An Coimisiún
um Rialáil Fóntas
Commission for
Regulation of Utilities

The Grain House
The Exchange
Belgard Square North
Tallaght, Dublin 24
D24 PXW0

T +353 1 4000 800
F +353 1 4000 850
E info@cru.ie
www.cru.ie

1st July, 2026

Ms. Margaret McCarthy
Group Head of Regulation
EirGrid PLC
The Oval
160 Shelbourne Road
Dublin 4
D04 FW23

Our Ref: D/26/14099

Re: Security of Supply Direction to EirGrid regarding grid connections for projects successful in the L1-2: Ireland Locational Capacity Constraint Area in the 2030/31 T-4 Capacity Auction

Dear Margaret,

As you will be aware, a T-4 Capacity Auction will be held for the 2030/31 Capacity Year in March 2027. The applicable timelines and the terms of any direction the CRU is empowered to make from time to time may vary.

The Enduring Connection Policy Stage 2 (ECP-2) decision, CRU/20/060, provides for the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) to create a connection pathway for onshore projects by means of a Security of Supply Direction.

In issuing this Direction, the CRU is cognisant of the need to foster competitive tension, important in the context of a successful auction, whilst also ensuring that capacity that is awarded in the auction is commissioned prior to the start of the 2030/31 Capacity Year.

The CRU, in this regard, is of the view that EirGrid should facilitate additional capacity seeking to connect in Ireland by issuing a grid connection offer to participants located in this area that are successful in the 2030/31 T-4 Capacity Auction.

The objective of this Direction is to provide an alternative pathway to grid connection for onshore units that are successful in the 2030/31 T-4, noting that the primary pathway for connection of CRM projects is through the ECP batch process.

Accordingly, and as provided for in CRU/20/060, the CRU directs EirGrid to issue a grid connection offer to any applicant located in Ireland that is successful in the T-4 Capacity Auction for 2030/31 and that has provided evidence of granted

planning permission for the unit[1] by the Qualification Application Date for the 2030/31 T-4 Capacity Auction.

For the purpose of this Direction, granted planning permission requires projects to have completed the statutory window for challenge or appeal and does not include cases where projects are undergoing challenge of their planning permission.

For the avoidance of doubt, this Direction does not direct the SOs to qualify all projects that have been granted planning permission.

The CRU will continue to actively engage with the relevant Government Departments and organisations to highlight the critical need for expedited processing of any relevant planning applications and/or environmental licences, whilst recognising and fully respecting the independence of the relevant bodies.

In this regard, the CRU notes the measures to meet the challenges set out under Section 11.2.1 of the Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25)[2], specifically to accelerate renewable electricity generation, accelerate grid flexibility and manage electricity demand growth. The CRU notes that CAP25 highlights the importance of accelerating the reinforcement and upgrading of the electricity grid to support the energy transition.

In addition, the CRU notes the General Policy Directive[3], pursuant to Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act, from January 2023, which calls for the prioritisation of *"the consideration of applications which impact on the State's energy security of supply."*

In order to reduce the risk of delays to the delivery of new capacity from this auction, the CRU requests that EirGrid makes best efforts in the rapid completion of grid connection offers and the timely completion of works related to the construction of grid connections for projects that are successful in this auction, consistent with Ireland's security of supply needs. EirGrid is entitled to take into account its own view of the timing of the expected completion of such works when assessing feasibility of a project. The CRU also considers it necessary that EirGrid monitors the effectiveness of these actions and reports on a quarterly basis to the CRU.

---

[1] This does not include full planning permission granted for the grid connection.

[2] https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/c491032e/DECC_Climate_Action_Plan_2025_Main_Report_-_Final_Web.pdf

[3] https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/245631/487f19aa-446a-4cea-8592-409bd7224b50.pdf#page=null

The CRU recognises the vital importance of the physical delivery of grid infrastructure to both decarbonisation and security of supply. In this context, the CRU considers it appropriate to expedite connection works associated with connection offers issued under this Direction as, on balance, the CRU accepts that the benefits to customers of this approach outweigh the potential risks.

The CRU also expects that projects that are considering applying for qualification in the Capacity Auction for 2030/31 engage, or have engaged, with EirGrid in relation to a potential grid connection through EirGrid's "connection clinics" prior to submitting an application for qualification and will be ready to progress without delay where a connection offer is issued under this Direction.

A similar Direction is being issued to ESB Networks DAC and it is expected that the system operators will engage with each other regarding the details of implementing these Directions.

It should be noted that, as indicated in 2024, the CRU considers it appropriate that Grid Directions would not be issued for a T-4 2031/32 auction and subsequent CRM auctions. [4]

Yours sincerely,

Fergal Mulligan
Chairperson

Cc Phil Hemmingway, Director of Decarbonisation, CRU
Karen Kavanagh, Director of Networks & Economic Regulation, CRU
Alan Rossitor, Head of Asset Management, ESB Networks DAC
Kevin Dolan, EirGrid, Head of Customers & Connections
Adam Hamilton, EirGrid, Head of Capacity Funding & Delivery

[4] CRU2024101_Electricity_Connection_Policy_Generation__System_Services_Decision_Paper.pdf