



April 30th 2009

Paul Hogan,
The Commission for Energy Regulation,
The Exchange,
Belgard Square North,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.

Re: NOW Ireland Response to CER Consultation CER/09/044 Treatment of Small, renewable and Low Carbon Generators outside the Group Processing Approach

Dear Mr Hogan,

NOW Ireland the National Offshore Wind Energy Association of Ireland was established to promote the development of Ireland's substantial offshore wind resource and to ensure that our island leads the way in building a sustainable, green economy. The founding companies of NOW Ireland (Airtricity, Codling Wind Park, Fuinneamh Sceirde Teo, Oriel Windfarm and Saorgus Energy Limited) have the potential to generate up to 3GW of energy from existing resources. Our primary goal is to make renewable energy Ireland's primary energy source.

In respect to the consultation, NOW Ireland recognises the benefits in allowing certain small renewable generators to be treated outside the Group Processing Approach. However to date no clarity exists as to whether the remaining consented large scale offshore wind projects (outside of Gate 3) will be considered either through a parallel process or a specific offshore gate. Consequently the cumulative effect that a number of large scale offshore wind farm would bring to the portfolio mix, combined with the public interest benefit to date, is not being considered for processing outside the GPA. Accordingly the various connection options for large scale offshore wind cannot be decided on at this time.

NOW Ireland would welcome the publication by the CER of a consultation that would deal specifically with grid connections of offshore renewable energy sources.

Yours sincerely,
NOW Ireland

Brian Britton
Secretary