

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL.**

Prior to the introduction of the Single Electricity Market (SEM) in the island of Ireland NIE had in place a Grid Code which dealt with technical matters relating to both the transmission system and the distribution system in Northern Ireland. With the introduction of the SEM in November 2007 NIE was required to develop and implement a Distribution Code. At the same time the Grid Code focused on transmission matters and became the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Transmission System Operator, SONI.

NIE now wishes to establish “The Northern Ireland Distribution Code Review Panel”.

The objectives of the Panel are to:

- keep the Distribution Code and its workings under review;
- review all suggestions for amendments to the Distribution Code which the Authority or any User may submit to the Panel for consideration;
- make recommendations for amendments to the Distribution Code which the Panel feels are necessary or desirable;
- issue guidance in relation to the Distribution Code and its implementation; and
- consider what changes are necessary to the Distribution Code arising out of any unforeseen circumstances referred to it.

To establish the Panel, NIE needs to designate parties who are entitled to appoint and re-appoint Members, subject to the agreement of the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (the Authority).

NIE is working towards establishing a Panel consisting of:

- a Chairman appointed by NIE;
- four persons representing NIE (one from each of the following - NIE’s meter operations, generation connections, load/distribution system owner and distribution operations);
- three persons representing generators;
- one person representing connected customers with large energy usage;
- three persons representing electricity suppliers;
- one person representing Aggregators; and
- one person appointed by and representing the Authority.

NIE has approached a number of parties to request that they nominate representatives of the various groups for the above positions. The parties approached, and their respective constituencies, are as follows:

<i>Party</i>	<i>Constituency</i>
The Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA)	Large wind generators
Action Renewables	Smaller renewable generators.
FG Wilson	Small generators.
White Young Green	Large load customers
NIE Supply	Suppliers
Quinn Energy Supply Limited	Suppliers
Bord Gáis Energy Supply	Suppliers
Airtricity	Suppliers
Energia	Suppliers
ESB Independent Energy (NI) Ltd	Suppliers

The role of aggregators in the SEM is still being developed and therefore at this stage NIE does not intend to appoint a Member of the Panel to represent Aggregators.

NIE is proposing to hold the inaugural meeting of the Panel on Tuesday 29 April 2008.

NIE would be interested to hear views on its approach to designating parties who are entitled to appoint and re-appoint Members of the Panel. If you wish to submit views, or discuss any aspect of the approach, please contact Leslie Bryans at [leslie.bryans@nie.co.uk](mailto:leslie.bryans@nie.co.uk).