EirGrid

Connection Applications and Offers:

Policy for Non-Payment of Fees

Document identifier:	Information Note	Authored by:	Brendan Finnegan
Document version:	Version 1.0	Checked by:	Shane Maher
Date of current issue:	1st May 2013	Approved by:	Marie Hayden

1   INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide a basis for and record EirGrid's decision-making policy regarding the management of connection offers for customers who have not paid the appropriate fees within the agreed timeframe or have ceased engaging with EirGrid in the Offer process for example when completing application checks and responding to requests for information from EirGrid. The objective of the policy is to avoid having "On-Hold" applications for an extended period of time due to the increased administration overhead, storage requirements and uncertainty inherent with on-hold applications. On-hold applications may also create difficulties for processes which assign an advantage to the original receipt date of the application and also where application forms and requirements change over time.

The customers are classified into 3 groups:
- Generation Customers (GPA)
- Demand Customers
- Non – Group Processing Approach (Non GPA) Generation

The treatment of each classification of customer will be consistent where possible and unless otherwise stated. For the avoidance of doubt 'applications' should be read as new capacity applications or modifications to existing applications, connections offers or connection agreements.

2   OBJECTIVES

The policy is intended

- To ensure fair, balanced, consistent and efficient decision-making over time by applying the same process and criteria

- To clearly present the rationale used in each decision made

- To ensure that customers are not left in queues indefinitely

- To prevent the TSO commencing work prior to receipt of required fees

There are differences in the treatment of generation and demand customers, as well as non-GPA generators within the generation category. This is due to the differing connection application approaches and processes which have evolved over time. The processes for each category are clearly set out below.

3 PROCESS AND POLICY OVERVIEW

3.1 Generation Customers (GPA) - Standard Process and Policy Overview

The standard process and policy overview outlined below is applicable to Generation customers. Sub-processes or policies relevant to a non-GPA generator are listed separately in Section 3.1.1.

- An application is submitted by the customer to the TSO and assessed to see if the application is complete using a formal agreed check process which only commences on receipt of initial application fee. The initial application fees for the relevant categories are as set out in EirGrid's Annual Statement of Charges or for modification fees are as stated in the Modification Fees for Connection Offers paper.

- If the application is incomplete the customer will be asked to provide additional information. The customer will be advised that they have a maximum period of 3 months to provide any information required or their application will not be processed and will be removed from EirGrid's application management systems. Customers will also be advised that if they wish to re-apply they will be required to submit a new application and pay a new application fee and the Received Complete Date for the application will be the date the new application is received.

- Assuming that an application has been approved for processing, customers will be advised once EirGrid has sufficient information to process the application and if any additional fees are due. At the time that the customer is invoiced for the additional fees the customer will be advised that no work will commence until the application fee is received and that they have a maximum period of 3 months to pay the fee or their application will not be processed and will be removed from EirGrid's application management systems. Customers will also be advised that if they wish to re-apply they will be required to submit a new application and pay a new application fee and the Received Complete Date for the application will be the date the new application is received.

- If all fees and clarifications are provided within the agreed timeframe the application will be progressed.

  Please Note: No refunds will be given to customers for monies received by EirGrid in respect of application fees.

3.1.1 Non GPA Generation Customers Specific Processes and Policies

In conjunction with Section 3.1 Non GPA generation will be treated in accordance with the sub-process and policy particular to their customer type as outlined below:

- If a full satisfactory application and application fee are provided an Interaction Assessment will commence for non-GPA customers[1]

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[1] If interactions exist for NGPAs the applicant will be put in a queue for NGPAs where it will remain until a formal process is agreed for treatment of interacting NGPAs by TSO/DSO/CER

- Assuming that an application has been approved for processing, customers will be advised once EirGrid has sufficient information to process the application and if any additional fees are due. The Customer will then have a maximum period of 3 months, unless otherwise agreed, to pay the balance of the fee or their application will be removed from the queue and EirGrid's application management systems, and any fees paid to date will be forfeited. Furthermore the customer will be advised that if they fail to pay the additional fees any interaction assessments completed to date will be deemed invalid. If they wish to re-apply they will be required to submit a new application and pay a new application fee and the Received Complete Date for the application will be the date the new application is received.

   Please Note: No refunds will be given to customers for monies received by EirGrid in respect of application fees.

3.2 Demand Customers - Standard Process and Policy Overview

The standard process and policy overview outlined below is intended to be applicable to all Demand customers:

- An application is submitted by the customer to the TSO and assessed to see if the application is complete using a formal agreed check process which only commences on receipt of initial application fee. The initial application fees for the relevant categories are as set out in EirGrid's Annual Statement of Charges or for modification fees are as stated in the the Modification Fees for Connection Offers paper.

- If the application is incomplete the customer will be asked to provide additional information. The customer will be advised that they have a maximum period of 3 months to provide any information required or their application will not be processed and will be archived in EirGrid's application management systems.

- Assuming that an application has been approved for processing, customers will be advised once EirGrid has sufficient information to process the application and if any additional fees are due. At the time that the customer is invoiced for the additional fees the customer will be advised that no work will commence until the application fee is received and that they have a maximum period of 3 months to pay the fee or their application will not be processed and will be archived in EirGrid's application management systems.

- Customers will also be advised that they have a period of 24 months from initial archiving of their application to re-initialise the unchanged application without having to pay a new application fee.

- If the 24 month period lapses the customer will have to complete a new application form and pay a new application fee to apply for a new offer.

- For MIC change requests any notification periods which are considered to have commenced on receipt of application will be deemed invalid if fees are not paid

within the initial 3 month period. Any notification period will recommence on the date that the application is re-initialised subject to the 24 month period above.

- If all fees and clarifications are provided within the agreed timeframe the application will be progressed.

    Please Note: No refunds will be given to customers for monies received by EirGrid in respect of application fees.

4   RELATED DOCUMENTS

COPP Decision Paper and Rule set
Modification Fees for Connection Offers Paper (CER Approved)
EirGrid's Annual Statement of Charges (CER Approved)
MIC Administration Paper (CER Approved)