

## **WPD West Midlands Port Ham Statement of Works Update May 2017**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017, WPD received notification from NGET which advised that there were significant challenges connecting additional thermal plant on the Port Ham GSP network. NGET have confirmed that the connection of further Thermal and Storage plants cannot be facilitated until completion of the wider enabling reinforcement works, currently estimated as October 2026. WPD will therefore not be in a position to energise any new thermal or storage connections to the Port Ham network until the identified NGET's works are completed.

### **NGET Construction Programme**

NGET has identified within the Modification Offers the following key dates:

1	<i>The date by which NGET should review the relevant reinforcement works to deliver a compliant connection.</i>	<i>30<sup>th</sup> November 2017</i>
2	<i>The completion date for the Transmission Reinforcement Works in South Wales.</i>	<i>31<sup>st</sup> October 2026</i>
3	<i>Backstop date</i>	<i>31<sup>st</sup> October 2028</i>

### **Impact**

All Relevant Embedded Generation<sup>(1)</sup> of a technology type that can generate at peak demand periods<sup>(2)</sup> wishing to connect to the Port Ham network will be unable to connect and energise before October 2026. Customers are not required to contribute to NGET's reinforcement works identified below. However, customers will be liable for any design costs and cancellation charges applied by NGET in the event that the customer's project is cancelled or the export capacity is reduced. NGET have advised that the trigger date for the cancellation charges is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, but this will be revised as necessary at each security period and updated accordingly.

NGET calculates a percentage of the cancellation charge which must be secured by the customers (the secured amount). This secured amount changes at certain trigger points throughout the development and construction of the reinforcement works. WPD may ask customers to place securities in respect of their proportion of the cancellation charge. We expect these to be required from 1 April 2023.

Please note that any new Relevant Embedded Generation<sup>(1)</sup> of a technology type that can generate at peak demand periods<sup>(1)</sup> seeking to connect to WPD's network in the Port Ham GSP area will still be required to go through a Statement of Works process and, as a consequence, the restrictions described above will apply as a minimum, together with any further works which may be identified at the time. Any local restrictions or constraints on WPD's distribution network will continue to be included as part of our connection offer.

Renewable types of generation such as solar and wind can continue to connect, utilising any existing NGET capacity, subject to the Statement of Works process.

## Background

In May 2016, WPD received notification from NGET which confirmed that their National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) in South Wales has reached capacity under peak conditions. As a result certain generation technologies that can generate at peak demand periods<sup>(2)</sup> would not be permitted to connect, as in the short term there would not be capacity available on the NETS. Renewable types of generation such as solar and wind could continue to connect, utilising existing capacity. The notification letter can be found [here](#).

As a result, WPD made a number of formal Modification Applications to NGET asking them to identify the detail, scope and costs of any reinforcement or upgrade works required to the NETS.

In January 2017, WPD received Modification Offers from NGET, detailing the work required and/or conditions that must be met prior to the connection of certain generation technologies that can generate at peak demand periods<sup>(1)</sup>. Further details can be found [here](#).

## Situation at Port Ham

Port Ham GSP is immediately connected in to NGET's South Wales 400kV network, and therefore there are operating conditions where energy flow to/from Port Ham will directly feed into and affect the NETS within South Wales. Following a Modification Application for the connection of generation to Port Ham, on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 WPD received a Modification Offer which has highlighted that Port Ham is subject to the same issues identified above. Specifically NGET has identified within this Modification Offer a requirement for the following transmission reinforcement works:

1. *Thermal uprate of Tremorfa - Uskmouth – Whitson circuit*
2. *Thermal uprate of the Cowley – Walham circuit*
3. *Thermal uprate of Imperial Park – Melksham and Cilfynydd – Whitson – Seabank circuits (Severn Cable circuits)*
4. *Thermal uprate of circuits from Whitson-Iron Acton – Melksham*
5. *Thermal uprate of the Cardiff East – Uskmouth – Whitson*
6. *Thermal uprate of the Melksham – Seabank circuit*
7. *Thermal uprate of the Aberthaw – Tremorfa circuit.*
8. *Thermal uprate of the Cardiff East leg of the Pyle – Aberthaw – Cardiff East circuit*
9. *Thermal uprate of Aberthaw – Upper Boat circuit 1 and 2*
10. *Thermal uprate of Uskmouth – Whitson circuit 2*

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<sup>(1)</sup> *Relevant Embedded Generation is any generator connected to WPD's network with an export capacity of 1MW and above. This threshold is set through the Statement of Works process and may be subject to change.*

<sup>(2)</sup> *generation technologies such as (but not limited to) thermal and market driven storage.*