

North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development

Project Summary Report as at 13th November 2014

EirGrid provides a non-technical and regularly updated summary of the North-South 400 kV Interconnection project in on-line format on the EirGrid project website. The project summary is provided over a number of on-line tabular web pages and is structured as follows:

1. Overview
2. Health & Safety
3. FAQ's
4. Benefits
5. Project Activities

The project activity tab is regularly updated and provides a date stamp of activity on the project on a yearly basis. This report provides an up to date version of this project summary in report format for download purposes and includes project activity for the year to date.



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Section 1 – Overview

What is it?

EirGrid and [SONI \(System Operator for Northern Ireland\)](#) are jointly proposing a new high capacity electricity interconnector between the electricity networks of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Currently there is only a single such interconnector between the two networks and a second interconnector is now proposed as shown on the map below.



The planning of that portion of the proposed interconnector within Northern Ireland was originally undertaken by NIE ([Northern Ireland Electricity](#)). However on 30th April 2014 that responsibility was transferred to SONI.

Why is it being proposed?

The new interconnector will increase the capacity, and the reliability, of interconnection between the two networks. This will allow the two independent networks to operate together as if they were one system for the mutual benefit of residents and businesses in both jurisdictions.

The increase in interconnection capacity will effectively eliminate current restrictions in cross border support in the event of a shortage of electricity in one jurisdiction, thus enhancing the security of electricity supply throughout the island of Ireland.

Operating the two networks as if they were one system will bring cost savings for all electricity consumers as larger electricity systems can be operated more efficiently than smaller ones.

The increase in interconnection capacity will also facilitate further and greater connection of wind generation in both parts of the island which will help achieve Ireland's renewable energy targets.

What has happened recently?

The project has been designated as a Project of Common Interest (PCI) by the European Commission and is now subject to EU Regulation No. 347/2013 (the Regulation). An Bord Pleanála (ABP) has been designated as the competent authority for managing the PCI process in Ireland. The PCI Pre-application Process commenced on 02nd July 2014.

In accordance with the Regulation EirGrid submitted a [Concept for Public Participation \(CPP\)](#) to ABP. On 10th September 2014 ABP notified EirGrid by [letter](#) that it had modified the concept. The modification requires that EirGrid publish an information leaflet in relation to the project and the PCI process and place an advertisement in national newspapers notifying the public of the publication of the leaflet.

On 13th October 2014 ABP identified to EirGrid by [letter](#) the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted by EirGrid as part of the application file. This followed the submission by EirGrid, at ABP's invitation, of [EirGrid's proposal](#) on these matters.

What is happening now?

On 07th November 2014 EirGrid submitted its draft application file (DAF) to the competent authority (ABP). The DAF was prepared by EirGrid in accordance with the scope identified by ABP.

ABP will now review the DAF and if necessary, and in accordance with the Regulation, request any missing information. This review will be administrative and will not involve ABP making any judgment as to the merits of the application.

When the review of the DAF is complete ABP will draw up the schedule for the permit granting process. EirGrid will then publish the information leaflet and advertisement required as part of the modified concept for public participation. EirGrid will thereafter finalise the application file and submit it to ABP in accordance with the schedule.



For further information on the project, you may contact us in the following ways:

Write: c/o EirGrid NS Project Manager, Block 2, Floor, 2, West Pier Business Campus,
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland

Phone: Lo-call 1890 25 26 90

Email: northsouth@eirgrid.com

Website:

<http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kVinterconnectiondevelopment>

Make an appointment to visit one of our information centres -

Navan: 10a Kennedy House, Kennedy Road, Navan, Co. Meath

Carrickmacross: Carrickmacross Workhouse, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross, Co.

Monaghan

Kingscourt: Dun a Ri House Hotel. Station Road, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan

Section 2 - Health and safety

EirGrid regards the protection of the health, safety and welfare of its staff and the general public as a core company value.

It is EirGrid's policy to design and operate the transmission network to the highest safety standards and to comply with the most up to date international guidelines and recommendations.

Your Health and Electric & Magnetic Fields (EMF)

A debate about the possible health effects of electric and magnetic fields associated with electric power systems on humans and animals has continued over the last number of decades. Despite extensive worldwide research, international review bodies have found no conclusive evidence that exposure to electric and magnetic fields encountered in normal living and working conditions are harmful to public health.

Your concerns

EirGrid continues to review new developments and research findings and is satisfied from the totality of studies and the views of authoritative bodies that the balance of evidence is that electric and magnetic field emissions from electric power systems do not cause adverse effects on health.

However, EirGrid recognises that some individuals are genuinely concerned about issues regarding electric and magnetic fields and health. The quality of you and your family's living and working environment, along with the welfare of livestock and farm crops is of the utmost importance to us at all times.

We are committed to addressing your concerns in an open manner. To assist in this process we ask that you consult our booklet on electric and magnetic fields.

[For more information on EMF click here](#)

Your questions answered

We are committed to continuously reviewing new research to provide answers to your questions. If you have concerns about this project, we can make an expert available to you. Please feel free to contact us with your questions.

Your physical safety

To make sure you and your family stay safe during this project, we are following strict guidelines for construction and electrical operations.



In addition, before we start any construction task we will carry out an assessment to explore what hazards may be present. If any are found, we will then make sure they are controlled before works begins.

If you have any other concerns about safety on this project, please contact us. Finally, we acknowledge the obvious health, social and economic benefits that electric power brings to society and reaffirm our commitment to design and operate the electricity transmission system that facilitates these benefits in a safe, reliable and economic manner.



Section 3 - Frequently Asked Questions

The FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) are available under the FAQs tab of the project website

Section 4 – Benefits

EirGrid has identified that an additional high capacity north-south interconnector will provide multiple technical and other benefits. These include:

- Improving competition by reducing the constraints that are currently restricting the efficient performance of the all-island Single Electricity Market;
- Improving security of supply by providing a reliable high capacity link between the two parts of the all-island transmission system; and
- Supporting the development of renewable power generation by enhancing the flexible exchange of power flows over a large area of the island.

These benefits will accrue to all electricity consumers on the island of Ireland.

The proposed interconnector will also provide sufficient additional transmission capacity in the North East area of Ireland to cater for growth in electricity consumption for many years and will also put the area in a good position if an even stronger economic recovery should emerge in the coming years.

GRID25

Regional developments can be seen in the context of EirGrid's Grid Development Strategy, Grid 25. Grid 25 is a long term strategy to put in place a safe, secure, and affordable electricity supply throughout Ireland, supporting economic growth and providing a roadmap to a bright future for renewable and sustainable energy. For an overview of this initiative, please look at the [Grid25 section](#)

Section 5 - Project Activity

Please note that the project activity timeline provides a date stamped record of project publications since project inception. Please see the date links below for earlier versions of this project update.

If you are looking for the most up-to-date maps, please see the maps link on the on the [website](#).

If you are unsure about any content, please contact the project team-

September 2014

The project website was updated on 29th September 2014 and a record of the content at that time can be found in the [Project Summary Report](#) of same date.

July 2014

The community updated brochure published in July 2014 can be accessed here: [Community Update Brochure - July 2014](#).

In July 2014 the Independent Expert Panel (IEP), which is made up of Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, Chairperson, Professor Keith Bell, Professor John Fitzgerald, Dr Karen Foley and Mr Colm McCarthy, provided its opinion on "the compatibility of the methodologies to be employed on the GL and GW projects with what has already been done on the North South Transmission Line project". The IEP is of the opinion that the work completed to date on the North-South 400kV Interconnection Development is compatible with the Terms of Reference that they have specified for the Grid West and Grid Link projects. This opinion has been published by the [Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources](#).

Following a decision by ABP that the portion of the North-South project within the Republic of Ireland does not fall within the transitional provisions of the PCI regulation, EirGrid commenced engagement with ABP in accordance with the "Manual of Permit Granting Process Procedures" for Projects of Common Interest (PCI). On July 31st EirGrid submitted a Concept for Public Participation report as part of this engagement. The objective of this report was to present to ABP, as the Competent Authority, the

consultation carried out on this project to date as well as proposing a plan for future consultation

May 2014

An Bord Pleanála (ABP) was designated as the competent authority for PCI projects in Ireland. Following this, ABP developed and published a "Manual of Permit Granting Process Procedures" for PCIs. The Manual was published on 15 May 2014. ABP has also considered whether or not "transitional provisions" of the European PCI regulation should apply to the North-South project. Under the PCI regulation, the transitional provisions would apply to projects which are within the planning process.

Having considered the history and complexity of the North-South project, submitted and withdrawn in Ireland and currently within the planning process in Northern Ireland, ABP has decided that the portion of the North-South project within the Republic of Ireland does not fall within the transitional provisions of the PCI regulation.

January 2014

In January 2014 the Government appointed an Independent Expert Panel (IEP) to oversee and facilitate a "comparative analysis of underground and overhead alternatives for the Grid West and Grid Link projects." In addition, the IEP was tasked with providing an opinion to the Minister for Energy on "the compatibility of the methodologies to be employed on the GL and GW projects with what has already been done on the North South Transmission Line project".



ARCHIVE

Previous project activity updates can be accessed at the following links:

- 2013 <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment/projectactivity/2013/>
- 2012 <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment/projectactivity/2012/>
- 2011 <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment/projectactivity/2012/>
- 2011 <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment/projectactivity/2011/>
- 2010 <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment/projectactivity/2010/>
- 2009 <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment/projectactivity/2009/>
- 2008 <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment/projectactivity/2008/>
- 2007 <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment/projectactivity/2007/>
- 2006 <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment/projectactivity/2006/>
- 2005 <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment/projectactivity/2005/>
- 2004 <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment/projectactivity/2004/>
- 2002 <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment/projectactivity/2002/>

Record of Changes to Project Website

13th November 2014

1. Section 1 – Overview: Updated to reflect the current position.
2. Published An Bord Pleanála's letter of 13th October 2014 and EirGrid's associated proposal for the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted as part of the application file.
3. Section 5 – Project Activity: Inserted link to the Project Summary Report of 29th September 2014.

29th September 2014

1. In the Overview section, under the heading "What is happening now", the words "a minor" have been removed from the sentence "On 10th September 2014 the CPP was approved, subject to a minor modification, by ABP."

25th September 2014

1. Section 1 – Overview: Updated to reflect the current position.
2. Concept for Public Participation published.
3. Section 5 – Project Activity: Details on 'project activity' for January 2014 and July 2014 that were shown in Section 1 – Overview now transferred to this Section.
4. 2013 Archive of Project Activity: - December 2013 Public Information Leaflet reinstated.