
Connections Policy Bulletin

Reminder of the accreditations and WPD agreements required to undertake works

Issue Date: **26th July 2021**

Date of Implementation

With immediate effect – this is a reminder of existing process

Background

The onus is on ICPs to ensure that they hold the correct NERS accreditations to undertake contestable connection works or to sub-contract works for which they are not accredited to third party ICPs.

In addition, ICPs must ensure they have entered into any relevant contractual arrangements with WPD should they wish to construct connection assets for adoption by WPD.

Following a couple of recent incidents, our teams will be undertaking more frequent due diligence checks on the accreditations held by an ICP who seeks to connect to WPDs network and that the relevant WPD agreements have been entered into.

We are therefore issuing this bulletin to all ICPs to ensure that you are aware of these more frequent checks and ask that you ensure that the relevant accreditations and agreements are in place prior to submitting any proposal to undertake connection works.

Further details on the relevant agreements and accreditations are set out below. Any queries can be directed to wpdconnections@westernpower.co.uk.

Agreements & Accreditations

Framework Network Access & Adoption Agreement (FNA&AA)

The FNA&AA governs the overall relationship relating to Contestable Connection Works which the Connection Provider undertakes for adoption by WPD. It sets out the overall responsibilities of both the Connection Provider and WPD in addition to any liabilities.

An ICP will enter into the FNA&AA only once for the overall process of constructing assets for adoption by WPD. It will be supplemented by Schedule 1 Site Specific Agreements.

Schedule 1 Site Specific Agreement (SSA)

The Schedule 1 SSA is supplementary to the FNA&AA. It sets out the specific Connection Works and adoptable assets in relation to an individual development.

FNA&AA Extension of Contestability Agreement (EOC)

A number of EOCs are available which are supplementary to the FNA&AA. These enable additional work elements to be carried out and set out the processes to be followed.

The EOCs currently available include:

- Self-Determination of a Point of Connection
- Loan of substation keys
- Loan of test prods
- Requests for WPD to carry out cable identification
- Self-inspection (subject to reaching Self Inspection level through the Inspection & Monitoring regime)

None of the above work elements can be requested unless the relevant EOC has been entered into.

National Electricity Registration Scheme (NERS) Accreditation

ICPs should ensure that they hold NERS accreditation in all scopes relevant to the required connection works. Should an ICP wish to sub-contract works for which they are not accredited, they must hold the required Project Management Scope as set out in the NERS Requirements Document.

Embedded Networks

Please note that for embedded networks we are also required to enter into a Bilateral Connection Agreement with the IDNO. This document cannot be signed by an ICP.

Summary of Due Diligence Checks for different work types

The following examples provide a summary of the accreditations and agreements which will need to be identified when our teams are undertaking their due diligence checks.

Self-Determination of Point Of Connection (POC)

When undertaking the self-determination of a POC, the ICP will be responsible for all of the associated works including any jointing to the existing network, design of the contestable connection works downstream of the POC, self-approval of design and obtaining any legal consents.

To self-determine a POC, the ICP must:

- Be signed up to WPD's FNA&AA;
- Be entered into the EOC for Self-Determination of POC;
- Hold NERS accreditation for the relevant self-determination of POC scopes; **and**
- Hold NERS accreditation for all construction scopes for the required works; **or**
- Hold NERS Project Management scope to sub-contract any works for which they are not accredited.

Construction

To contract with WPD for the Connection Works, the ICP must:

- Be signed up to WPD's FNA&AA*;
- Enter into a Schedule 1* agreement for the adoptable assets; **and**
- Hold NERS accreditation for all scopes for the required works; **or**
- Hold NERS Project Management scope to sub-contract works for which they are not accredited.

*Some ICPs remain signed up to the NA&AA for which the adoption process may differ. We would recommend moving to the FNA&AA which is more flexible with the additional scopes available.

Design of the contestable connection works downstream of the POC

Whilst the design of the Contestable Assets may be sub-contracted to a third party, the design submission remains the responsibility of the Connection Provider who contracts with WPD for the Connection Works.

The ICP undertaking the design must:

- Hold NERS accreditation for the relevant design scopes.