

Smart Metering Implementation Programme – Regulatory Design Team
Department of Energy and Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

By email only to smartmetering@decc.gsi.gov.uk

16 May 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

Consultation on the draft DCC Licence and Licence Application Regulations – consultation reference: URN 12D/030

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above consultation. This response should be regarded as a consolidated response on behalf of UK Power Networks' four electricity distribution licence holding companies: Eastern Power Networks plc, London Power Networks plc, South Eastern Power Networks plc, and UK Power Networks (IDNO) Limited. Please note that this is our interim response which applies to questions 15–18 only. I can confirm that this response is non-confidential and can be published via the Ofgem website.

We are comfortable with the current position taken on the tendering process (including in respect of proposals relating to 'BAFO') and with the draft DCC licence application regulations. As such we have no substantive comments in respect of questions 15, 17 or 18. However with respect to question 16, we believe that clarity is required as to how the government would immediately put in place an effective special administrative or intervention regime in the event of DCC defaulting on its obligations. Without this clarity there remains a risk of DCC services being suspended for an indefinite period with potentially serious consequences.

If you have any questions about our response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Head of Regulation
UK Power Networks

Copy

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