

## Nichola Meehan

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**From:** Lucy Cradden <lcradden@cru.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 23 March 2021 13:47  
**To:** Nichola Meehan  
**Cc:** Harry Molloy; Roisin Cullinan  
**Subject:** RE: Celtic Interconnector Project  
**Attachments:** D 21 6618 Response to further information on scoping.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Nichola,

Please find attached our response to the updated application scoping proposal in relation to CRU consents, provided by EirGrid.

Kind regards,  
Lucy

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**From:** Nichola Meehan <N.Meehan@pleanala.ie>  
**Sent:** 16 March 2021 13:28  
**To:** Roisin Cullinan <rcullinan@cru.ie>; Lucy Cradden <lcradden@cru.ie>  
**Subject:** Celtic Interconnector Project  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Roisin/Lucy,

I refer to the PCI project electricity interconnection between Ireland and France. EirGrid has submitted a letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 (copy attached) in relation to its proposal for the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted in relation to the project and CRU consents.

In relation to the proposal, you are requested to submit any comments concerning the proposal for the scope of material and level of detail of information to the PCI Unit within 2 weeks of this email i.e. by 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Nichola Meehan  
PCI Unit

Nichola Meehan  
Executive Officer  
LAPS-SIDS  
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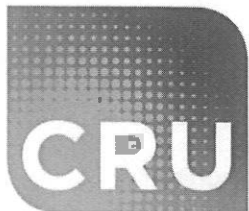
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23 March 2021

CRU Ref: D/21/6618

Ms. Nichola Meehan

Executive Officer  
LAPS-SIDS  
An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

Dear Ms. Meehan,

**Re: PCI0003 (PCI Project 1.6) – Celtic Interconnector Project**

Thank you for your email of March 16th, containing further clarifications on the Proposed Scope of the CRU Consents Documents. In Appendix B, EirGrid have set out the proposed content to be included in Volume 9 of their PCI Application file, which shall relate to the relevant required CRU consent applications. The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) can provide the following response to the submission.

*1. Authorisation to Construct an Interconnector*

The Authorisation to Construct an Interconnector application requires information on the project under the general headings of:

- Applicant, company, operator and interconnector details
- Technical specifications, and evidence of competence of operators
- Compliance with grid safety and security requirements and evidence of connection agreement
- Financial history of the applicant/company
- Project timelines and financial feasibility
- Details of current or future planning applications or consents

The specific details required by the CRU have been set out by EirGrid in Appendix B as per the material provided on the CRU website, application forms and guidance documentation. Appendix B also correctly states that, following submission of an application, the CRU may request additional information in respect of the application for support or clarification purposes, and that the application must be accompanied by a fee of €20,000.

A key point to note is that the Authorisation to Construct will not be issued until evidence of receipt of final planning consents has been submitted to the CRU. As noted by EirGrid in Appendix B, mindful of the timing associated with the PCI process, the CRU will proceed to

carry out an assessment of the application while EirGrid are awaiting their planning consents. Once the relevant planning consents have been granted and made available to the CRU and provided the remainder of the application meets the necessary requirements, the CRU can then issue the Authorisation.

*2. Consent to Lay Electric Cables (Sections 48 & 49 of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 (as amended) (the 1999 Act)*

Under Sections 48 and 49 of the 1999 Act, the CRU has the power to grant applicants consent to lay electric cables over public roads and private lands, respectively. In Appendix B, EirGrid has set out the application procedures for these consents, and the supporting documentation that is required. Applicants for these consents are required to submit an Authorisation to Construct as part of their application. The CRU cannot accept an application for consent under Section 48 and Section 49 until all supporting documentation has been provided. Due to the powers which these consents grant over lands, the CRU must ensure that all other requirements have been met before granting consent.

Applicants seeking both Section 48 and Section 49 consents may use the same supporting documentation where appropriate for both applications. Applications for these consents may be made in parallel and there are no fees associated with the applications.

*3. Special Orders*

A Special Order (granted under Section 47 of the 1999 Act) for the compulsory acquisition of land may be applied for in the event that EirGrid cannot reach an agreement with landowners over any rights that EirGrid may need to acquire. EirGrid state in Appendix B that they will endeavour to reach agreements with all relevant landowners but will apply to the CRU for Special Orders in the event that this does not succeed. The CRU may grant a Special Order to enable EirGrid to acquire rights over the land in such instances, where appropriate, and this process may involve a public consultation process up to and including a public enquiry.

*4. Interconnector Operating Licence*

The CRU notes the information included in Appendix B regarding the status of EirGrid as the transmission system operator in Ireland, and the associated regulations listed that pertain to interconnectors. As set out by EirGrid in Appendix B, an Interconnector Operating Licence may be granted automatically upon application to the holder of an Authorisation to Construct an Interconnector, as set out in CRU Decision Paper CER/11/055. As noted by EirGrid, the issuance of a licence is not a requirement for the construction phase of this project.

Yours sincerely,



**Roisin Cullinan**  
*Licensing Manager*