



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction

PL07.247605

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 29th September 2017.

The Board decided to grant permission generally in accordance with the Inspector's recommendation, for the following reasons and considerations, and subject to the following conditions.

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to the location of the site is an area designated 'Acceptable in Principle' in the Wind Energy Strategy adopted in the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021, where it is the policy of the planning authority to maximise wind energy development and the extant planning permission for the development of a windfarm on the site, it is considered that, subject to the conditions set out below, the proposed development by itself, or cumulatively with other wind farms in the area, would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area, would not pose an unacceptable risk to water quality or seriously injure the ecology of the area and would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Appropriate Assessment

The Board noted that the proposed development is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site.

In completing the screening for Appropriate Assessment, the Board accepted and adopted the screening assessment and conclusion carried out in the Inspector's report in respect of the identification of the European sites which could potentially be affected, and the identification and assessment of the potential likely significant effects of the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on these European sites in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. The Board was satisfied that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the Connemara Bog Complex Special Area of Conservation (Site Code 002034), the Lough Corrib Special Area of Conservation (Site Code 000297) or any other European Site, in view of the sites' Conservation Objectives. Therefore, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and the submission of a Natura Impact Statement is not required.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Board noted and adopted the Inspector's screening which concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement was not required as the development proposed, is of a class specified in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, and is sub-threshold. Having regard to criteria for determining whether a development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment (Schedule 7 of the Regulations refers), the Board concurred with the Planning Inspector that the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and accordingly an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Conditions

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application as amended by the further

plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanála on the 17th day of May 2017, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where such conditions require details to be agreed with the planning authority, the developer shall agree such details in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of the development and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars.

Reason: In the interests of clarity.

2. The conditions attached to the parent permission relating to the development of the overall windfarm granted by Galway County Council under planning register reference number 14/1273 shall continue to apply to this development.

Reason: In the interests of clarity and in the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

3. The permission shall expire on the expiry date of the parent permission granted under planning register reference number 14/1273 which shall be the 5th day of October 2025.

Reason: In the interests of clarity.

4. No micro-siting is permitted. The location of the proposed turbine shall not be altered without a prior grant of planning permission.

Reason: In the interests of clarity.

5. The developer shall pay to the planning authority a financial contribution in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the planning authority that is provided or intended to be provided by or on behalf of the authority in accordance with the terms of the Development Contribution Scheme made under section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The contribution shall be paid prior to

commencement of development or in such phased payments as the planning authority may facilitate and shall be subject to any applicable indexation provisions of the Scheme at the time of payment. Details of the application of the terms of the Scheme shall be agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of such agreement, the matter shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála to determine the proper application of the Scheme.

Reason: It is a requirement of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that a condition requiring a contribution in accordance with the Development Contribution Scheme made under section 48 of the Act be applied to this permission.

Board Member

Date: 9th October 2017

Maria FitzGerald