



The Oval,
160 Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4.

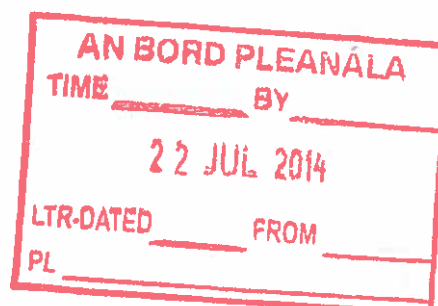
160 Bóthar Shíol Bhroin,
Droichead na Dothra,
Baile Átha Cliath 4.

TELEPHONE +353 (0)1 677 1700
FAX +353 (0)1 661 5375
E-MAIL info@eirgrid.com

www.eirgrid.com

Seamus Grant
Executive Officer
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

18th July 2014



Your Ref: PCI0001

North-South 400kV Interconnection Development

Dear Seamus,

I refer to the PCI project 'Ireland – United Kingdom interconnection between Woodland (IE) and Turleenan (UK – Northern Ireland)' and specifically to that part of the overall project located in Ireland referred to as the 'North-South 400kV Interconnection Development'. At our meeting on Thursday 10th July 2014 you requested details of the opinion published by the Government appointed Independent Expert Panel on the extent and integrity of EirGrid's comparative analysis of the overhead line and underground cable options for the North-South 400kV Interconnection Development.

On 07th May 2014 the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) published Terms of Reference drawn up by the Independent Expert Panel (the Panel) which are to be applied by EirGrid in its consideration of the "most suited" overhead line and underground cable options for the proposed Grid Link (GL) and Grid West (GW) projects. It was also announced at that time that the Panel "would provide an opinion to the Minister on the compatibility of the methodologies to be employed on the GW and GL projects with what has already been done" on the proposed North-South 400kV Interconnection Development (referred to as the N/S project by the Panel).

On 01 July 2014 DCENR published a statement by the Panel on the matter. It stated that "the Panel is unanimously of the opinion that, in all material respects, what has already been done on the N/S project is compatible with the methodologies now being employed on the GW and GL projects. While the Panel acknowledges that no two grid infrastructure projects are identical, and that some non-comparabilities are likely to arise when assessing the potential environmental impacts, technical efficacy and cost factors, the Panel is of the opinion that no material differences in the methodologies arise".



The statement also noted that this overall interconnector "is part of an on-going process which, the Panel expects, will be subjected to a rigorous assessment as part of the planning processes in both jurisdictions (Ireland and Northern Ireland). It is also the case that such planning processes allow potential objectors to the N/S project to register their objections and to have them considered by the planning authorities". It concluded by stating that "the Panel has now completed its consideration of the N/S project".

I trust that this addresses your query on this matter. If you require any further information please advise.

Yours sincerely,



Aidan Geoghegan
Project Manager

