

Further Details on Applicant Data Process

Option 1 - Reduced Criteria Generation Application

[Below is an excerpt from the CER direction, *Criteria for Gate 3 Renewable Generator offers & Related Matters*, as issued on the 16th December 2008 – Ref: CER/08/260]

Appendix 7: Applicant Data Process

Following the processing of Gate 2 there was a view expressed in the industry that the system of checking applications should be reviewed to determine if there was a more efficient way of doing so. It has been argued that applicants generally do not decide on the turbine manufacturer, specific transformer, cable layout, protection equipment, and other technical details until nearer to financial close of a project, which typically happens after a connection offer has issued. The number of modification requests received by the system operators would tend to support this argument. It is generally accepted that the information requested by the system operators is necessary in carrying out the required studies and works for connecting to the system; however the question has been as to the timing of such provision of data. Therefore the system operators, having reviewed the current system, will allow that the requirement for technical details of a project be delayed until a date when the applicant will be expected to be in a better position to confirm what the actual equipment to be installed will be. The specifics of this process are as below.

1. The applicant data required to process all Gate 3 and future applications will include:
 1. Initial application fee of €7,000;
 2. Legal applicant name, address and company registration number;
 3. Contact name and address;
 4. Generator address and grid coordinates;
 5. Two copies of signed confidentiality agreement;
 6. MEC;
 7. MIC;
 8. Internal network layout and major equipment location (e.g. turbines, stations, etc) on a Discovery Series 1:50000 OS Map or a similar appropriate scale;
 9. Preferred connection date;
 10. Preference for single or multiple connecting circuits; and,
 11. Signed statement from applicant that any necessary landowner consents are in place for the project and witnessed by a solicitor.
2. Typical data, which may be more conservative than the actual parameters for the equipment to be installed, will be assumed for studies such as the short circuit calculations. For example with a wind farm this means that the impedance values of the commercial turbine which provides the highest infeed to a system fault will be assumed. Also, typical transformer impedances and winding vector groups will be assumed. Furthermore, the internal network will not be represented and a single equivalent generator will be modelled at the transmission connection node representing the applicant's generation facility. This approach may lead to fault levels in excess of the Transmission Planning Criteria which means that the applicant may not be able to connect the **"assumed plant"** to the Transmission System until the highlighted works are complete or the studies are rerun with specific applicant data when provided after offer acceptance.
3. A full application form including all the technical data currently requested must be submitted at least a year prior to first energisation. Any studies must be completed and a modification agreement accepted 6 months prior to first energisation or first energisation may be delayed.
4. In the event that the technical data is received during the processing of the Gate, this data will be handled in the same manner as all modification requests (i.e. if it can be processed within the Gate without impacting on timelines, the system operators will do so).
5. System Operator assumed data will be used for studies and detailed as part of the Connection Offer. The consequences of any deviation relating to actual equipment parameters that are to be installed are at the **applicant's sole risk**. Consequences include additional works with resultant cost, lead-time for shallow or deep connection and/or constraint implications.
6. If an application is being processed within the Group Processing Approach, then following publication of the final Commission direction on a given Gate including this Gate 3 direction, the system operators

shall write to each applicant to confirm whether they wish the System Operators to assume parameters for studies or whether they wish the system operators to use the details already provided on the application forms. Where an applicant wishes the system operators to use the information already provided, they must indicate this in writing **within 5 business days of the System Operator request.**¹ In the absence of any response in this time period, the System Operators will assume parameters for study. In the event that an applicant wishes the system operators to use the data already provided or is missing any of the items referred to in item 1 of this note, the timelines associated with such provision shall be as follows:

1. The system operators shall issue requests for any necessary extra data/information to all relevant applicants. This letter will clearly set out any additional data which is required. Applicants will be required to provide the outstanding information within 30 business days of the issuance of the letter by the relevant system operator in order that their application retains the same application completeness date. If a response is not received within 30 business days the application will not be included in Gate 3 as its application received date will be changed to the date that the data is actually provided. However if – within the 30 day period - the applicant responds that he wishes assumed data to be used, the application will be included in the Gate using assumed parameters.
2. Applicants who return the relevant outstanding data within 30 business days will be issued a letter setting out whether the information is sufficient or whether further information/clarification is required. The applicant will be allowed 15 business days – extended from 10 business days in the consultation - to respond to such a follow-up information request. Again, if this information is not provided within this 15 business days, the application received date will be updated to the date that the required information is provided and the application shall not be included in Gate 3. However if – within the 15 day period - the applicant responds that he wishes assumed data to be used, the application will be included in the Gate using assumed parameters.

¹ Where an application is being processed outside the GPA, this communication will happen once a project is approved for processing outside the GPA.