

21. AUGUST. 2009

SINEAD / DAVID,

PLEASE SEE OUR COMMENTS IN RED. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DO NOT IN FACT REISSUE AN AMENDED VERSION OF THESE RECORDS, BUT COMMENTS CAN BE INCORPORATED INTO OUR SECOND MEETING.

AS DISCUSSED, FOR CLARITY, I FEEL I SHOULD SEND YOU ON OUR COMMENTS NOW ANYWAY.

KIND REGARDS
RAY NILAND

with compliments



AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
TIME _____	BY _____
25 AUG 2009	
LTR-DATED _____	FROM _____
PL _____	

The Oval 160 Shelbourne Road
Ballsbridge Dublin 4

160 Bóthar Shíol Bhroin
Droichead na Dothra Baile Átha Cliath 4

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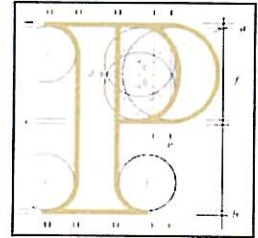
www.eirgrid.com

Our Ref: 11.VC0035

Your Ref:

Received 20/8/09
RN.

An Bord Pleanála



Ray Niland
Eirgrid **EirGrid (CAPITAL 'G')**
The Oval,
160 Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4.

13th August 2009

near (exact location of proposed substation (400/110) yet to be agreed)

Re: Proposed 400/110 KV Substation At Loughteog, Co. Laois And
Associated Line And Station Works.

Dear Sir,


I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the first meeting of the 5th of August, 2009 which is marked 'Private and Confidential' for your information.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,


Sinéad McInerney
Executive Officer

VC07.LTR



64 Sráid Maoilbhríde,
Baile Átha Cliath 1.

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64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

11.VC0035

EirGrid (As cover page) (applies throughout document)

Written record of the first pre-application consultation meeting between An Bord Pleanála and the prospective applicant (~~Eirgrid~~) in relation to the proposed 400/110kV ~~kV~~ *kV* substation ~~at~~ *near* Loughteeog, County Laois, and associated line and station works.

- **Venue:** Conference Room, An Bord Pleanála
- **Date:** 5th August 2009 (11.05 am)
- **Present**

Representing An Bord Pleanála

David Dunne – Assistant Director of Planning
Úna Crosse – Senior Planning Inspector
Marcella Doyle – Senior Executive Officer
Sinéad McInerney – Executive Officer

**Representing Prospective Applicant
Eirgrid**

Deborah Meghen – Eirgrid Manager
Ray Niland – Eirgrid Project Manager
Louis Wildenboer – Eirgrid Principal Manager *Planner*
Mario Duarte – Eirgrid Transmission Network Planner
Tim Kavanagh – ESBI Consultant
Jarlath Doyle – ESBI Consultant
Ciara Kellet – AOS Planning Consultant

PRIVATE &
CONFIDENTIAL

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
TIME _____	BY _____
25 AUG 2009	
LTR-DATED _____	FROM _____
PL _____	

A list of attendees is attached as Appendix 1. *(not attached but we don't require)*

- The meeting was chaired by David Dunne.

Introduction

The Board's team was introduced and an agenda set out.

The Board advised the prospective applicant that the meeting is considered by it to be a preliminary meeting the purpose of which will be for the Board to obtain information from the prospective applicant in respect of the proposed development, and for the prospective applicant to seek advice from the Board. Further pre-application consultation meeting or meetings may be required, and it is intended that the Board would also meet with the relevant local authorities to seek their views on the proposed development. The Board will keep a record of the meeting which will then be made available to the public at the end of the pre-application consultation process. The decision will be made by the Board on whether or not the proposed development is strategic infrastructure under the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or in legal proceedings.

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Presentation of Prospective Applicant

The prospective applicant responded by introducing its team.

An overview of the proposed development was given by way of a power point presentation, a hard copy of which is attached (Appendix 2). *(not attached, not required)*

The proposed development is required to improve the quality and security of supply within the area.

A number of options were considered and four different parameters were examined in choosing the most viable option. These included voltage level, voltage stability, outage performance and longevity. A 400kV injection point and associated 110kV integration (Loughtecog) was considered to be the best option.

THE 'INJECTION POINT' WILL BE NEAR LOUGHTECOG WITH THE 110KV EMANATING FROM THAT.

Constraints which have been identified within the study area include terrain, ribbon development, road network, special area of development control, forestry, candidate Special Area of Conservation, recorded sites and monuments, and areas of high amenity and scenic views. *(ALSO EXISTING HV ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE & VARIOUS TOWNS)*

A desktop study has been carried out on a number of route options. Six route options involving ~~over-ground cables~~ and three route options involving underground cables have been identified. *↑ OVERHEAD LINES*

A more detailed assessment of the identified route options will be carried out to identify environmental constraints for each, and a constraints report will be produced.

Matters discussed

The proposed 110kV line would be supported by wooden poles, with approximately 15m steel structures where the line changes direction.

It was stated that visual impact of the proposed development would be the main environmental constraint, with recorded sites and monuments also a major consideration. In relation to the candidate Special Area of Conservation - Barrow/Norc river system - the Board referred to the Oak woodland and the Tree Protection Orders in the area and advised that these should be avoided. **SEE FOOTNOTE AT END OF THIS SHEET*

The prospective applicant is currently working on an environmental constraints report in relation to each of the identified route options.

It was stated that the proposed stations will be designed to facilitate other networks, both renewable and non-renewable power sources. ***SEE FOOTNOTE AT END OF NEXT SHEET.*

A discussion took place in relation to running parts of the proposed development underground. The prospective applicant said that the preferred option is to run ~~lines over-ground~~ *OVERHEAD LINES* due to issues of ~~maintenance, safety and security~~, however both underground and ~~over-ground options~~ will be examined in the context of the surrounding environment. **SECURITY OF SUPPLY, TECHNICAL & OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH UGC, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT & INCREASED COST. ALSO WITH PART OHL-PART UGC 'SOLUTION' POTENTIAL INCREASED VISUAL IMPACT DUE TO CABLE-OHL INTERFACE COMPOUNDS.*

When identifying a preferred route, the Board advised that a summary of the methodology of reaching that decision should be provided, and details of the alternatives set out. At that

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IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT PROJECT WAS STILL AT PRELIMINARY STAGES AND THAT ALL ROUTE OPTIONS PRESENTED WERE MOSTLY AS A RESULT OF DESKTOP STUDIES (WITH SOME DEGREE OF FIELD WORK) AND THAT A 'ROUTE CONSTRAINTS REPORT' WAS BEING PREPARED WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN MERITS OF ONE ROUTE OVER ANOTHER AND ADDRESS ALL THESE QUESTIONS.

stage the Board will look at whether an environmental report can be submitted with an application or whether an environmental impact statement is required. (The prospective applicant was informed of the formal process for scoping an environmental impact statement) IT WAS STATED THAT AT THE NEXT MEETING WE SHOULD PRESENT WHETHER OR NOT WE FEEL AN EIS IS REQUIRED. DIFFICULTIES & POSSIBLE DELAYS IN GETTING AN B. P TO SCOPE AN EIS WAS EXPLAINED.

The Board advised the prospective applicant that detailed discussions should take place with all the relevant sections of the local authorities in relation to the proposed development. The Board will not meet with the local authorities until such time as a preferred route option has been identified.

The procedures involved in making an application will be provided at a further pre-application consultation meeting.

Conclusion

When completed, the environmental constraints report should be submitted for information.

The prospective applicant will revert to the Board when a preferred route option has been identified and a further pre-application consultation meeting will be arranged at that stage.

The meeting concluded at 12.05 p.m.



David Dunne
Assistant Director of Planning
13th August, 2009

** THE PROPOSED NEW STATIONS WILL BE DESIGNED WITH SOME DEGREE OF SPARE CAPACITY (SPARE LINE BAYS) FOR NEW CONNECTIONS IN SO FAR AS IS PRACTICAL. THIS WILL FACILITATE FUTURE GRID CONNECTIONS IF THEY ARE REQUIRED (WHETHER THAT IS A NEW CIRCUIT FROM 400/110 STATION / NEW STATION EQUIPMENT / NEW GENERATION CONNECTION (CONVENTIONAL OR RENEWABLE)).
STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK IN THE REGION BY CONSTRUCTING NEW CIRCUIT (110KV) WILL INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM IN THE REGION WHICH CAN THEN CATER FOR INCREASED DEMAND FOR POWER. SIMILARLY IT CAN BE USED TO CATER FOR INCREASED SUPPLY IN THE REGION (CONVENTIONAL AND/OR RENEWABLE GENERATION), SO THE PROJECT WILL THEREFORE FACILITATE INTEGRATION OF RENEWABLES ONTO THE GRID.

