

The Company Secretary  
National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited  
1-3 Strand  
London  
WC2N 5EH

CC: Dr Paul Wakeley,  
Strategic Network Development Manager

Email: [Adam.Gilham@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:Adam.Gilham@ofgem.gov.uk)

Date: 8 August 2023

Dear Company Secretary,

**Decision and Direction allowing National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited, to publish the Electricity Ten Year Statement (ETYS) by 31 December 2023**

**Background**

Standard Licence Condition (SLC) C11(1) of the electricity transmission licence (“the Licence”) requires the National Grid Electricity System Operator (“the ESO”) to prepare and publish the ETYS by 30 November in each financial year (or such later date as the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (“the Authority”) may direct).

**ESO’s Request to the Authority**

The ESO has written to the Authority<sup>1</sup> to seek a direction pursuant to SLC C11(1) of the Licence, for publication specifically of the technical appendices to the ETYS 2023 (ETYS 2023 Appendix A to I) by an alternative date, which it has requested to be 31 December 2023.

**ESO’s rationale for the requesting the publication delay**

The ESO has requested a delay in the publication of the ETYS 2023 technical appendices from 30 November to 31 December. The technical appendices include maps of the future transmission network with the latest views on the future recommended reinforcements from the most recent Network Options Assessment (NOA) report. The reason for publishing the technical appendices one month later than usual is so that ESO can align the publication with the second iteration of the transitional Centralised Strategic Network Plan (tCSNP2) publication, due also to be published in December 2023.

The tCSNP2 will include the latest investment decisions from the 2023 Network Options Assessment (NOA)<sup>2</sup> and the Holistic Network Design Follow Up Exercise (HNDFUE) also being carried out this year. Publishing the ETYS 2023 technical appendices at the same time as the tCSNP2 in December 2023 will ensure that these incorporate the most up-to-date information on future transmission network investment.

<sup>1</sup> Published together with this letter on our website.

<sup>22</sup> The Authority issued a [direction](#) in November 2022 for the ESO to publish the 2023 NOA by 31 December 2023 instead of the usual backstop date of 31 January in each financial year.

The ESO also intends to publish the core ETYS 2023 document (including charts and commentary) by the end of August 2023. This is ahead of 30 November, the backstop publication date for the ETYS, set out in SLC C11(1). The ESO will publish the core ETYS earlier than usual so that network planning stakeholders have more time to view the future system needs, which are an input to their process of developing options that are assessed as part of tCSNP2.

### **Rationale for our decision**

We recognise that transmission network planning processes are in a period of rapid evolution. During 2023, the ESO has taken forward additional significant work, such as the HNDfUE, to deliver a step change towards a more strategic approach to network planning for Net Zero. We also recognise that the business-as-usual sequence and timing requirements for network planning publications, set out in the ESO's licence, are not ideally aligned during this period of transformation.

We welcome the ESO's commitment to publish the core ETYS 2023 publication on system needs in August 2023 rather than November 2023. We consider that having a longer period of time between the publication of system need and the publication of recommended investments should give more stakeholders the opportunity to submit options. This will be important in future network planning cycles under the Centralised Strategic Network Plan.

We are satisfied that a one-month delay in the publication of the ETYS 2023 Appendices A to I will not have any significant negative impacts on users of the report, stakeholders, and consumers.

On balance, we are satisfied that any negative impact on stakeholders and consumers will be outweighed by the benefit of having the latest technical information from tCSNP2 available in December 2023.

### **The Authority's decision**

Under the power of direction granted by SLC C11(1), we direct the ESO to publish the ETYS in a form approved by the Authority pursuant to paragraph 8, by 31 December 2023, instead of by 30 November 2023. See Annex 1 to this letter for our Direction.

If you have any questions in relation to this letter please contact Anna Kulhavy ([Anna.Kulhavy@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.Kulhavy@ofgem.gov.uk)).

Yours sincerely,

**Adam Gilham**  
**System Operation Principal Policy Advisor,**  
**For and on behalf of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority**

## **Annex 1**

**For and on behalf of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority**

### **DIRECTION PURSUANT TO CONDITION C11(1) OF NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY SYSTEM OPERATOR LIMITED'S ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION LICENCE IN RELATION TO THE PRODUCTION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION SYSTEM.**

#### **Whereas:**

1. National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited ("NGESO") is the holder of an electricity transmission licence ("the Licence") granted or treated as granted under section 6(1)(b) of the Electricity Act 1989 ("the Act").
2. Standard Licence Condition ("SLC") C11(1) allows the Authority to direct NGESO to publish the Electricity Ten Year Statement ("ETYS") on a date other than 30 November in each financial year.
3. For the reasons set out in the letter to which this Direction is attached, the Authority has decided to direct the ESO to publish the ETYS 2023 Appendices A to I by 31 December 2023, instead of by 30 November 2023.

#### **Therefore:**

In accordance with sub-paragraph 1 of SLC C11, the Authority hereby directs NGESO to publish the ETYS 2023 Appendices A to I by 31 December 2023, instead of by 30 November 2023.

This Direction and the letter to which it is attached constitutes notice of the reasons for the decision pursuant to section 49A of the Act.

**Adam Gilham**

**System Operation Principal Policy Advisor, ESO Regulation  
For and on behalf of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority  
8 August 2023**