

Moyle Interconnector West to East capacity increase

19/01/11

Currently 80 megawatts of West to East capacity is available for interconnector users via Moyle auctions. This quantity represents the Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) reserved by Moyle into the GB system and was reserved at a time when Transmission Use of System (TNUoS) charges were payable on interconnector TEC quantities.

Following a consultation¹ by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and the subsequent decision by Ofgem not to veto NGET’s proposal, from 1st April 2010 TNUoS charges are no longer applied to interconnector capacities in Great Britain. Since then following a request from Moyle for additional capacity, NGET and SONI have been working to ensure that the maximum capacity of the GB and NI systems is made available to Moyle interconnector users and that the methodology setting the level of capacity is published. This process, which is being overseen by Ofgem and the Utility Regulator along with DECC and DETINI, is ongoing and as a first stage in the process the Moyle West to East capacity will increase to a level commensurate with the capability of the GB and NI transmission systems. The new capacity level is in line with the requirements of EU Regulation 714/2009 Article 16(3) which applies to interconnectors between Member States. The Utility Regulator has approved the associated change to the Moyle access arrangements and the revised capacity will be available from 1st February 2011 with the capacity being auctioned in the normal way.

The revised Moyle capacities are shown in the table below, quoted as usual at the Scotland (Auchencrosh) end of the interconnector.

Direction	Month	Capacity available to interconnector users	Capacity limit set by:
West to East	May - August	287 MW	NGT/ GB System
	September - April	295 MW	SONI/ NI System
East to West	April - October	410 MW	SONI/ NI System
	November - March	450 MW	NGT/ GB System

The calculation methodologies used to set the various capacity levels are currently being compiled and in due course, following approval by Ofgem and the Utility Regulator, will be published alongside the Moyle access arrangements on the SONI and Moyle websites.

In the near future the East to West capacity available for interconnector users will be specifically reviewed to ensure that the quantity is in line with the requirements of EU Regulation 714/2009 Article 16(3) which applies to interconnectors between Member States. All capacities will be monitored and revised as required by changes made to either transmission system. Interconnector users will be kept informed of any revisions.

¹ See ECM-26 at <http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Charges/modifications/uscmc/>