

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

Date: 14th December 2018

Our Ref: 160727

Your Ref:

Re: Strategic Infrastructure Development – Planning Application for Electrical Substation and Associated Works at Timahoe East, County Kildare

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of our clients, Bord na Móna Powergen Ltd. and ESB Wind Development Ltd., please find enclosed a Planning Application for the proposed construction of an electrical substation, overhead line grid connection and all associated site works in the townland of Timahoe East, County Kildare.

This application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála as 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' (SID) under the provisions of Section 37 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006, the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, and the associated Planning Regulations. This position was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála to the applicant on 30th May 2018 (following pre-application consultations with the Board, (Ref: ABP- 300398-17 refers), a copy of that direction is appended to this letter for completeness.

The proposed development will constitute the provision of the following:

- 1no. 110kV onsite electrical substation with associated electrical plant, electrical equipment, welfare facilities and waste water holding tank and security fencing
- 110kV overhead line grid connection cabling
- Upgrade of existing tracks and provision of new site access roads
- Site drainage
- All associated site development and ancillary works

A ten-year planning permission is being sought. The application documentation includes an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

The proposed development forms part of a larger renewable energy project at this location. The Timahoe solar energy project is the subject of a planning application directly to Kildare County Council, as instructed by the Board in the direction that issued. The larger renewable energy project provides for a solar photovoltaic array and all associated infrastructure including temporary construction compounds, battery storage compound, upgrade of existing tracks and provision of new site access roads, site drainage, forestry felling and replanting, permanent signage and all associated site development and ancillary works.

As the project requires Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) the application documentation includes a copy of the confirmation notice which issued from the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government on the 13th December 2018. The correspondence issued confirms the EIA portal ID number for the project (2018076) and that that the details have been uploaded onto the Department's portal. This complies with the requirements of article 22(2)(ga) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations) 2018.

The following documents are included in the application pack:

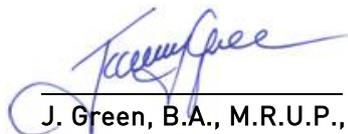
- Planning Application Form
- Planning Application Drawings,
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in 4 volumes:
 - Volume 1 – EIAR text including Non-Technical Summary (NTS)
 - Volume 2 – Photomontages
 - Volume 3 – EIAR Appendices
 - Volume 4 – EIAR Appendices
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)
- Newspaper Notices (circulated in both national and local papers)
- Landowners Letters of Consent
- Site Notices
- Copies of notification letters sent to relevant bodies as prescribed by An Bord Pleanála
- SID Planning Application Fee (paid by Electronic Fund Transfer)

It is confirmed that 3 hard copies and 7 electronic copies of the Application Pack are enclosed with this letter. The Local Authority have received 5 hard and 5 electronic copies also. All prescribed bodies as identified in the schedule attached to the application form in respect of part 18 are being provided with application documentation in the format they have requested.

In the interests of clarity, please note that the EIAR and NIS documents submitted provide a comprehensive assessment of the entirety of the proposed project. Two applications are being lodged (one to An Bord Pleanála for the substation and associated 110kV works, and the other to Kildare County Council for the solar farm, battery storage and associated works) and each is supported by the same EIAR and NIS which considers the entirety of the proposed project. Furthermore, while the planning application drawings submitted provide each consenting authority with specific layout plans relating to the elements of the proposed project that are subject to each of the separate applications, the drawings submitted also provide comprehensive details of all elements of the project to allow full consideration of the project, and facilitate the Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment processes that must be undertaken.

I trust that you have all the information you require to progress the application. If, however, you have any queries or require to discuss any matter in detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



J. Green, B.A., M.R.U.P., M.I.P.I.
McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan

Encl.

