REFIT 2 – Decision to Extend the Development Milestones in the Scheme

The Minister has decided to extend a number of deadlines that apply under the existing terms and conditions of REFIT 2 which are set out below:

Background

1. The REFIT (Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff) schemes are the primary support mechanisms to support the growth of renewable electricity and to help meet Ireland renewable energy target by 2020.

2. In order to ensure renewable energy projects were progressed in a timely manner, the REFIT terms and conditions included a series of development milestones. These development milestones set specific deadlines for the connection of renewable projects and encouraged the project developer to realise the project in time for 2020.

Connection Date

3. The ‘connection’ date for REFIT applicants under the existing terms and conditions is 31 December 2017 while the requirement to have a Power Purchase Agreement is 30 September 2018.

4. In the last year a range of issues have constrained the ability of project promoters to meet the financing and connection timeframes originally set out in the terms and conditions of the REFIT schemes.

5. Against this backdrop, the Minister has decided to extend the required ‘connected’ date for REFIT applicants from 31 December 2017 to 31 December 2019 and extend the requirement to have a Power Purchase Agreement in place from 30 September 2018 to 31 March 2020.¹

6. This change will only be relevant for REFIT applicants who submitted an application to the Department before the 31 December 2015. The decision to offer an additional degree of flexibility for the purpose of connection does not represent a material change to any of the Terms and Conditions of the REFIT scheme. The scheme has not been extended and the backstop date of 2032 remains unaltered.

¹ See terms and conditions of the REFIT 2 scheme for full meaning of ‘connected.’