All interested parties,
Stakeholders in Ireland and beyond,
and other regulatory bodies

Our Ref: CRU 19080

Date: 24 June 2019

To whom it may concern

Decision on a Request for Amendment of EirGrid Plc and SONI Limited Synchronous Area Operational Agreement and Load Frequency Control Block Agreement submitted pursuant to the EU Regulation (2017/1485) establishing a guideline on electricity Transmission System Operation

In accordance with Article 118 of the EU Regulation 2017/1485 of 2nd August 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation (System Operation Guideline or SOGL) all TSOs of a synchronous area are required to jointly develop common proposals for synchronous area operation that have to be contained within a Synchronous Area operational agreement (SAOA). In accordance with Article 119 of SOGL all TSOs of each load-frequency control block (LFC block) have to jointly develop common proposals for LFC block operations that have to be contained within an LFC Block operational agreement (LFCBOA).

On the 21 December 2018, the Transmission System Operators (TSOs) of Ireland and Northern Ireland, EirGrid and SONI respectively, submitted their joint proposals for the SAOA and the LFCBOA, to the Regulatory Authorities (CRU and UR) in line with Article 6 (3) of SOGL.

This letter sets out the CRU’s decision for a Request for Amendment of the submitted documents, pursuant to Article 6. Based on this Regulatory Authority decision, TSOs will be required, as per Article 7, to resubmit an amended SAOA and LFCBOA by 24 August 2019. The basis for the Regulatory Authorities’ decision to request an amendment to these proposals is set out in the accompany document.

Background

The SAOA and LFCBOA offer important detail into the processes and practices of the TSOs in scheduling and dispatching plant, and maintaining a high level of operational security. In addition, these documents will lay the groundwork for the wider integration of SEM into EU Balancing markets and new balancing platforms.
The Regulatory Authorities (CRU and UR) have consulted and closely cooperated on the review of the TSO proposals. In addition, the relevant Regulatory Authorities have engaged intensively with the TSOs since the submission of the two proposals in December 2018, and the accompanying document outlines the areas to be reviewed and amended within the SAOA and LFCBOA by the TSOs.

Next Steps

In accordance with this decision, TSOs will be required to resubmit amended proposals to the Regulatory Authorities (CRU and UR) by 24 August 2019.

If you have any queries regarding the information contained within this letter please contact bhussey@crui.ie.

Yours sincerely

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cc: Barry Hussey