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Dear Diana

Offshore electricity transmission: response to consultation on draft tender regulations 2010

As a prospective applicant and bidder, National Grid Offshore offers the following feedback with regard to Ofgem E-Serve's proposals for the tender qualification stages in the draft tender regulations for the enduring regime.

Recognising the challenge to deliver offshore transmission ahead of offshore wind generation, all efforts that can be taken to streamline the tender process would be welcomed such that as much time as possible is afforded to project delivery. To minimise any potential impact on Developers' project timescales, whilst also assuring the credentials of the participants, we would support the Tender Regulations having less, albeit individually more demanding, tender stages – namely one qualification stage and one invitation to tender stage.

We would welcome the qualification process not being project specific, rather undertaken at any time and subject to review and renewal/termination on an annual frequency thereafter. A tender participation licence in other words. This would allow some flexibility for Ofgem E-Serve to determine the appropriate duration of the invitation to tender stage for any project.

Furthermore, given the significant nature of the undertaking, as a prospective applicant and bidder we would expect and accept tough qualification, invitation to tender and withdrawal requirements to provide assurance that participation on our part would be well considered and sustained. For example, in qualification we would support requirements to evidence and warrant financial and technical credentials and provide appropriate financial securities to participate. Equally, with regard to tender withdrawal we would support requirements for financial securities to assure sustained participation.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this feedback at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Morris Bray