ALoMCP - Coronavirus Pandemic Response – Update 16 April 2020

The ALoMCP Steering Group has reviewed the latest government[1] and industry[2] guidance concerning the coronavirus pandemic. The Programme is considered necessary for the short to medium term security of supply and ensuring network resilience. Therefore, programme delivery continues, with the following additional guidance:

- Applicants who have accepted the terms and conditions of the Programme and have a Latest Valid LoM Change Date before or within September 2020, but have yet to complete the required works, will have their deadline extended by 3 months. **It will not be necessary to make any change to your Proposed Change Date on the Programme portal at this time.**

- DNO/IDNO requirements to witness certain works and complete Sample Site Visits are unchanged. Where DNO/IDNOs are unable to attend sites in person they have agreed to support trials to complete witness testing and Sample Site Visits virtually, for example by means of video calling. Contractors should engage with the relevant DNO/IDNO for details of how to accomplish this.

- Payments due to applicants who have already completed their work, and had a Sample Site Visit conducted where applicable, will be processed as soon as is practicable under current working arrangements.

- The Programme portal remains open for applications and the current application window will close as planned on the 12th of May. We ask that the lead time provided in new applications accommodates any estimated delay due to Covid-19 conditions and that the lead time of any existing application made in Window 3 is amended appropriately, if necessary and in liaison with the DNO/IDNO. Window 4 is scheduled to open 13 May and we will provide an update by the end of April.

During these extraordinary COVID-19 conditions we understand that you may be unwilling or unable to progress your ALoMCP works within the allotted timeframe. It is our intention that the 3-month extension given should mean that no applicant is penalised if they are unable to work within the government guidance or decides that the risk to them of undertaking works is too great, with a further commitment from us to review that extension again as the situation evolves.

The ALoMCP will keep the situation under review and update this response as the situation changes and as information becomes available.

Further information

The purpose of the ALoMCP is to improve resilience of the national electricity network in order to maintain security of supply across the country. In an open letter to Network Operators, Ofgem have categorised what activities are to be considered High Priority and Lower Priority Works and Services

---

[1] https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

[2] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/impact-covid-19-energy-network-companies-enabling-framework-regulatory-flexibility

to enable Network Companies to prioritise works. As the protection modifications proposed under the ALoMCP can be considered "Planned Works necessary for the short to medium term security of supply and ensuring network resilience" they can be considered High Priority. Therefore, further to the recent decision to suspend delivery of the programme, and after careful consideration of the current government guidance, the ALoMCP workgroup recognises that it is possible to continue with the programme whilst remaining compliant with these guidelines.

Where reference is made to government guidance we take this to be the guidance published at;

https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus .

The Ofgem open letter to Network Companies is published at;

https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/impact-covid-19-energy-network-companies-enabling-framework-regulatory-flexibility