

IWEA RESPONSE TO CER/08/259 ESBCS Domestic Microgenerator Export Tariff Proposal

Date: Jan 16th, 2009

The Irish Wind Energy Association welcomes the opportunity to respond to CER's Consultation Paper: "ESBCS Domestic Microgenerator Export Tariff Proposal".

Micro generation will play an increasingly important role in our energy system and as such IWEA welcomes the proposal from ESB CS to offer an export tariff on all verified export from domestic users. It is important that this tariff be set at a level that reflects the value that microgeneration delivers to the Irish energy system in both electricity and carbon terms.

IWEA would like to stress the importance of ensuring that adequate safety standards are applied. The consultation paper proposes that the offer will contain a statement that the installer and equipment will be in accordance with industry and the DSO standards. However, the area of installer competency is not at all considered in the tariff proposal. It is essential that this initiative to develop the microgeneration market is matched with a robust installer competency training programme.

It is crucial that arrangements are devised to minimise the risk of inappropriate installations causing risks to people and the network, which would damage the long term viability of the industry.