



Marine Renewables Industry Association

MRIA Welcomes Commission on Energy Regulation's Decision on 'Small, Renewable and Low Carbon Generators': 28 September 2009

MRIA, who represent the Wave and Tidal energy community in Ireland, has welcomed the recent Decision by the CER on the treatment of small renewable generators.

In it's submission to CER, MRIA had argued -in light of the early stage of the technology's development and the consequent high commercial risk of Marine Renewables - that it is necessary for grid connection, for early stage demonstration and commercial Marine Renewables arrays, to be supported by a streamlined and efficient connection process. Specifically, the Association proposed that

- Marine Renewables should be processed outside of the Group Processing Approach (GPA aka the 'Gate' process) in the Public Interest
- Qualifying Marine Renewables generators should be permitted to connect to the Grid without incurring compensation costs

The CER decision took the view that

- Marine Renewables (described variously as 'Wave' and 'Ocean' in the Decision) exhibit public interest benefits
- Accordingly they are pre-approved for processing outside of the GPA
- They will receive an offer for a shallow connection to the network on an initial 'non-firm access to the transmission system' basis
- The above will apply to projects up to and including 5mw and no interaction studies will be required. Projects above this level 'will be considered on a case by case basis.'

The MRIA is in broad agreement with the approach being taken by the CER. It clarifies an important area of policy and develops the Irish 'offer' to Marine Renewables.

The MRIA looks forward to further policy developments in the near future including the transfer of the Foreshore Licensing and Leasing function to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government; the Strategic Environmental Assessment which will shortly be commissioned by Sustainable Energy Ireland and the development of offshore (as well as associated onshore) grid policy.

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