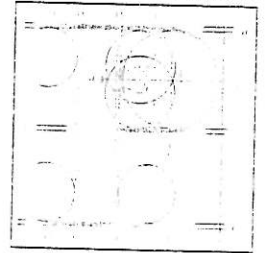


Our Ref: 02.VA0006

Your Ref:

An Bord Pleanála



13th April 2010

Re: Meath - Tyrone 400 KV Interconnector.

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer to the above-mentioned case.

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

In this regard, an Assistant Director of Planning and a Senior Planning Inspector have been instructed by the Board to hold an oral hearing into the application for the proposed development and the submissions and observations which have been received in relation to the likely effects on the environment of that development and to the likely consequences for proper planning and sustainable development of the area where the development will situate, and to report to the Board thereon.

Please note that the Board will be recording the proceedings at the oral hearing.

PRELIMINARY HEARING

Due to the scale and complexity of the above-mentioned case, the Board has decided to hold a preliminary hearing prior to the commencement of the substantive hearing. The purpose of the preliminary hearing is to facilitate the setting out of a detailed agenda for the substantive hearing. Therefore, please note that no substantive issues in regard to the proposed development will be discussed at the preliminary hearing; discussions will only relate to procedural matters and agenda issues for the substantive hearing.

Those parties who intend to make an oral submission at the substantive hearing are invited to attend the preliminary hearing to provide information on the following matters to the inspector:

- (a) The approximate duration of each party's submission.
- (b) An indication as to whether or not expert witnesses will be called upon to assist in the presentation of a party's submission.
- (c) Whether or not a party intends to cross-examine at the hearing if invited to do so by the presiding inspector.
- (d) Whether or not a party intends to make the submission through Irish.

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64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

Please note that if you wish to attend the preliminary hearing but are unable to do so, it is acceptable for the information set out at (a) to (d) above to be read into the record on your behalf, by a representative / other party.

Furthermore, having regard to the large numbers of written submissions received by the Board and to the commonality of issues raised in many of those, the Board is desirous in the interests of avoiding undue repetition that individuals with similar submissions / observations would come together in "umbrella groups" led by a representative / spokesperson, for the purposes of participating both in the preliminary hearing and in the substantive hearing.

The preliminary hearing will be held on 2 days, the arrangements for which are as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 27th April 2010 and Wednesday, 28th April 2010

Time: 10.00am

Venue: Nuremore Hotel & Country Club, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan

On Tuesday, 27th April 2010 the inspector will hear from the applicant, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, prescribed bodies and those persons or groups who intend to make an oral submission at the substantive hearing and have a correspondence address in County Cavan, County Monaghan or outside the state. The inspector will hear from the parties in the order set out above.

On Wednesday, 28th April 2010 the inspector will hear from Meath County Council and those persons or groups who intend to make an oral submission at the substantive hearing and have a correspondence address in County Meath or outside the counties of Cavan, Monaghan or Meath.

Where a person / body is unable to be present at the preliminary hearing on the appropriate day, that person / body may attend on the alternative day.

The purpose of this approach is purely to deal with the large numbers who may attend and to facilitate those taking part to the extent that they will not be waiting any longer than necessary at the preliminary meeting.

SUBSTANTIVE HEARING

Please be advised that the Board has also made arrangements for the commencement of the substantive hearing, which are set out below:

Date: Monday, 10th May 2010

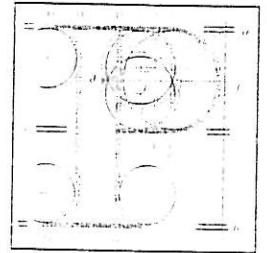
Time: 11.30 a.m.

Venue: Nuremore Hotel & Country Club, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan

In regard to the substantive hearing the Board wishes to advise parties of the following:

- (i) Where written statements of evidence are submitted it will assist the conduct of the hearing if copies of these and any associated drawings are made available for circulation at the substantive hearing.
- (ii) It is the practise of the Board to conduct such hearings without undue formality and, in particular, you should note that it is not proposed to take evidence on oath.
- (iii) You are advised that the Board wishes the hearing to be expedited in a timely and efficient manner.

An Bord Pleanála



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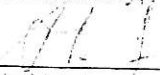
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Copies of the submissions and observations received by the Board and all other documentation and correspondence relating to the case are available for inspection by appointment at the offices of Meath County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council and the offices of An Bord Pleanála prior to the hearing. A copy of all correspondence will also be made available for inspection at the oral hearing for the duration of the oral hearing. An up-to-date list of persons / bodies who made submissions or observations is available on the An Bord Pleanála website www.pleanala.ie.

Please note that an agenda for the substantive hearing commencing on Monday, 10th May 2010, will issue to all parties following the conclusion of the preliminary hearing.

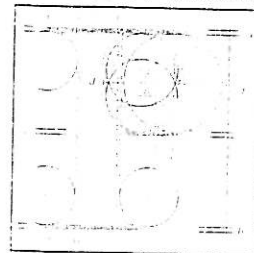
If you have any queries in relation to this correspondence please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Yours faithfully,


Sinead McInerney
Executive Officer

Registered Post

An Bord Pleanála



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