

## Note of call with NESO on connections reform

2 July 25

### Attendees

CSEEP

██████████ Director of Connections Reform

██████████, NESO

██████████, WG Energy Division

### Key points:

#### Update on connections reform

NESO spoke to slides outlining the process to date.

- Purpose of CR in addressing the 750 GW queue and reaching CP2030. Principally storage (242GW), solar (210), offshore wind (112). More storage/solar than could ever need.
- Identify viable projects that can move; lead to
- affordable sensible clear grid plan to build faster.
- From first come first served to strategically aligned.
- Moving quickly to implement new rules now (approved by Ofgem).
- Next week opening window for transmission connected projects. Once evidence is in, NESO will issue offers. By Dec all necessary transmission projects will have offers; distribution connection offers by January.

#### Implications for Wales.

Wales – transmission queue about 52 GW: expect it to be 14-15 GW.

CSEEP asked about the future pipeline. NESO referenced the Clean Power Plan. Some capacities were broken down nationally/regionally. Connection offers will be in line with that. Likely to be solar and storage projects that will move back in the queue.

#### Action: NESO to share data with WG.

#### AI Growth Zones.

NESO has put capacities on generation but not demand, as it is growth. Will need to manage demand strategically. CP Plan assumed 6 GW for growth - what is realistic? How do we get the generation/storage to meet the demand. The strategic and regional spatial energy plans will be important for NESO to build network and align connection policies to support what's needed. NESO asked about Welsh thinking on AI.

Cabinet Secretary updated that 5 proposals went to UK Gov. There will be a Wales zone, the location not announced yet. NESO: will be looking to work with the team in Wales on this and other priorities to deliver asap.

NESO added that NESO has offered access to data from NESO to all political parties, to inform proposals for manifestos.

A meeting later in the year was agreed to update on queue and discuss the winter outlook. **Action: Diary team.**