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Dear Catherine

**Re: Offshore Electricity Transmission: Consultation on implementation of the Generator Commissioning Clause in the Energy Act 2013**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this further consultation. We address each of the consultation questions in turn below.

Chapter 2  
Question 2.1

We note that Ofgem has considered the evidence we submitted in relation to the timescales seen to date from when an ION B might have been issued and a transfer completed, relative to the 18 month exception period.

We also note that Ofgem asserts its interpretation of the Clause in the Energy Act, focussed on the word 'possible' as opposed to our suggested alternative focussed on the term 'carry on'.

We put forward the an alternative point to issue the ION B after a period of active power export to allow for a period where any significant events during the commissioning process may arise to be discovered without having triggered the 18 month exception period. This would allow for a longer window of time before the 18 month exception period would commence and in turn expire, whilst giving greater surety that the transfer to an OFTO would complete within the 18 month period.

Notwithstanding analysis of timescales and interpretation of the Clause in the Energy Act there remains the risk that a transfer cannot be completed within 18 months of a Completion Notice being issued because of a significant event, whether that is asset related or OFTO tender process related. If such

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circumstances arise it will be necessary to resolve the issue of uninterrupted active power export outside of the exception. Nevertheless we note Ofgem's minded to position.

#### Question 2.2

We have no additional comments to make.

#### Question 2.3

The description of a 'Stage' within a Phase under paragraph 2.54 provides a non-exhaustive definition for the term. This leaves the precise definition of the final Stage in a Phase to be determined by the Developer and to some extent National Grid. Whilst leaving the definition of a stage within a phase to be determined by the Developer is helpful, there will be project specific circumstances that will require a pragmatic agreement to be reached between the Developer and National Grid as to what constitutes a stage.

One further example that we would welcome clarity on is where a Phase is comprised of a single TEC and a single offshore platform with more than one export cable connected to the platform. If the commissioning of each export cable is a period of time apart, would each export cable constitute a stage? If so would the ION B and in turn Completion Notice be issued once the final export cable is ready to transmit active power export?

#### Question 2.4

We have no additional comments in response to this question.

### Chapter 3

#### Question 3.1

We continue to support the proposed implementation approach for projects in flight.

### Chapter 4

#### Question 4.1 & Question 4.2

We have no additional observations on the proposed transmission licence drafting.



## Chapter 5

### Question 5.1

Please see reply to question 5.2 below.

### Question 5.2

Under the Grid Code Compliance Process (CP) 6.6, the existing text and proposed new drafting only contemplates two ION B's being issued for offshore wind farms, one at 20% Registered Capacity and the second at 70% Registered Capacity. Whilst it may not be desirable to define Stage or Phase in the Grid Code or CUSC, there needs to be additional clarification text to the CP noting that in the case of OTSDUW more than one ION B may be issued under CP6.6.3 (new) (c) that allows export up to 100% of Registered Capacity but before the FON is issued. This is important for a single Offshore Power Park Module comprised of more than one Stage as under the minded to position the Completion Notice is only issued once the final ION B is issued in the case of OTSDUW comprising more than one Stage within a Phase.

We hope that you find our response helpful and would be happy to discuss any aspect of it with you further.

Yours sincerely

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