

**Your Ref:**

**Re:** North-South 400kV Interconnector.  
Co. Monaghan, Co. Cavan, Co. Meath.

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer to the above mentioned proposed development.

In accordance with section 134(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board has decided to hold an oral hearing of the application.

In this regard two Senior Planning Inspectors have been assigned by the Board to conduct the hearing.

Due to the scale and complexity of the case, and the large number of written submissions received, the Inspectors will be preparing a detailed agenda for the hearing. To facilitate this you are requested to indicate if it is your intention to make a formal oral submission at the hearing. If it is your intention to do so you are also requested to provide the following information:

- (a) Name and address (townland as appropriate).
- (b) If it is intended to group together with other parties and to nominate a single representative for the hearing, details of these arrangements (see below - third bullet point).
- (c) What geographical area (if relevant) the submission relates to. Identifying the closest proposed towers by number would be very helpful.
- (d) Topic(s), raised in your written submission, that you wish to pursue at the hearing. Headings only - no elaboration at this stage.
- (e) The approximate length of time that your submission will take.
- (f) Details of any technical or other experts that you intend to call upon.
- (g) Whether or not it is intended to question other parties at the hearing if invited to do so by the presiding Inspector.
- (h) Whether you intend to make your submission (and ask questions if appropriate) through English or Irish and any specific requirements you have in this regard. In this connection the Board notes that the site of the proposed development traverses lands both within and outside a Gaeltacht area and that submissions have been received in both languages.
- (i) Details of any specific requirements/ facilities having regard to the Disability and Equal Status Acts.

**Your response, by letter or email, should be received by the Board no later than 5.30 pm on Thursday 4th February 2016. If no response is received it will be assumed that you will not be participating in the hearing. Any responses by email should be sent to [sids@pleanala.ie](mailto:sids@pleanala.ie).**

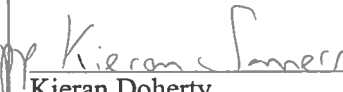
In preparing your response you should note the following:

- There is no obligation on any party to make a submission at the hearing. All written submissions already received will be considered in full by the Board in its determination of the case.
- The basic structure of the hearing is likely to comprise two parts. Part 1 will deal with strategic / generic issues, including, for example, alternatives, landscape, health, etc. Part 2 will deal with site specific / local issues, ie, impacts on individual properties, landholdings etc. (excluding any issues dealt with under Part 1). These latter issues will be dealt with on an area basis, moving along the route of the proposed development in a north-south direction.
- As there is a considerable commonality of issues raised in a large number of the written submissions parties are requested to consider grouping together and nominating a single representative / spokesperson / team for the purposes of participating at the hearing. This is the most effective way for parties to make their case and it will also greatly facilitate the efficient running of the hearing.
- All documentation / submissions already on the Boards file will, for the purposes of the hearing, be taken as read. The focus of the hearing will be on the outstanding points of difference between the parties.
- It is intended that the hearing will follow on logically from the Board's case file. The last submission on the file is the applicant's response to the initial submissions / observations lodged by other parties. The first submissions, therefore, at the hearing, within each part / module, will be from these other parties, responding to the applicant's last submission. The applicant will then respond to these submissions. Questions and answers will then be facilitated where relevant.
- Parties will be required to make their submissions orally. Written submissions will not be accepted at the hearing except in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the presiding Inspector.
- Parties will be required to be concise, relevant, and to avoid repetition.
- The agenda will provide for strict time limits within which each party may make submissions or question other parties. It may not always be possible to allocate all of the time requested. In setting time allocations the Inspectors will have regard to the nature and extent of the written submissions already received and noting that, as required by the regulations, these include the reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission is based in full. As a guide you are advised that any individual submission is likely to be limited to a period in the order of 30 minutes to 1 hour. Closing submissions, if required at all, will be limited to 5 minutes per party.
- Given the large numbers of written submissions received by the Board it is anticipated that the hearing will be arranged on the basis of dealing with a specified number of submissions on any given day. Parties, therefore, other than the applicant, should only need to attend on appointed days. In this way it is hoped to facilitate parties to participate at the hearing in an efficient and effective manner and to make it easier for parties to make arrangements for attendance. All parties, of course, may attend on other days if they so wish.

**For your information the hearing is likely to commence in early March and to be conducted (not necessarily continuously) over a 12 week period approximately. The intention is that formal notice of the hearing, including the agenda and details of venue, will be sent to all parties approximately 2 weeks in advance of commencement.**

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

Yours faithfully,

  
Kieran Doherty  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737248