

Pilot Framework Guidelines on Electricity Grid Connection
EREG Public Consultation Paper
Cover Note and Consultation Questions
12 July 2010

Background

In July 2009, the 3rd Package was adopted by the European Union and published in the Official Journal of the European Communities on August 14, 2009. This package includes two directives on electricity and gas respectively, as well as three regulations on access rules to electricity and gas networks and the creation of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER). These texts will enter into force on March 3, 2011. Concerning electricity, the 3rd Package aims at deepening market integration by improving regulatory harmonisation throughout Europe through the adoption of European network codes. The preparation of network codes will be a two-step process: the ACER will develop framework guidelines on specific topics which will be translated into codes by the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E).

On 29 March 2010 the Commission invited ERGEG to draft a pilot framework guideline on electricity grid connection. In the context of the pilot project, ERGEG declared its readiness to assume the role assigned to the Agency under Article 6 (2) of Regulation (EC) 714/2009 (“Electricity Regulation”) and to submit a non-binding framework guideline within 6 months of receipt of the Commission’s notification.

According to Article 10 of Regulation (EC) 713/2009 establishing an Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, “in carrying out its tasks, in particular in the process of developing Framework Guidelines (...) the Agency shall consult extensively and at an early stage with market participants, transmission system operators, consumers, end-users and, where relevant, competition authorities, without prejudice to their respective competence, in an open and transparent manner, in particular when its tasks concern transmission system operators”.

This pilot framework guideline (ref. E09-ENM-18-04) is based on the Initial Impact Assessment document enclosed (ref. E09-ENM-18-03) and on ERGEG’s previous work on grid connection - ERGEG published in December 2009 the guidelines of good practice for electricity grid connection and access (ref. E09-ENM-16-04), which have (in terms of grid connection) served as an important input information for the framework guidelines document consulted here.

Invitation to respond

ERGEG invites all interested parties to provide comments to the consultation paper (framework guidelines) – and in particular the questions below. Any comments should be received by **24 September 2010** and should be sent by email to fg_pilot_electricity@ergqg.org. Please note that for the sake of readability and better understanding of the background of the framework guidelines, the Initial Impact Assessment is enclosed too, even though it is not a subject of consultation.

Any questions relating to this document should in first instance be directed to:

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Questions for Consultation

(Please feel free to justify your answers and to submit further observations)

General Issues

1. Are there additional major problem areas or further policy issues that should be addressed within the Grid Connection Framework Guideline?
2. What timescale is needed to implement the provisions after the network code is adopted? Is 12 months appropriate or should it be shorter or longer?
3. Should harmonisation of identified issues be across the EU or, perhaps as an interim, by synchronous area?

Grid Users related Aspects

4. Should the requirements apply to existing grid users? How should it be decided? To which existing users should the requirements apply? How should timelines for transitional periods be set? Who should bear any costs of compliance?
5. The framework guideline identifies intermittent generation, distributed generation and responsive demand as requiring specific grid connection guidelines. Is it appropriate to target these different grid users? How should the requirements for intermittent generation, distributed generation and responsive demand differ from the minimum requirements? Is there a need for more detailed definition / differentiation of grid users?

Implementation

6. Is it necessary to be more specific regarding verification, compliance and reinforcement?
7. What are the key benefits and types of costs (possibly with quantification from your view) of compliance with these requirements?
8. How should significant generation and consumption units be defined?
9. For what real-time information is it essential to improve provisioning between grid users and system operators? Do you envisage any problems such greater transparency? What are the costs (or types of costs) and benefits you would see associated with this?