Public

ORLB, Mod Apps and Installed Capacity

Clarification memo: 4th July 2025

NESO
National Energy System Operator

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Context

At customer request, NESO is providing clarifying information on an Original Red Line Boundary matter that was raised at a webinar on 3rd July 2025, along with clarity on matters relating to Installed Capacity and Mod Apps. This information is provided in support of the Connections Reform programme.

Mod Apps

We require a standard / full Modification Application (submitted via the NESO Portal after the submission of the Readiness Declaration and within the application window) from those requesting Advancement and those with Transitional Agreements). This is as it is a requirement of CUSC for such projects, for it to be a valid 'EA Request'.

However, as we obtain all of the information that we require to progress your application for Gate 2 from within the Readiness Declaration and Original Red Line Boundary, it is acceptable for you to complete the Mod App form in a light-touch (but still accurate) fashion, to the extent permitted by the Portal form, where certain fields will need to be populated to allow submission. In respect of the DRC data, this can be uploaded into the Portal, and it should reflect the Project in the Existing Agreement.

Any changes to the Project other than those permitted via the G2WQ process (e.g. moving some or all of the technologies and/or stages of a Project to Gate 1, etc) should be done through a gated or non-gated (as appropriate) modification application in the future in accordance with the Gated Modification Guidance. In the event we do require updated technical data in future, we will contact customers at the appropriate time in the process.

Installed Capacity

Installed Capacity is a new defined term in CUSC Section 11. The Installed Capacity value provided should therefore align with the CUSC definition.

However, it should also reflect the Project, as it is set out within the Existing Agreement i.e. except for the limited number of permitted changes to the Project allowed within the G2WQ process (e.g. Advancement, TEC or Developer Capacity Reduction or moving some or all of the technologies and/or stages of a Project to Gate 1), there should be no other changes to the Project within the Existing Agreement.

Any other changes should be made in future via a Gated or Non-Gated (as appropriate) Modification Application.

The CUSC definition of 'Installed Capacity' is as follows.

"The figure, based solely on the Original Red Line Boundary, representing the intended maximum amount of active power that the User's equipment or developer's equipment (as applicable) within that boundary is capable of exporting and/or importing. This is independent of Connection Entry Capacity, Transmission Entry Capacity or Developer Capacity, and any associated limitations on Active Power. Installed Capacity must be declared by the User/Applicant for each technology type (if more than one) and expressed in MW to one decimal place."

To provide additional clarity:

- For solar applications the Installed Capacity should be the sum of the AC MW rating of the inverters installed, and not the total DC MW capacity of solar panels installed.
- For a wind farm, the Installed Capacity should be the sum of the wind farm turbine MW ratings.
- For Transmission Connection Demand sites use unity power factor to convert the MVA demand into MWs for the Installed Capacity.

ORLB and Grid-Co-ordinates (Staged Projects)

For the purpose of readiness, for projects with multiple stages, customers in the NESO Portal will be asked to upload a separate Original Red Line Boundary (ORLB) and grid coordinates for each project stage.

However, it is also acceptable for this to be the same Original Red Line Boundary for each stage, with the same grid co-ordinates for each stage, provided that this still shows the installed capacity per technology per stage and the acreage per stage. Where an Original Red Line Boundary per stage is provided/shown, this is used only for the purpose of readiness i.e. to check that each of the stages of the project are 'ready' in accordance with the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria.

For Transmission connected projects, the Original Red Line Boundary (and Installed Capacity) of the Project in the Gate 2 Agreement in totality will then be used for ongoing compliance with the '50% Rule' set out in CUSC Section 16 i.e. a Project can move the Installed Capacity from within the Original Red Line Boundary provided/shown for one stage into the Original Red Line Boundary provided/shown for another stage. It is only when Installed Capacity is located outside of the Original Red Line Boundary of the entire Project that it counts towards compliance with the '50% Rule.'

We will shortly update Section 4.1.2 of the Queue Management Guidance to make the above position clearer and more accessible on an enduring basis.

Please see the below an illustrative example of what would be possible for an Original Red Line Boundary submission for staged projects with multiple parcels of land. This is especially relevant for the submission of grid coordinates for staged projects.

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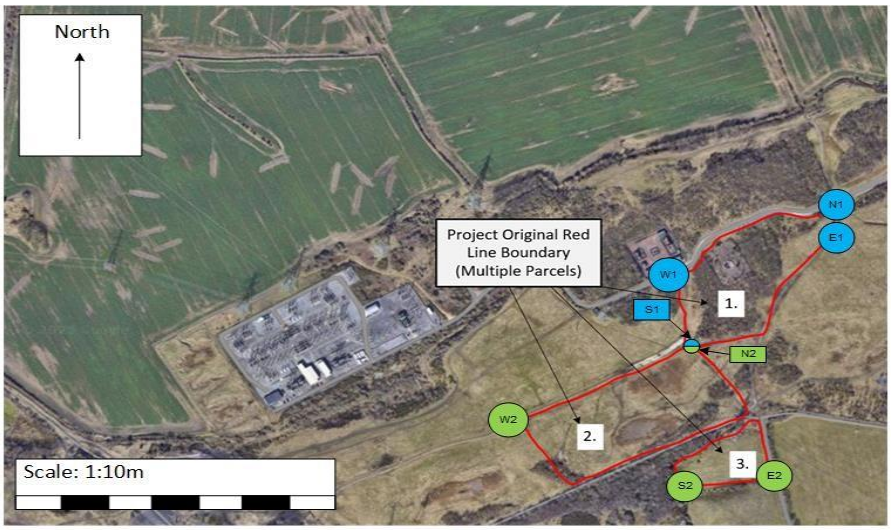

Site Address:
Land South of Murton Substation, Pit Road, Murton, Seaham

Postcodes (nearest):
SR7 9JP

Technology Installed:
Stage 1: 10.0MW of Solar PV
Stage 2: 20.0MW of Solar PV

Land Acreage of site:
Parcel 1: 0.5011 Acres
Parcel 2: 0.6011 Acres
Parcel 3: 0.2011 Acres

Total Acreage Stage 1: 0.5011 Acres
Total Acreage Stage 2: 0.8022 Acres

Grid Coordinates (WGS84 Format) Whole Site Area Staged Project – Stage 1:

Northerly Extreme Latitude: 54.806
Northerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.395 — N1

Easterly Extreme Latitude: 54.804
Easterly Extreme Longitude: -1.395 — E1

Southerly Extreme Latitude: 54.800
Southerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.394 — S1

Westerly Extreme Latitude: 54.802
Westerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.400 — W1

Grid Coordinates (WGS84 Format) Whole Site Area Staged Project – Stage 2:

Northerly Extreme Latitude: 54.805
Northerly Extreme Longitude: -1.396 — N2

Easterly Extreme Latitude: 54.803
Easterly Extreme Longitude: -1.394 — E2

Southerly Extreme Latitude: 54.802
Southerly Extreme Longitude: -1.397 — S2

Westerly Extreme Latitude: 54.803
Westerly Extreme Longitude: -1.399 — W2

However, as illustrated below, please note that it would also be acceptable for a Project with stages to provide the same grid co-ordinates for each stage if they show the extremes of the Project.

In this case, the same grid co-ordinates would be input for each stage. This 'overlap' between the stages will then be acceptable for the purpose of duplication checks. Please see the illustration below that would also be an acceptable staged Original Red Line Boundary.

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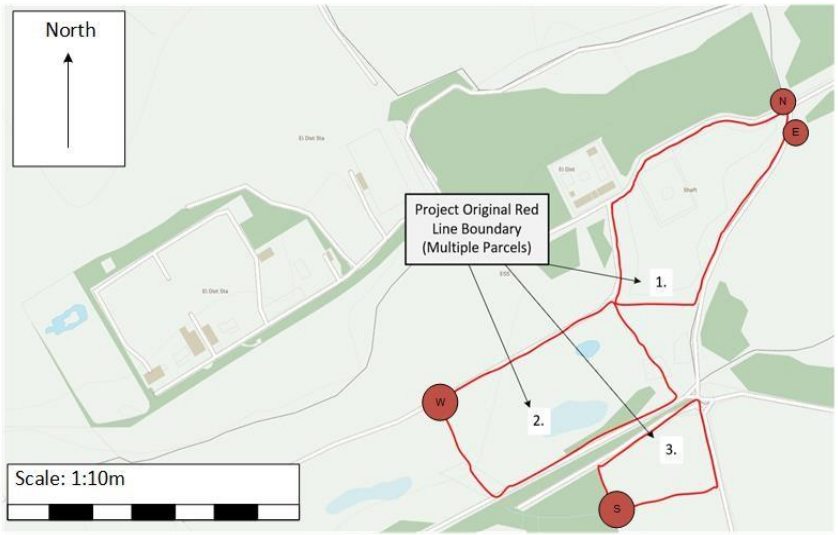

Site Address:
Land South of Murton Substation, Pit Road, Murton, Seaham

Postcodes (nearest):
SR7 9JP

Technology Installed:
Stage 1: 10.0MW of Solar PV
Stage 2: 20.0MW of Solar PV

Land Acreage of site:
Parcel 1: 0.5011 Acres
Parcel 2: 0.6011 Acres
Parcel 3: 0.2011 Acres

Total Acreage Stage 1: 0.5011 Acres
Total Acreage Stage 2: 0.8022 Acres

Grid Coordinates (WGS84 Format) Whole Site Area staged project, submitting the same extreme coordinates per stage:

Northerly Extreme Latitude: 54.806 (N)
Northerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.395

Easterly Extreme Latitude: 54.804 (E)
Easterly Extreme Longitude: -1.395

Southerly Extreme Latitude: 54.800 (S)
Southerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.394

Westerly Extreme Latitude: 54.802 (W)
Westerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.400

Note: the same extreme co-ordinates are provided for each stage.