



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate B - Internal Energy Market  
B.1 - Networks & Regional Initiatives

01 OCT. 2019

Brussels,  
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[REDACTED]  
InfraStrataPlc  
[REDACTED]  
By email:  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 20 September 2019, in which you explain in detail the reasoning behind your disagreement over the outcome of the Commission's assessment of the candidate Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) 5.1.3 Development of the Islandmagee Underground Gas Storage (UGS) facility at Larne (Northern Ireland) and 5.1.2 Upgrade of the SNIP (Scotland to Northern Ireland) pipeline to accommodate physical reverse flow between Ballylumford and Twynholm.

You ask to consider your letter as a formal appeal to duly consider the overall merits and status of PCI 5.1.3 and PCI 5.1.2 and ensure they are included in the 4<sup>th</sup> PCI list.

With regard to the process followed until the adoption of the PCI list, we would like to point out that since November 2018 the Regional Groups met regularly to identify the needs and to prepare the draft regional list. You have participated in this process and all the elements that you mention with regard to PCI 5.1.3 and PCI 5.1.2 in your letter were duly taken into consideration.

On 5 July 2019, the technical decision-making body decided which projects shall be included in the draft regional list in accordance with the procedures set out in Annex III of Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure (TEN-E Regulation). The merits and status of PCI 5.1.3 and PCI 5.1.2 have been assessed based on the relevant criteria that are applicable to all projects. The technical decision making body decided not to include the projects in question because they scored below the applicable threshold as they did not sufficiently address the needs identified for the UK and did not show relevant cross-border impacts.

On the basis of the draft regional list, the high-level decision-making body will adopt the final regional list of proposed PCIs in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article

3 of the TEN-E Regulation. The Commission will subsequently adopt the final regional list as delegated act.

It is our view that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the TEN-E Regulation, and that therefore, the adopted draft regional list contains PCIs that comply with common, transparent and objective criteria in view of their contribution to the energy policy objectives.

Yours sincerely,



[REDACTED]  
Acting Head of Unit

c.c.: [REDACTED] (ENER B.1)