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European Commission
Directorate-General for Energy
Internal market
Networks and regional initiatives
DM24 06/121
B-1040 Brussels/Belgium

Date: 5th December, 2016

**Re: PCI 2.13.1 North-South 400kv Electricity Interconnector
North-South Electricity Interconnections in Western Europe (NSI West Electricity)**

Dear Tomasz,

I refer to PCI 2.13.1, the Ireland – United Kingdom interconnector between Woodland (IE) and Turleenan (UK), the "North-South 400kV Interconnection Development".

I draw your attention to Article 10 of Regulation 347/2013 "Duration and implementation of the permit granting process". Article 10(2) states "the combined duration of the two procedures referred to in paragraph 1 shall not exceed a period of three years and six months. However, where the competent authority considers that one or both of the two procedures of the permit granting process will not be completed before the time limits as set out in paragraph 1, it may decide, before their expiry and on a case by case basis, to extend one or both of those time limits by a maximum of nine months for both procedures combined."

The above mentioned Project of Common Interest entered into the pre-application procedure of the PCI process on July 1st, 2014. This stage was concluded on June 9th, 2015 with the submission of the application file, which was within the two-year time limit allowed by Article 10(1)(a) of the Regulation. Subsequently the project entered into the Statutory Permit Granting procedure. This stage of the PCI process is allowed one year and six months, as per Article 10(1)(b) of Regulation 347/2013. This equates to a deadline of December 8th, 2016.

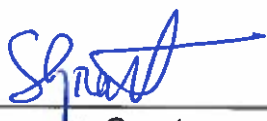
We have been informed by the spatial planning consenting authority An Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Division) that they do not expect to make a decision on the Strategic Infrastructure permit before December 8th, 2016.

Therefore, An Bord Pleanála (PCI Unit) as Competent Authority has decided to extend the time limit, as per Article 10(2) of the Regulation, for the statutory permit granting procedure for PCI 2.13.1, the North-South 400kV Interconnection Development. The consenting authority has indicated that significant progress has been made in relation to the case and that it is using all necessary resources to complete the decision expediently.

We point out that this time extension means that the project time scale remains within the three years and six-month period allowed by Article 10(2) and therefore meet the requirements set out in the Regulation.

I trust the above is in order.

Kind regards,



Seamus Grant
Executive Officer
PCI Unit