

LCN Fund Full Submission

Supplementary Answer Form

Tick if this answer is Confidential: ☐

Tick if this answer has been provided verbally: ☐

Project code:	SPD2004	Question Number	SPD025
Question date	27/09/2012	Answer date	02/10/2012
Submission section question relates to	2		
Topic	Project Description		
Question	Ofgem expects that DNOs should currently be undertaking significant customer engagement over connections. Please explain what WP1 is doing beyond business as usual?		
Notes on question			
Answer	<p>SPD currently undertake significant customer engagement in respect of connections and comply with statutory obligations, agreed with Ofgem, in providing data to developers through the publication and availability of The Long Term Development Statement (LTDS) & Distributed Generation: Connections Guide & Information Statety obligation. In addition to this regulated activity SPD existing ongoing engagement with connection customers includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings and forums with customers • Provision of High-level heat maps <p>Furthermore, over the next 12 months we intend to increase this engagement through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater stakeholder engagement on a regular basis amnd creation of drop-in clinics for customers • Active GIS system allowing customers access to more information on the network • Improvements funded through incentives where a clear business case is 		

	<p>available</p> <p>When developers approach SPD regarding a potential connection they are furnished with a significant wealth of information to enable them to consider the most appropriate connection for their particular generation project.</p> <p>The purpose of WP1 however is to provide a greater wealth of data to the mass developer community in a self-service format in respect of their proposed connection through a web portal service, which following our engagement with stakeholders is something that they desire and has been discussed and recognised by Ofgem through their own DG Forum. The data provided through this system will be as a result of the developments being trialled as part of the project. We believe that by conducting the wider ARC project will enable such data to be gathered and WP1 is all about how we can extract this and present it in a usable format on a regular basis.</p> <p>The role of WP1 in our customer engagement strategy will focus upon the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Engagement Forum • Provision of network data • Viability Studies <p>Furthermore, PA Energy agree that the learning from WP1 will "<i>undoubtedly be valuable to DNO's</i>" and is required in order to develop and improve upon the end-to-end process of connecting renewable generation across GB.</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement Forum</p> <p>The purpose of this element of the work package will be to facilitate discussions between all interested parties involved in the development of renewable schemes. This does not only cover those directly impacted by the impact of network availability but will also include land owners, local authorities, local community groups and project financiers.</p> <p>Such activity under Business As Usual is beyond the scope of a DNOs remit however is considered valuable in the successful delivery of renewable energy schemes and is in keeping with the objectives of the ARC project to undertake a holistic and end-to-end review of the connections process,</p> <p>Provision of Network Data</p> <p>Through ARC, SPD will develop the methods to provide customers with significantly more information than what is currently available under Business As Usual e.g. detailed heat maps and will develop the tools required to realise this which will go significantly further than currently possible. The nature of this information will be as a direct result of undertaking this project such as the availability of non-firm capacity. Without undertaking the project, much of this information would not normally be available.</p> <p>Viability Studies</p> <p>The provision of engineering resources to work with developers to look at the various options available as part of a connection. This is expected to require additional time and effort to provide this support which is over and above the quotation process which we already undertake.</p>
Attachments	

Verbal Clarifications (Consultants)	
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