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18 February 2013

Dear Philip

Ofgem's Forward Work Programme 2013-14

Thank you for the opportunity to comment at this stage on Ofgem's proposed work programme for 2013-14: I am writing on behalf of each of Northern Powergrid Holdings Company and its two licensed electricity distribution businesses, Northern Powergrid (Northeast) Limited and Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) plc.

Although in reviewing the forward work programme we focus not surprisingly on matters that are most relevant to electricity distribution network operators (DNOs), we nevertheless recognise that Ofgem's assessment of priorities must achieve a requisite balance across the whole range of activities for which it is responsible. We also recognise that such assessment needs to take clear account of EU energy policy and the Authority's role as the GB national regulatory authority. In the round, therefore, we fully support the four themes around which Ofgem has grouped its proposed activities and the substance of those proposed activities.

A major DNO-specific item on Ofgem's agenda for 2013-14 is the continuation of the next distribution price-control review, RII0-ED1. We applaud Ofgem's clear recognition of the need for changes to incentivise distributors to meet the new demands that will be placed on them through the take-up of low-carbon technologies. We also look to RII0 to deliver due recognition and encouragement of appropriate behaviours such as good stewardship, cost-risk management and effective business planning and performance.

I hope that you will find these comments helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Sharp".

T H Sharp
Regulation Manager