



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of 2nd Meeting ABP-305271-19

Case Reference / Description	ABP-305271-19 400kV Cross-Shannon Cable Project between Moneypoint 400kV substation, Co. Clare and Kilpaddoge 220kV station, Co. Kerry.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	2 nd		
Date	13/03/20	Start Time	11 a.m.
Location	Cathal Brugha Room	End Time	11.40 a.m.
Chairperson	Brendan Wyse	Executive Officer	Kieran Somers

Attendees		
Representing An Bord Pleanála		
Staff Member	Email Address	Phone
Brendan Wyse, Assistant Director of Planning		
Una Crosse, Senior Planning Inspector		
Ellen Morrin, Senior Administrative Officer		
Kieran Somers, Executive Officer		

Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Tomas Bradley, Senior Planner		

The meeting commenced at 11 a.m.

Introduction:

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant held on the 25th October, 2019 and the record of this. The Board enquired if the prospective applicant had any comments to make on the record. The prospective applicant replied that it had no comments to make.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

- The prospective applicant recapped on the main elements of the proposed development and the overall need for the project. The proposed Cross-Shannon Cable Project involves the laying of a new 400kV cable, principally submarine, across the Shannon Estuary between the electricity substations at Moneypoint, County Clare and Kilpaddoge, County Kerry. The prospective applicant stated that there are no major changes to this since the time of its previous meeting with the Board and reiterated that the project is principally proposed to facilitate getting the surplus volume of renewable energy (especially wind) in the south-west region onto the 400kV network and onward to demand centres across the country. Noting this, the Board's representatives advised that the need and rationale for the proposal should be clearly outlined in the documentation accompanying the proposed planning application.

The prospective applicant set out the location for the proposed development which traverses the Shannon Estuary from south to north.

The proposed development will comprise of a 400kV underground cable

connection, two underground transition joint bays (where the submarine cable makes landfall), a 400kV AIS bay with electrical equipment and associated and ancillary development. With respect to the consents to be sought for the project generally, the prospective applicant said that the SID planning application would be lodged with the Board prior to any application for a foreshore licence. It noted for the record that there are still some outstanding matters to be resolved apropos construction accesses and that engagements with relevant landowners are on-going in this respect. In response to the Board's query on the matter, the prospective applicant said that all construction access tracks to be utilised, and any associated works, will be contained within the red line application boundary.

- The prospective applicant referred to the existing Moneypoint GIS substation and set out the nature and extent of the new 400kV cable route to link into this substation. A cross section of the typical trench on land to facilitate the new 400kV cable route was provided and the prospective applicant also provided detail on the typical landfall transition joint bays.
- The prospective applicant referred to the existing Kilpaddocke GIS substation and the AIS bay within this facility. It also noted for the record the fact that there is on-going construction work occurring in the vicinity of this location. With regard to this, the Board's representatives reminded the prospective applicant to be cognisant of extant permissions and existing development in the consideration of in-combination effects in the NIS.
- The prospective applicant reiterated its opinion that, given its nature and function, the proposed development would constitute strategic infrastructure development. With regard to this opinion on the SID status, the prospective applicant pointed out that the proposed development is for the purposes of electricity transmission as defined under the Act, will form part of the 400kV transmission network, will contribute substantially to the fulfilment of objectives in the National Planning Framework, will be of strategic economic or social importance with regard to the Climate Action Plan and will occur in the functional area of more than one local authority.

- With respect to EIA, the prospective applicant re-stated its consideration that the proposed development is not of a type that falls within Annex I and Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and relevant Irish legislation. It does not currently propose to lodge an environmental impact assessment report with the planning application and said that an Planning and Environmental Report addressing relevant matters would be submitted with the forthcoming planning application.
- With regard to the matter of Appropriate Assessment, the prospective applicant noted the fact that the Shannon Estuary is a Natura 2000 site. It said that it is its intention to submit a Natura Impact statement with the planning application.
- The prospective applicant sought further advice from the Board's representatives in relation to the plans and particulars which the Board will require for the purposes of considering the planning application and the likely timeframe and sequencing which will apply to the application process. It also requested advice on the matters of the public notices and consultations with relevant prescribed bodies. The Board's representatives suggested that, in addition to standard plans and particulars, the planning application might include details of the cable route with particular regard as to how it traverses the estuary and cross sections for same. The Board also advised that a robust NIS should accompany the planning application. In response to the Board's query on the matter, the prospective applicant confirmed that Moneypoint is a Seveso Site. The Board advised the prospective applicant to engage with the Health and Safety Authority and also noted that it would be one of the prescribed bodies which will have to be formally notified of the planning application. It advised the prospective applicant that a full list of all relevant prescribed bodies will accompany its letter determining the SID status of the proposed development.
- The prospective applicant indicated its intention to lodge the formal planning application circa early Summer 2020. It advised generally that landowner and community consultation is on-going as is the preparation of the documentation to accompany the planning application. A parallel

Foreshore Licence Application is also on-going with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Application procedures:

The Board provided the prospective applicant with advice on the making of a formal planning application to it as follows:

- An application can only be lodged after formal notice has been received by the prospective applicant from the Board.
- The application must be made by way of full completion of an application form to the Board.
- The Board requires as a minimum that the public notice of the application would be in two newspapers circulating in the area to which the proposed development relates, one of which should be a national newspaper. A site notice in accordance with the protocols set out in the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001-2018 must also be erected. The date of the erection of the site notice is to be inserted; otherwise it should contain the same information as the newspaper notices and should remain in place for the duration of the period during which the public can make submissions to the Board.
- The documentation relating to the application is to be available for public inspection at the offices of the relevant planning authority and the offices of An Bord Pleanála. In this regard, the requirements in terms of the number of copies of the documentation to be lodged with the relevant planning authority and the Board is as follows:

Planning Authority – 5 hard copies and 2 electronic copies.

An Bord Pleanála – 3 hard copies and 7 electronic copies.

- The Board also requires the prospective applicant to provide a stand-alone website containing all of the application documentation. The address of this website is to be included in the public notice.
- The public notice of the application is to indicate that the application documentation will be available for public inspection after the elapsment of at least 5 working days from the date of the publication of the notice so as to ensure that the documentation is in place for such inspection.
- The time period for the making of submissions by the public is to be at least seven weeks from the date the documents become available for inspection (not from the date of publication of the public notices). The Board requires that the public notice must indicate the deadline time and date for the making of submissions to the Board. It was agreed that the prospective applicant could advise the Board's administrative personnel in advance of the details of its proposed public notice and that any further definitive advice on same including confirmation of dates/times could be communicated at that stage.
- The service of notice of the application on any prescribed bodies must include a clear statement that the person served can make submissions to the Board by the same deadline as specified in the public notice.
- The service letter on the planning authority with the necessary copies of the documents should be addressed to the Chief Executive and should also alert the authority to the Board's requirement that the application documentation be made available for public inspection/purchase by the planning authority in accordance with the terms of the public notice (copies of any newspaper/site notices should be provided to the planning authority). It is the Board's intention that all of the application documentation will remain available for public inspection during the currency of the application.

- The depositing of the application documentation and the making of the application to the Board should take place immediately after the publication of the notice and the completion of the service requirements. It should not await the elapsment of the period for the public to make submissions. The application documentation should include a copy of all letters serving notice of the application on prescribed bodies and the local authority, copies of the actual newspaper notices as published and the site notice.
- The fee for lodging an application is €100,000. The fee for making a submission in respect of an application is €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies which are exempt from this fee). There is an existing provision enabling the Board to recover its costs for processing any application from the applicant. In addition, it was pointed out that the legislation also enables the Board direct payment of costs or a contribution towards same to the planning authority and third parties.

The sequencing of the making of the application was summarised as follows:

- Publish newspaper notices.
- Serve copy of relevant documents on bodies/persons required to be notified of the application. Deposit required number of copies with relevant planning authority.
- Deposit required number of copies of application documentation with An Bord Pleanála and make an application to it.

Conclusion:

The record of the instant meeting will issue in the meantime and the prospective applicant may submit any comments it has on this in writing. Following receipt of this record, the prospective applicant may then write to the Board to request formal closure of the pre-application consultation process.

Brendan Wyse
Assistant Director of Planning