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LTDS Form of Statement Consultation

Dear Gareth,

We welcome the opportunity to review the Form of Statement of the LTDS to make it more useful and relevant for those customers seeking to identify suitable points of connection to the network and, therefore, support attendance at an industry working group to understand better their requirements.

As recognised in the DPCR5 final proposals, the LTDS is a technical document and consequently is most useful to a limited number of customers with technical expertise, typically those seeking EHV connections. The network parameters at EHV can be quite complex and it is important that the form of the data enables independent assessment. However, the LTDS can only serve as a guide and the connection process will need to be supplemented by more detailed analysis and correspondence between the customer and the DNO.

We support the principles of standardisation and relevance and therefore this review should not only consider what additional data would be useful, but also what data is superfluous.

New demand and generation connections can affect network capacity and capability but, as the LTDS is intended to provide guidance, the value and cost benefit of more frequent updates has to be questioned, particularly as detailed studies will still be required.

Provision of data electronically is already possible and where customers request this it is provided via e-mail exchange. This approach allows a certain amount of vetting to ensure that the data is only provided in response to requests from legitimate and relevant organisations. Should users prefer to download this automatically, we would want to permit this via a registration system to maintain a degree of control over the security of

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the data. However, such a system should not be over-complicated because the circulation is limited with around 75 organisations requesting a copy per annum.

The consultation proposes that the Form of Statement will be published in late Summer but does not specify when it would come into force. Should significant revision be required, we suggest that the publication of 2010 LTDS documents is either relaxed or the requirements only come into force in 2011.

We look forward to hearing the views of customers and working with them to improve customer service.

If you have any questions on the contents of this letter please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Andrzej Michalowski
Network Strategy & Planning Manager