

Benefits for Northern Ireland

The Agivey Cluster Project will bring benefits, including:

- Help in facilitating Northern Ireland's transition to a low carbon energy future;
- Enhanced security of supply for electricity consumers in Northern Ireland;
- Strengthening of the local transmission network in the North-West region.

How can you get involved?

Soon we will begin the site selection process for this project. By working together, we can create a stronger and better electricity grid with the least possible impact on you and your community. There is one very important principle that is at the heart of our consultation process – the earlier you get involved in our projects, the more influence you can have on them. The earlier you engage, the greater the potential for you to shape the project.

Over the next year, before submitting a planning application to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, we will host a number of consultation events at which you can come and talk to us to find out more about the project and to have your say.

Our Agricultural Liaison Officer Fergal Keenan is also on the ground and is available to provide information about the proposed development and to answer any questions you might have.

To contact Fergal, phone +44 (0)796630844 or email fergal.keenan@soni.ltd.uk.

Please visit our website – www.soni.ltd.uk - to find out when and where our next consultation event will take place or get in touch with us directly to find out more.



Contact information

Address
Agivey Cluster Project Manager
SONI Ltd.
12 Manse Road
Belfast
BT6 9RT

Phone
+44 (0)28 9079 4336


Email
agiveyproject@soni.ltd.uk

Agivey Cluster Project Information Brochure

Autumn – Winter 2017



Castlereagh House, 12 Manse Road, Belfast BT6 9RT • Telephone: 028 907 94336 • www.soni.ltd.uk

 Printed on recycled paper



The current. The future.



What is the Agivey Cluster Project and why is it needed?



SONI is obliged to connect parties who request a connection to the electricity network, subject to the applicant meeting certain conditions. SONI is responsible for elements of transmission works such as design and gaining planning consent, which take place before a project moves into the construction phase. NIE Networks are responsible for the eventual build of that infrastructure.

In some locations, and to some observers, electricity infrastructure has a visual impact on the landscape. We aim to create as little disturbance as possible. That's why a cluster connection policy was developed by NIE Networks and, following consultation, approved by the Utility Regulator (NIAUR) to connect a number of windfarms located in close proximity.

Wind farms in the Craiggore, Smugledon, Evishagaran areas have collectively met the criteria for connection via a cluster substation. This has resulted in the need for the Agivey Cluster Project.

SONI's planning application for the Agivey Cluster Project will be submitted to and decided by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

If developed, the proposal will allow NIE Networks to provide connection for the wind farm projects which already have planning consent, and will improve electricity transmission infrastructure in the local area.

We have been working to meet the challenges of operating the electricity system while achieving high renewable electricity targets. Northern Ireland must achieve 40 per cent renewable energy on the electricity system by 2020. Transmission infrastructure such as the Agivey Cluster Project is vital in helping to achieve these targets.

Who are SONI – and what do we do?

SONI (System Operator for Northern Ireland) operates the electricity grid. We bring electricity to every part of Northern Ireland, and plan ahead for future growth. A better energy supply means greater prosperity in the years ahead.

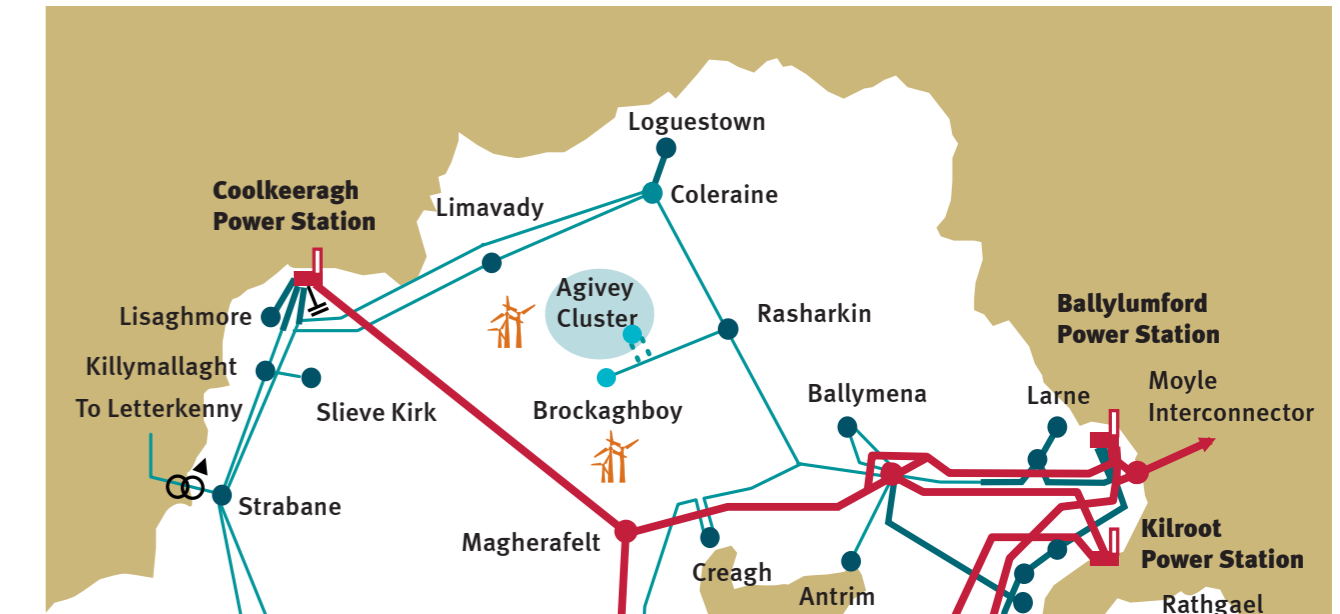
At SONI, we want everyone to share in that brighter future. From our control centre in Belfast, we develop, manage and operate the electricity transmission grid. Our transmission grid brings power from where it is generated to where it is needed throughout Northern Ireland.

We match supply and demand for power, every second of everyday. We also power Northern Ireland Electricity Networks' distribution grid. This supplies electricity to homes, farms and businesses.

SONI works in cooperation with NIE Networks to develop the electricity grid infrastructure. Investing in and improving the grid is essential to make your supply of electricity more reliable and cost effective. It also supports economic growth and enables competition.

Finally, we need to develop the grid so it can connect to new sources of renewable energy.

Figure 1: Map to show how Agivey 110/33 kV cluster substation will connect to the NI transmission system



The Technology

The project comprises:

- A new 110/33kV cluster substation.
- Two Transmission Circuits - this may potentially take the form of overhead lines, underground cables, or a mix of both technologies.

Submitting planning is scheduled for 2018. We hope to obtain planning in 2019. Should planning approval be granted this project will be handed over to NIE Networks to proceed with construction.