldwick	NGET
PEM1, PEM2	Install two new 225 MVar 400kV Mechanically Switched Capacitors (MSCs) at Pelham	NGET
PKUP	Upgrade and/or rebuild the circuits and equipment between Longside (Peterhead 2), Peterhead, Persley, Kintore, Fetteresso, Alyth, and Kincardine	SHET
PSDC	Spittal-Peterhead HVDC reinforcement / New offshore circuit between Banniskirk (Spittal) and Longside (Peterhead 2)	SHET
PSNC	New 400kV double circuit from North Wales to South Wales	NGET
PTC1	Cable replacement Pentir-Trawsfynydd	NGET
PTNO	North Wales reinforcement	NGET

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Code or Reference	Description	Transmission Owner
SBDC	Spittal - Blackhillock HVDC Reinforcement (Caithness - Moray HVDC Link Reinforcement)	SHET
SCD1	Suffolk-Kent offshore HVDC link	NGET
Second Peterhead Substation (BPNC)	Second 400kV Peterhead Substation	SHET
Shetland 600MW HVDC Link and Kergord 132kV Substation	Shetland 600MW HVDC Link and Kergord 132kV Substation	SHET
SHNS	Construction of a new 400kV substation at Grimsby West	NGET
SKYE 132kV Reinforcement	SKYE 132kV Reinforcement	SHET
SLU2	Loch Buidhe to Spittal 275kV Reinforcement	SHET
SLU4	Loch Buidhe-Spittal 400kv reinforcement	SHET
TGDC (EGL4)	East Scotland-south Humber HVDC	SPT & NGET
TKRE	Carry out thermal upgrading on the existing circuits between Tilbury to Grain and Tilbury to Kingsnorth	NGET
TKUP	East Coast onshore 400kv Phase 2 reinforcement	SHET & SPT
TMCF	Reconfigure Thorpe Marsh substation	NGET
TWNC	New Waltham Cross to Wymondley 400kV double circuit and 275kV to 400kV upgrade	NGET
VERE	Replace existing OHL conductor on the northern (Strathaven – Elvanfoot) section of the strategic north-south	SPT

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Code or Reference	Description	Transmission Owner
	Strathaven – Harker (ZV Route) corridor with HTLS conductor.	
VSRE	Replace existing OHL conductor on the strategic east-west Strathaven – Smeaton (XH/XJ Route) corridor with HTLS conductor	SPT
WCD4	Increase the capacity of the proposed HND1 West Coast offshore HVDC link between Scotland and Wales	NGET & SPT
WCN2	New circuit between south west Scotland and north west England	NGET & SPT
WCN2	New circuit between south west Scotland and north west England	NGET & SPT
WRRE	West Burton–Ratcliffe uprating and reconductoring.	NGET