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**Standard Licence Condition 4F - Standards for the provision of non-contestable connection services ("SLC 4F") - Formal licence modification**

Dear Roger,

We welcome the opportunity to formally respond to both the licence condition introducing standards for the provision of non-contestable connection services and the accompanying guidance document.

We confirm that we are wholeheartedly supportive of both documents. Our only observations therefore relate to the following two issues which were raised within our earlier responses.

We are pleased to see that Ofgem have acknowledged that there is a need to make direct reference to the inclusion of connections at 132kv. We consider this to be imperative in support of connections for both our load customers and in support of our generation business. However it is regrettable that Ofgem have failed to acknowledge the support for the 50 day timeframe for PoC at 132kv. As a result DNOs will not necessarily provide the PoC information to ICPs for 3 months but within the same 3 month timeframe the DNOs will be legally obliged to provide not only their PoC but also a full Section 16 quotation. Once again this will put the ICPs at a distinct disadvantage and does little to provide the 'level playing field' that is a pre-requisite to the competitive connections marketplace.

We also remain disappointed that failure of standards by the DNOs is not to be penalised by a financial penalty. On a daily basis we continue to find our efforts frustrated by lack of information and data, incorrect PoCs and imprecise technical data provided by the DNOs. As you will appreciate resolution of these issues and problems is both time-consuming and costly to correct.

During on-going discussions with Ofgem, and through the ECSG we will continue to lobby until an appropriate solution to the above issues can be found. In the interim we consider that we have once again lost the opportunity to resolve this inequitable situation.

We trust that the above is of assistance and should you wish to discuss our comments in more detail please contact Bob Weaver (0121 541 2328) or myself.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Rose

Economic Regulation