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30 April 2014

Draft network code on HVDC Connections

Dear Mr Potoschnig, dear Alberto,

ENTSO-E is pleased to deliver the draft network code on HVDC Connections and DC-connected Power Park Modules (NC HVDC) together with supporting documents to the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER). The draft HVDC code was unanimously approved by ENTSO-E members on 29 April 2014. It is the result of a year of work which has closely involved stakeholders at every stage.

As you are aware, the draft NC HVDC has been formally developed by ENTSO-E following the European Commission's invitation letter of 29 April 2013. The letter called for a network code that addresses rules for HVDC links between synchronous areas, embedded links and offshore DC-connected power park modules; with a view to ensure a complete set of connection codes together with the earlier NC RfG and the DCC. We are confident that the network code meets the requirements of ACER's framework guideline on electricity grid connections. When adopted, the code will constitute a significant step forward in the creation of a transparent, non-discriminatory and efficient business environment, which will benefit European consumers.

We must mention the extensive and constructive input we received from various organizations: DC link owners, equipment manufacturers, generators, and other sector organisations. Further, the NC HVDC User Group, public workshops, and two formal written consultations created conditions for a productive collaboration during the drafting phase. The materials produced by these events can be accessed on the ENTSO-E website.

A key factor in your consideration of this code is the context of how this (NC HVDC) code relates to the preceding connection codes. In order to have a transparent and non-discriminatory frame of European connection codes, the NC RfG and DCC have been taken as a reference point for NC HVDC, both regarding technical requirements and procedures addressing network operators, grid users and regulators. Because the EC has not yet tabled a formal proposal nor an adopted text for RfG and DCC, the NC HVDC text submitted to ACER takes the ENTSO-E versions of NC RfG (March 2013) and DCC (December 2012) still as reference. We will support any alignment of the NC HVDC with other codes where needed in a pragmatic manner when this code and others are prepared for Comitology.

We would like to thank ACER and NRA colleagues for the constructive role they have played during the process of developing the NC HVDC; this helped to shape the network code text and its arguments in order to facilitate the ACER opinion process and as an input into the Comitology process. We hope to continue this good working relation during the development of your reasoned opinion and in any further steps of the process.

In accordance with the provisions of ACER's framework guidelines on electricity grid connections, and taking into consideration Article 10 of Regulation (EC) 714/2009, please find also attached a set of supporting documentation to this final NC HVDC:

- "NC HVDC – Evaluation of Comments" which address the suggestions received during a two month written consultation on a full draft code;
- "NC HVDC – Frequently Asked Questions" which provides additional views on often recurring legal and technical questions;
- "NC HVDC – Requirement Outlines" which gives a structural overview of key principles for all technical requirements; and
- "NC HVDC – Explanatory note" which addresses the main drivers for NC HVDC.

Yours sincerely,

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Secretary-General
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