

An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-009774-22
ABP-311505-21

The submissions on this file were considered at a Board meeting held on 17/01/2022.

Request received by An Bord Pleanála on the 27th day of September 2021 from South Meath Solar under section 146B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to alter the terms of a strategic infrastructure development approved under An Bord Pleanála reference number ABP-301878-19, comprising a proposed electrical substation, to connect a permitted solar farm to the electricity transmission system at Harlockstown, Polleban and Vesingstown, Co. Meath.

WHEREAS the Board made a decision to approve, subject to conditions, the abovementioned development by order dated the 26th day of August 2019,

AND WHEREAS the Board has received a request to alter the terms of the development, the subject of the approval,

AND WHEREAS the proposed alteration is described as follows:

- Moving the Independent Power Produced (IPP) Control Building to align with the northern boundary fence,
- Increased size of IPP substation building,
- Addition of two plinths in the IPP compound to accommodate harmonic filters,
- Addition of a turnaround area on the access road in the EirGrid compound,
- Minor modifications to the external IPP switchyard layout, including a diesel generator set and storage tank, and provision of possible harmonic filter unit,

- Some modifications to the equipment layout in the EirGrid 110kV switchyard to meet EirGrid's latest safety clearances, and
- Provision of c.400m of gravel track along the planned cable route to link already permitted or existing areas of gravel track.

AND WHEREAS the Board decided, in accordance with section 146B(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, not to invite submissions or observations from the public in relation to whether the proposed alteration would constitute the making of a material alteration to the terms of the development concerned,

AND WHEREAS the Board decided, in accordance with section 146B(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that the proposed alterations would not result in a material alteration to the terms of the development, the subject of the approval,

AND WHEREAS, having considered all of the documents on file and the Inspector's report, the Board considered that the making of the proposed alteration would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment or on any European Site,

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with section 146B(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board hereby alters the abovementioned decision so that the approved development shall be altered in accordance with the plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanála on the 27th day of September 2021 for the reasons and considerations set out below.

Reasons and Considerations

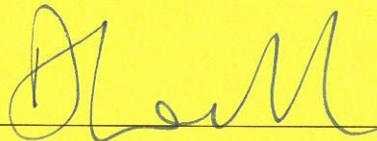
Having regard to:

- i. the nature and scale of the substation and associated development approved by An Bord Pleanála under Reference Number ABP-301878-19 for this site,

- ii. the examination of the environmental impact, including in relation to Natura 2000 sites, carried out in the course of that application,
- iii. the limited nature and scale of the alterations when considered in relation to the overall approved development,
- iv. the absence of any significant new or additional environmental concerns (including in relation to Natura 2000 sites) arising as a result of the proposed alterations, and
- v. the report of the Board's inspector, which is adopted,

it is considered that the proposed alterations would not be material. In accordance with section 146B(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board hereby makes the said alterations.

Board Member:



Dave Walsh

Date: 17/01/2022

