



An
Bord
Pleanála

Inspector's Report

ABP-305271-19

Development	400kV Cross-Shannon Cable Project.
Location	Between Moneypoint 400kV substation, Co. Clare and Kilpaddoge 220kV station, Co. Kerry.
Planning Authority	Kerry County Council & Clare County Council
Prospective Applicant	EirGrid PLC
Type of Application	SID Pre-application – whether project is or is not strategic infrastructure development.
Date of Pre-Application Meetings	25 October 2019 & 13 March 2020
Date of Site Inspection	19 March 2020
Inspector	Una Crosse

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. This report relates to pre-application discussions held with EirGrid Plc regarding whether or not their proposed 'Cross-Shannon Cable project' which comprises a 400kV c.5km AC (alternating current) underground cable between the existing Moneypoint 400kV GIS substation in County Clare and the existing Kilpaddoge 220kV substation in County Kerry constitutes strategic infrastructure, as defined by the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).
- 1.2. This report describes the location and nature of the proposed development, the applicant's submission, the consultations held and the legal provisions which are relevant to the proposed development. It recommends that the proposed development constitutes strategic infrastructure and it sets out reasons and considerations to support this conclusion.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1. The site of the proposed development extends from the existing Kilpaddoge 220kV substation on the southern shore of the Shannon Estuary across the estuary to the existing Moneypoint 400kV substation on the northern shore of the estuary. The existing Kilpaddoge substation is located close to the southern shoreline of the estuary. There is an area of ground within the compound of the existing substation where it is proposed to develop the proposed 400kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) bay. The existing substation compound is accessed via an existing access road from the local road to the west of Tarbert. There is a battery storage compound currently under construction to the east of the compound accessed by the same access road as the substation. The area in the vicinity of the substation accommodates overhead power lines and towers. From this compound it is proposed to traverse approximately 2.8km of the Shannon estuary to the northern shore.
- 2.2. The area between the proposed northern landfall and the Moneypoint facility comprises agricultural fields and a series of agricultural lanes until it enters the Moneypoint facility and connects into the existing 400kV substation. The Moneypoint facility is a large industrial facility including the powerstation and substations on the northern shore of the estuary. The area in the vicinity of the facility includes overhead powerlines and towers, wind turbines and agricultural holdings.

3.0 The Proposed Development

Context

- 3.1. As outlined in the correspondence presented to the Board a high volume of renewable energy, particularly wind, is generated in the south-west region with a surplus generated to that which is required within the region. Given the inability to currently store this energy in any significant quantity it is necessary to find a way to move this additional power from the south-west to demand centres in other parts of the country. The proposal seeks to move the power via the Kilpaddoge AIS bay across the estuary via the submarine cable into the existing 400kV substation at Moneypoint and onto the existing cross-Ireland 400kV high capacity network which extends from same. I would note for the Board's information that this proposal comprises part of a series of upgrades to the network proposed instead of the previously proposed large-scale Gridlink project.
- 3.2. The Board should also note that there is an existing 220 kV cross Shannon underground cable which crosses the estuary from the existing Kilpaddoge substation to the existing Moneypoint 220 kV substation. This was considered exempted development and the offshore element specifically holds a foreshore licence. Some aspects of the project were also provided for under the extant permissions for Kilpaddoge 220 kV Station and Moneypoint 400 kV GIS Station.
- 3.3. It should be noted that the existing power station complex at Moneypoint is licenced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under an Industrial Emissions (IE) Licence (Ref.P0605-04) and is an Upper Tier COMAH site.

The Proposed Development

- 3.4. The proposed development, as outlined in the most recent correspondence to the Board received in a presentation provided to the Board at the meeting on 13 March 2020, provides for the following:

Underground Cable

- A 400 kV alternating current (AC) underground cable connection (UGC) which is approximately 5km in length between the existing Moneypoint 400 kV GIS substation in County Clare and the existing Kilpaddoge 220 kV substation in County Kerry. The cable comprises the following:

- Approximately 40m of underground cable on lands within the Kilpaddoge substation compound from the proposed AIS bay (outlined below).
- Approximately 2.8km of submarine cabling across the estuary which it is proposed will be buried by way of ploughing, jetting, trenching or cutting the seabed material at a suitable depth of up to approximately 8m depending on seabed conditions.
- Approximately 1.8km of underground cable from the proposed landfall on the northern shore across agricultural lands (some third party lands) and lanes and into the Moneypoint compound. The cable route includes a series of joint bays at intervals along the route.

Transition Joint Bays

- Two underground transition joint bays, one at Moneypoint and the other at Kilpaddoge, which are approximately 10m long, 10m wide and 2.5m deep where the submarine cable makes landfall connecting with the onshore underground cable.

400 kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) Bay

- A new 400 kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) bay within an extended compound of the existing Kilpaddoge 220 kV substation. The AIS bay will accommodate electrical equipment up to approximately 10m height and lightning protection masts up to approximately 25m.
- All associated and ancillary site development works.

3.5. The prospective applicant has submitted layout plans for the Moneypoint and Kilpaddoge elements of the proposal with the documentation received by the Board on 28 February 2020.

4.0 Policy Context

4.1. National Planning Framework

4.1.1. One of the National Strategic Outcomes (8) set out in the NPF is the “Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society”. It is stated in the NPF that “*the National Climate Policy Position establishes the national objective of achieving transition to a*

competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. This objective will shape investment choices over the coming decades in line with the National Mitigation Plan and the National Adaptation Framework. New energy systems and transmission grids will be necessary for a more distributed, renewables-focused energy generation system, harnessing both the considerable on-shore and off-shore potential from energy sources such as wind, wave and solar and connecting the richest sources of that energy to the major sources of demand”.

- 4.1.2. Section 9.2 of the Plan addresses Resource Efficiency and Transition to a low carbon economy. There are a number of National Policy Objectives which seek to reduce carbon footprint by integrating climate action into the planning system. The NPF states, in relation to energy policy and planning that Ireland’s national energy policy is focused on three pillars: *“(1) sustainability, (2) security of supply and (3) competitiveness. The Government recognise that Ireland must reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector by at least 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels, while at the same time ensuring security of supply of competitive energy sources to our citizens and businesses”.*
- 4.1.3. The NPF further states that *“in the energy sector, transition to a low carbon economy from renewable sources of energy is an integral part of Ireland’s climate change strategy and renewable energies are a means of reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. The forthcoming Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework will aim to identify strategic areas for the sustainable development of renewable electricity projects of scale, in a sustainable manner, compatible with environmental and cultural heritage, landscape and amenity considerations. The development of the Wind Energy Guidelines and the Renewable Electricity Development Plan will also facilitate informed decision making in relation to onshore renewable energy infrastructure”.*
- 4.1.4. National Policy Objective 55 states: *“promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a low carbon economy by 2050”.*

4.2. Regional Spatial Economic Strategy for the Southern Region

- 4.2.1. The RSES for the Southern Region came into effect in January 2020 and includes both Clare and Kerry. Chapter 8 deals with Water and Energy Utilities with Section 8.2 of the document dealing with the Strategic Energy Grid. The document states that *“the Region is particularly rich in renewable energy resources and contains significant energy generation infrastructure of national and regional importance, including hydro-generation, thermal generation at Moneypoint, Tarbert, Marina, Aghada, Whitegate and Great Island”*. It continues by stating that *“even with significant energy demand centres, the Region is currently generating more than demand at present Eirgrid’s Grid Development Strategy, Your Grid, Your Tomorrow addresses the overall need of the system and will increase transfer capacity from the south and southwest to the Eastern and Midland Region. This signifies the strategic role of the Region’s energy assets in national energy generation and transmission”*.
- 4.2.2. It also states that *“the existing infrastructure, developed over many years, represents major and on-going capital and infrastructural investment in strategic national assets and is essential for the continued provision of a secure and reliable electricity supply. This is particularly the case within electricity generation stations including Ardnacrusha hydro-station (86MW) on the river Shannon, Inniscarra & Carrigadrohid hydrostations (27MW) on the river Lee and three thermal plants, one at Moneypoint (915MW) and two thermal stations at Aghada (270MW & 435MW)”*.
- 4.2.3. It is stated that *“the RSES supports a safe, secure and reliable system of transmission and distribution of electricity and the successful implementation of the Ireland’s Grid Development Strategy, Your Grid, Your Tomorrow, prepared by EirGrid. The transmission grid is currently robust enough to service the growth strategy for the Region and demand locations”*.
- 4.2.4. The following Regional Policy Objectives are noted:
- **RPO 219** - New Energy Infrastructure and states that *“it is an objective to support the sustainable reinforcement and provision of new energy infrastructure by infrastructure providers (subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process) to ensure the energy needs of future population and economic expansion within designated growth areas and across the Region can*

be delivered in a sustainable and timely manner and that capacity is available at local and regional scale to meet future needs”.

- **RPO 222** - Electricity Infrastructure states that *“it is an objective to support the development of a safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity and to support and facilitate the development of enhanced electricity networks and facilitate new transmission infrastructure projects that might be brought forward in the lifetime of this plan under EirGrid’s (2017) Grid Development Strategy (subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process) to serve the existing and future needs of the Region and strengthen all-island energy infrastructure and interconnection capacity”.*

4.3. Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023

- 4.3.1. Moneypoint and the environs of same is located within the administrative area of Clare County Council.
- 4.3.2. Chapter 6 of the current County Development Plan addresses economic development and enterprise. Section 6.3.7 of the Plan deals with Moneypoint Power station and states *“Moneypoint is one of Ireland’s largest electricity stations, located on the Shannon Estuary near Kilrush. It has a capacity to generate up to 915MW of electricity each year and is capable of meeting approximately 25% of Ireland’s demand for electricity. It is primarily fuelled by coal, brought ashore via the ESB’s deepwater port on the Shannon Estuary. The plant, when combined with Tarbert on the south shore, forms a significant industry and energy hub on the estuary. Moneypoint is identified as a Strategic Development Location in the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary and the lands are zoned for Marine-Related Industry”.* Development Plan Objective CDP6.10 relates to Moneypoint Power Station and its potential future diversification.
- 4.3.3. Section 6.3.14 of the Plan addresses Energy. The following Development Plan objective is of note: CDP6.17 – energy supply where it is an objective *‘to contribute to the economic development and enhanced employment opportunities in the County by:*
- (a) Facilitating the development of a self-sustaining, secure, reliable and efficient renewable energy supply and storage for the County;*

(b) Enabling the County to become a leader in the production of sustainable and renewable energy for national and international consumption through research, technology development and innovation’.

4.3.4. Chapter 8 of the Plan deals with Physical Infrastructure, Environment and Energy. Section 8.7 of the Plan addresses Seveso Sites with Moneypoint an Upper Tier site. Section 8.8 addresses energy and communications. Development Objective CDP8.37 addresses energy security with the objective *‘to promote and facilitate the achievement of secure and efficient energy supply, storage and distribution for County Clare’*. Section 8.8.4 relates to the electricity network with CDP8.38 stating the following:

“(a) To facilitate improvements in energy infrastructure and encourage the expansion of the infrastructure within the County;
(b) To facilitate future alternative renewable energy developments and associated utility infrastructure throughout the County;
(c) To collaborate with Eirgrid to facilitate the delivery of quality connection, transmission and market services to electricity generators, suppliers and customers utilising the high voltage electricity system in County Clare;
(d) To collaborate with Eirgrid over the lifetime of the Plan to ensure that the County’s minimum target of 966MW renewable energy generation is achieved and can be accommodated on the electricity network in County Clare;
(e) To have regard to environmental and visual considerations in the assessment of developments of this nature”.

4.3.5. Chapter 11 of the Plan specifically addresses the Shannon Estuary. Section 11.3.3.2 deals with Moneypoint. Development Plan Objective CDP11.6 dealing with the Moneypoint which is designated as Strategic Development Location B (Map 11B).

4.3.6. Chapter 13 deals with Landscape with Development Plan Objective 13.4 addressing the Shannon Estuary Working Landscape where it is stated that it is an objective of the Development Plan:

“(a) To permit development in these areas that will sustain economic activity of regional and national significance – especially through the protection of resources to sustain largescale energy projects, logistics, large-scale manufacturing and

associated infrastructure. All such developments shall be required to conform to relevant management and conservation objectives for designated and protected habitats and species within the estuary;

(b) That selection of appropriate sites in the first instance within this landscape, together with consideration of the details of siting and design, are directed towards reducing visual impact and that residual visual impacts are minimised;

(c) That particular regard should be given to avoiding intrusions on scenic routes and on ridges or shorelines. Developments in these areas will be required to demonstrate:

i That sites have been selected to avoid visually prominent locations wherever feasible;

ii That site layouts avail of existing topography and vegetation to reduce visibility from scenic routes, walking trails, public amenities and roads;

iii That design for buildings and structures reduce visual impact through careful choice of form, finish and colours and that any site works seek to reduce visual impact of the development”.

4.4. Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021

- 4.4.1. The current plan addresses economic development and employment at Chapter 4. Section 4.6 deals with the Shannon Estuary and states that *“the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP), facilitates the diversification of the economy, through the promotion of commercial/industrial employment, environmentally friendly aqua culture, maritime, energy, transport, recreation and tourism industries in a sustainable manner. It also sets out the importance of safeguarding the Estuary’s sensitive environmental resources and natural heritage of national, European and International significance. The SIFP has undergone its own Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment process. The Council will have regard to the provisions of the SIFP and its environmental reports in the assessment of proposals for development in this area. Kerry County Council recognises the Shannon Estuary as a major shipping artery and further recognises the ongoing potential of the Tarbert Ballylongford landbank to be sustainably developed for Industry”.* Objectives ES-22-24 deal with matters related to the implementation of the SIFP.

4.4.2. Section 4.11.1 of the Plan addresses the Prevention of Major Hazardous Accidents with two sites in Kerry both of which are in Tarbert (National Oil Reserve Agency and Scottish Sustainable Energy Site).

4.5. European Sites

4.5.1. The site traverses the River Shannon which is part of the Lower River Shannon SAC – site code 002165. The qualifying interests for this site are as follows:

- 1029 - Freshwater Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*
- 1095 - Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*
- 1096 - Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri*
- 1099 - River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*
- 1106 - Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* (only in fresh water)
- 1110 - Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
- 1130 - Estuaries
- 1140 - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- 1150 - *Coastal lagoons
- 1160 - Large shallow inlets and bays
- 1170 - Reefs
- 1220 - Perennial vegetation of stony banks
- 1230 - Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
- 1310 - *Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand
- 1330 - Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
- 1349 - Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*
- 1355 - Otter *Lutra lutra*
- 1410 - Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- 3260 - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation
- 6410 - *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)

- 91E0 - *Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)

4.5.2. Priority habitats denoted by *. Conservation Objectives for the site are dated August 2012.

5.0 Planning History

5.1. Kilpaddoge 220 kV Station

5.1.1. ABP Ref: PL08B.VA0007 – permission granted by the Board on 26 September 2011 for the development of a 220/110kV substation with associated works including the removal of 220/110 kV overhead lines and their replacement by a reduced number of lines plus underground cabling.

5.2. Moneypoint 400 kV GIS Station

5.2.1. There is an extensive planning history on the Moneypoint site. The following is of particular relevance:

Clare CC Ref: 14/190 – permission granted in May 2014 for development at the existing 400 kV substation site, which consists of: new indoor Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) 400 kV substation building (3463m² and 17m high), two new 400/220 kV transformers with associated Switchgear, three new 30 meter high lightning masts, and associated drainage and site works. The application relates to a previous grant of planning permission (Reg. Ref. P11-457).

5.3. Existing Submarine Cable

5.3.1. The applicant outlined that the cable element of the existing Kilpaddoge – Moneypoint 220 KV subsea cable, completed c.2006, was considered exempted development and the offshore element specifically holds a foreshore licence. This cable was completed c. 2006. Some aspects of the project were also provided for under extant permissions for Kilpaddoge 220 kV Station and Moneypoint 400 kV GIS Station above.

6.0 The Applicant's Submission

6.1. In their letter to the Board seeking a determination on whether the 220kV substation is strategic infrastructure (received 26 August 2019) the applicant sought the Board's view on the following, inter alia:

- i. Whether or not the development is strategic infrastructure development in accordance with the provisions of Section 182A of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended and consequently:
- ii. The procedures involved in making such an application; and
- iii. What considerations, related to proper planning and sustainable development or the environment, may, in the opinion of the Board, have a bearing on its decisions in relation to the application including the need for Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.

6.2. The details of the proposal, which were outlined in the documentation received, are as per those outlined in section 3 above. Following the first pre-application meeting, correspondence was received from the prospective applicant (dated 26th February 2020) which sought to provide additional detail on the proposal which included a detailed description of the proposed development and relevant drawings illustrating same. It is stated that it is EirGrid's current consideration that the prospective development is not a type that falls within Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive and relevant Irish legislation. It is also stated that it is EirGrid's intention to submit a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) with the application.

7.0 Consultations

7.1. Two pre-application meetings were held with the prospective applicant (25th October 2019 & 13th March 2020). Minutes are attached to the file. Two presentations made to the Board's representatives at the meetings are also attached to the file. The principal matters arising related to: need for the proposal, emerging best performing options for the proposed route and refinement of the project, EIA and AA.

8.0 Legislative Context

8.1. Strategic Infrastructure Development

- 8.1.1. Section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) requires, where a person (referred to as the ‘undertaker’) intends to carry out development comprising or for the purposes of electricity transmission, the undertaker shall prepare an application for approval of the development to the Board. Section 182A(9) of the Act states that the term ‘transmission’ shall be construed in accordance with section 2(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999, and for the purposes of section 182A, shall also be construed as meaning the transport of electricity by means of a high voltage line (equal to or greater than 110kilovolts) or an interconnector (whether ownership of the interconnector will be vested in the undertaker or not).
- 8.1.2. Section 2(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999 defines transmission as ‘...*the transport of electricity by means of a transmission system, ... a system which consists, wholly or mainly, of high voltage lines and electric plant and which is used for conveying of electricity from a generating station to a sub-station, from one generating station to another, from one substation to another or to or from any interconnector or to final customers but shall not include any such lines which the Board may, from time to time, ...specify as being part of the distribution system ...*’
- 8.1.3. Electric plant is defined as ‘*any plant, apparatus or appliance used for, or for purposes connected with, the generation, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity, other than by (a) an electric line, (b) a meter..., or (c) an electrical appliance..*’

8.2. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 8.2.1. Section 182A(2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) requires that in respect of development referred to in section 182A(1), which belongs to a class of development for the purposes of section 176 (prescribed classes of development requiring environmental impact assessment), the undertaker shall prepare an environmental impact statement or Natura Impact Statement in respect of the proposed development.

8.2.2. Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) transposes Annex I and II of the EIA Directive and sets out prescribed classes of development, for which an environmental impact assessment is required. The following classes are noted:

- Part 1(20) of the Schedule refers to ‘Construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kilovolts or more and a length of more than 15 kilometres’.
- Part 2(3)(b) refers to ‘Industrial installations for carrying gas, steam and hot water with a potential heat output of 300 megawatts or more, or transmission of electrical energy by overhead cables not included in Part 1 of this Schedule, where the voltage would be 200 kilovolts or more’.
- Part 2(13) refers to changes, extensions, development and testing with Part 2(13)(a) referring to any change or extension of development which would (i) result in the development being of a class listed in part 1 or paragraphs 1 to 12 of Part 2 of this Schedule, and (ii) result in an increase in size greater than – 25 per cent, or an amount equal to 50 per cent of the appropriate threshold.

9.0 Relevant Cases

9.1. None of note.

10.0 Assessment

10.1. Strategic Infrastructure

10.1.1. The proposed development will comprise a new 400kV AC underground cable (UGC) of approximately 5 km in length, predominantly subsea across the Shannon estuary, connecting the existing Moneypoint GIS substation to the north of the estuary with the existing Kilpaddoge 220kV substation to the south of the estuary. A new 400kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) bay with electrical equipment to be located within an extended compound at the Kilpaddoge 220kV substation. It is stated in the documentation that the proposal provides that a high volume of renewable energy generated in the southwest region, particularly wind, which is surplus to that required in the region and which cannot be stored in any significant

quantity can be directed through the Moneypoint station onto the cross-Ireland 400 kV high capacity network extending from same. Accordingly, the development falls within the definition of transmission set out in section 2(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999 and, therefore comprises strategic infrastructure development under Section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

10.2. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 10.2.1. The prospective applicant has sought the Board's view on whether or not an application for approval for the proposed development should be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment report. The correspondence submitted to the Board dated 26 February 2020 states that it is EirGrid's current consideration that the prospective development is not a type of development that falls within Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive and relevant Irish legislation.
- 10.2.2. Section 182A (2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended states that "in the case of development referred to in *subsection (1)* which belongs to a class of development identified for the purposes of *section 176*, the undertaker shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, an environmental impact assessment report or Natura impact statement or both that report and that statement, as the case may be, in respect of the development. Section 176 sets out the prescribed classes of development requiring assessment.
- 10.2.3. The underground cable infrastructure, landfall joints and the proposed Air insulated Switchgear bay and associated infrastructure is not of a type requiring environmental impact assessment under Part 1 or 2. Therefore I would contend that the Board is not required to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment in relation to the Proposed Development as it does not constitute a "project" within either Annex I or Annex II to Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU or within either Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. Therefore an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is not required to accompany any application which may be submitted to the Board.

10.3. **Appropriate Assessment**

- 10.3.1. The proposed development is proposed to traverse underneath a European site the Lower River Shannon SAC – site code 002165. The applicant has indicated that it is their intention to include an NIS with the application which is considered to be appropriate.

10.4. **Prescribed Bodies**

- 10.4.1. In view of the scale, nature and location of the proposed development, as described in this report, it is recommended that the prospective applicant should consult with the prescribed bodies listed in the attached Appendix in respect of any future application for approval.

11.0 **Conclusion**

- 11.1. Having regard to the above, I recommend that the Board serve a notice on the prospective applicant under section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, stating that it is of the opinion that the proposed development constitutes strategic infrastructure development.

12.0 **Recommendation**

- 12.1. Having regard to the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and the nature of the development as set out in the plans and particulars submitted, which comprises a 400kV c.5km AC (alternating current) underground cable between the existing Moneypoint 400kV GIS substation in County Clare and the existing Kilpaddoge 220kV substation with the provision of an AIS bay within an extended compound at the existing Kilpaddoge 220kV substation in County Kerry, it is considered that the proposed development falls within the scope of Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). Accordingly, the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of the Act and any application for approval must therefore be made directly to the Board and should be accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement.

Una Crosse

Senior Planning Inspector

16 April 2020

Appendix

Prescribed Bodies

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

Minister for Agriculture and Food

Planning authorities in which the development is situated (Clare County Council & Kerry County Council)

Environmental Protection Agency

Fáilte Ireland

An Taisce

The Heritage Council

The Southern Regional Assembly

Health and Safety Authority (Seveso)

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Commission for Energy Regulation

Irish Water

Waterways Ireland

Office of Public Works