



Our Ref: PCI0001

Mr Aidan Geoghegan,
Eirgrid,
The Oval,
160 Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4.

13th October, 2014.

Dear Mr Geoghegan

I refer to North-South Electricity Interconnector Project and to your proposal received on 3rd October, 2014 concerning the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted as part of the application file to apply for the comprehensive decision.

An Bord Pleanála in its role as Competent Authority under Regulation 347/2013 informs you that your proposal is broadly acceptable and sets out a reasonable structure on which the draft application file can be based. The following matters raised by the Strategic Infrastructure Section of An Bord Pleanála are brought to your attention.

The scope of the material submitted must reflect the nature, scale and extent of the proposed development the subject of the strategic infrastructure pre-application consultation discussions on which An Bord Pleanála issued its letter dated 10th February, 2014 and also to its scoping opinion issued on the 11th December, 2013.

Having regard to the matters raised in the completed strategic infrastructure pre-application consultation process, the following are key matters in regard to the scope of material and level of information to be included with the application:

- Extent of the prospective applicant's re-evaluation of the project having regard to matters arising from the withdrawal of application 02.VA0006.

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- Background and continuing need for the proposed development.
- Support for project in local, national and regional context including Government policy and European context.
- Established context of project within Grid 25 Strategy.
- Status of Grid 25 document.
- Route re-evaluation and associated environmental assessments carried out to inform the application supporting documentation/EIS/NIS including reasoning for omissions of the proposed Kingscourt sub-station.
- Identification of the difficulties encountered in regard to access to lands to carry out development and to undertake necessary baseline surveys (any difficulties should be recorded in the EIS and means to address them explained).
- Updated status of planning application(s) lodged in Northern Ireland.
- Technological alternatives reviewed.
- Public and other consultations entered into in regard to the project and how evaluated/incorporated into development.
- Explanation in supporting documents of the justification for the routing of line and siting of structures chosen and the balance and weighting used between avoidance of impacts on different types of sensitive receptors such as landscapes and residential property in the vicinity of the proposed development.
- Applicant's methodology to ensure adoption of a consistent approach throughout the application and EIS documents having regard to extent of the project and proposed MSA and CMSA analysis subdivisions in the proposed EIS.
- Explanation and justification for the approach being taken to remove structures from sensitive ecological receptors and where access to survey not facilitated and given progress of line design to seek permission for fixed tower locations.
- Gaeltacht areas to be identified along with noting associated procedures including for public notices in Irish and translation of parts of supporting application/EIS documentation into Irish as appropriate.
- Extent and nature of documents, maps, drawings including aerial photographs and information to be provided with the application and EIS to include up to date baseline data and base maps. This includes showing new M3 road and recently constructed development and that with planning permission.
- How applicant will address issues arising from the proposed development likely to having significant effects on the environment of a transboundary State.
- Entirety of environmental effects of Interconnector project to be assessed and dealt with in the application documentation and need for production of a Joint Environmental Report as proposed in the European Commission document Guidance on the Application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure for Large-scale Transboundary Projects.

PLANS

The nature and extent of the proposed development should be fully described in drawing form including provision of:

- Site location plans.
- Scaled site layout plans.



- Plans, elevations and sections (as relevant) of all aspects of the proposed development for which approval is sought including any temporary access arrangements.

Insofar as is relevant to the application and having regard to the specific circumstances and linear nature of the proposed development note should be taken of the provisions of article 23 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) concerning plans, drawings and maps lodged.

In this regard your attention is drawn to the detailed discussions held at the strategic infrastructure pre-application consultation meetings and in particular those held on the 31st July, 18th and 23rd December 2013 in regard to scope of material and level of information to be provided. Those meetings discussed matters such as the strategic infrastructure application process and procedures generally and the type and scale of drawing, photographic detail and aerial photographs to be lodged and associated documentation/electronic document requirements and transboundary application procedures and associated documentation/electronic document requirements.

PARTICULARS

The application should be accompanied by an environmental impact statement pursuant to the requirements of Directive 2011/92/EU of 13 December 2011 (as transposed into Irish legislation under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and associated Regulations) in regard to the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. In this regard you should have full regard to the detailed Witten Opinion on the information to be contained in the environmental impact statement to be prepared in respect of the proposed development provided by An Bord Pleanála on 11th December 2013.

The application should be accompanied by a natura impact statement to facilitate an appropriate assessment of the project for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (as transposed into Irish legislation under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and associated Regulations) of the proposed development's implications (alone and in combination) for European site(s) in view of the site(s) conservation objectives.

The application should be accompanied by a Joint Environmental Report as proposed in the European Commission document Guidance on the Application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure for Large-scale Transboundary Projects (2013).

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The application should confirm (or not) whether any other separate formal statutory licenses/consents are required for the proposed development under any other legislative code.

Any supporting documentation lodged with the application should set out how such documents have been informed by any public consultations carried out including that with prescribed bodies.

In addition to the above, An Bord Pleanála in its role as Competent Authority requests that when addressing the background and need for the project any implications of Regulation 347/2013 which you consider relevant are set out in the documentation.

Yours faithfully



Diarmuid Collins,
Senior Administrative Officer.
PCI Unit.