

STC Committee

17 August 2011

Dear Colleagues,

Site and Safety Interfaces Between STC Parties – Workgroup Proposal

When the STC and STCPs were drafted, TO-TO safety only consisted of mid-span interfaces on overhead lines and procedures for issuing RIISP documents, which were an evolution of the BGSA provisions.

The onset of the offshore regime, has created the potential for significantly more TO-TO interfaces. Where offshore networks join the onshore transmission system there will be a TO-TO interface and this will inevitably be on a site owned by an onshore TO. Going forward, all 2nd Transitional Tender Round projects have a transmission (as opposed to distribution) interface and this will become the norm. Only two of the 1st Transitional Tender Round projects have transmission interfaces, currently only one of these has been closed.

Section D of the STC considers Interface Agreements and Site Responsibility schedules, but only at a high level. The STCPs do not really contemplate issues such as: approval of safety rules; site access; site safety procedures and authorisations; delegations of authority etc. In the absence of a common understanding, each project will have to negotiate these items individually and there remains the potential for differing treatment between TOs and between sites. It would seem more efficient to agree a common set of rules to be applied between all TOs and across all sites. Not only is this more efficient, but it will ensure a common cross-industry understanding and hopefully demystify what is a very complex and specialised area.

Transmission Capital proposes that a workgroup is instigated to consider this matter, with a view to either reviewing the existing or creating a new STCP.

Kind regards

Mike Lee