Consultation on Capacity Charging

In 2016 the Utility Regulator for Northern Ireland (UR) hosted a public consultation on the Electricity Distribution and Transmission Connection Policy. It was recognised that getting connected easily and at a fair price is important for both demand and generation customers and it is important that other network consumers only pay what is necessary for their energy. It was believed that the lack of capacity on parts of the network is presenting challenges for new customers getting access to the distribution electricity network.

In their follow-up publication, ‘Next Steps’, published in April 2017, the UR identified that the recovery of unused capacity was a key factor in facilitating access to new users. NIE Networks was requested to consider the incidence of underutilisation and to develop appropriate and proportionate measures to release capacity if it is being persistently underused.

Consequently, this call for evidence intends addressing this request and specifically considers how NIE Networks may release unused capacity to facilitate better utilisation of the networks and lower connection charges for new applicants and existing customers wishing to increase their demand.