



Consultation on the offshore renewable energy (ORE) Future Framework Policy Statement

Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications

Sample - SGI Board Membership



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Introduction

Smart Grid Ireland (SGI) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Department of Environment Climate and Communications (DECC) consultation on the “Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Future Framework Policy Statement”.

Smart Grid Ireland is a not for profit, all-island advocacy network, whose mission is to facilitate the delivery of a secure, affordable and sustainable energy infrastructure, positioning Ireland at the forefront of global smart grid development, to create a low carbon grid as the backbone of a thriving economy for Ireland in the Future.

The Future Framework is laudable in its goal of setting out a pathway to deliver 20GW of offshore wind by 2040 and at least 37GW in total by 2050.

Smart Grid Ireland (SGI) is in general agreement with the vision of the consultation to make Ireland a leader in the world of Renewable Energy and to meet Irelands goals and obligations in respect of delivery of a low carbon economy. However, we must consider that other countries are also developing offshore renewable energy policies and we are competing Globally for investment. It is therefore imperative that we can build confidence in our ability to deliver these targets by providing a detailed focus on how we aim to do this. We must provide a clear pathway with evidence with regard to infrastructure, integration with the grid, technology and storage. Export [of offshore wind

energy] requires interconnectors, which take time to develop so it is important for the DECC to communicate the plans and policy to support the development of interconnectors, to embrace our export ambitions. We need a detailed focus on achieving our shorter-term 2030 goals and integration with the grid is the critical success factor in achieving these. The decarbonization of our energy sector is essential if we are to continue to attract investment into Ireland.

We believe that our primary focus should be to provide for Ireland's own requirements for green electricity. This will require the development as a priority of a truly 'smart grid' including the latest in electricity management systems. The development of such a grid within the Island should be prioritized to aid the attain the target of 80% of electricity being renewable by 2030.

The delivery of the offshore electricity industry will require that all regulatory requirements are streamlined to ensure prompt delivery of the necessary infrastructure and are sufficiently staffed to minimize any delays to project completions.

The proposed size of the offshore wind industry in Irish waters with its proposed large-scale export of wind generated electricity abroad will provide new challenges to the market structures with EU & UK to ensure its viability.

It is our opinion that unless investment in grid modernization is speeded up and regulatory controls upgraded to meet the need, it will prove impossible to meet Ireland's carbon reduction obligations by 2050. This includes infrastructure, capital and technology. Anticipatory investment is also required so that the grid is fully prepared.