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Dear Ikbal

Ref: 124/09: Gas and Electricity Licence Applications – Proposed Changes to the Application Regulations and Guidance Document

This letter sets out National Grid's views on the changes to the current Gas and Electricity Application Regulations and Guidance Document proposed by Ofgem such that they will comply with the pending implementation of the EU Services Directive. National Grid notes the importance of updating the Application Regulations and therefore welcomes Ofgem's consultation. National Grid notes and agrees with the vast majority of the proposed changes.

Our only reservation relates to the proposed removal of the requirement for applicants registered outside Great Britain to provide an address in Great Britain for the service of documents. We note that it is proposed that this provision is replaced by a requirement to provide an e-mail address. Given that e-mail addresses are transitory and easily overlooked, even within a large organisation, this proposal will potentially compromise the effectiveness of the service of documents to applicants. Alternative options may be available which could provide provisions for the service of documents while fulfilling the requirements of the new EU legislation such as allowing an address within the EU to be given by the applicant, with the service of documents being effected by mail or courier service.

Should you have any queries regarding this reply, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Andy Balkwill
Regulatory Policy Manager