

Additional Development Plan: Ballyclare Network Extension

Background:

In 2002, BGE (Northern Ireland) was awarded the licence to construct and operate two transmission pipelines in Northern Ireland. In October 2004, the 115 km NW pipeline, connecting the Scotland to Northern Ireland Pipeline, (SNIP), to Coolkeeragh Power Station, was completed.

The 156 km SN pipeline, connecting Gormanstown in Co. Meath to Ballyalbanagh in Co. Antrim was completed in October 2006. This pipeline forms a key component in the "All Island" energy market by linking the gas networks in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, thereby providing the opportunity for bi-directional security of supply.

On 24 March 2005 (date of grant), firmus energy was formally awarded supply and distribution licences for the development of the natural gas network across 10 Development Areas.

Ballyclare:

firmus energy now wish to develop the gas network to the town of Ballyclare as an extension to Antrim. As per Condition 3.1 of the distribution licence, this Additional Development Plan seeks that the Electoral Wards of Parkgate, Doagh, Ballyclare North, Ballyclare South and Ballyrobert be designated as Additional Development Areas, thereby allowing firmus to develop the network in these areas.

Capital work is planned to commence in 2011, beginning with the construction of a feeder pipeline from Antrim. Some connections are anticipated in 2011; more connections will follow in subsequent years as the Ballyclare network develops further (see Annual Targets below).

Annual Targets:

The network in Ballyclare is expected to pass 3,500 properties. Forecast annual target connections are set out below.

Customer type	Connections	Conversion rate
New Build	2200	Yr1 - 150 Yr2 - 150 Yr3 - 150 100 pa thereafter
NIHE	150	20%pa from 2014
Residential	34	4% pa
Large IC	1	Yr1
SME	7	20% pa

NIHE properties:

There are a number of NIHE estates in the Ballyclare and Doagh area. The area office has indicated that there may be a number of heating schemes in the area commencing in 2014. We have assumed 30 conversions per year for 5 years starting in 2014. If we connect these 150 NIHE properties we assume we will pass a further 600 existing domestic properties.

Owner-occupied properties:

firmus energy will endeavour to maximise residential conversions to natural gas over the licence period.

I&C properties:

The anchor load within the area is Springvale EPS located in Burnside, north of Doagh. There are a number of I&C properties within the area namely two high schools and a local leisure centre but these will need local Government support to convert to natural gas.