



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-015111-24
ABP-315975-23

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 18/01/2024.

The Board decided to treat this case under section 139 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. The Board also decided, based on the Reasons and Considerations set out below that the planning authority be directed, as follows:

Amend condition number 2 as follows

2. The structures shall be removed before the expiration of a period of 40 years from the date of commissioning of the development unless planning permission for a further period has been granted.

Reason: To enable the planning authority to review the operation of the solar farm having regard to the circumstances then prevailing.

Reasons and Considerations

The provision of renewable energy and energy security is a European and National priority as outlined in the following policy;

- The REPowerEU Plan 2022 and Directive EU 2018/2001, as amended 18.05.2022;
- Energy Security in Ireland to 2030, Energy Security Package, Nov. 2023

- The European Green Deal 2020;
- The Policy Statement on Security of Electricity Supply, 2021;
- The National Climate and Energy Plan 2021-2030 (NCEP);
- The Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP 2023);
- National Planning Framework 2018-2040 (NPF);
- The National Development Plan 2021-2030;
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (2020);
- The Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028;

Having regard to the nature of solar farms and the limited operational impacts arising from them, it is not considered necessary to review the technology in 25 years. Therefore, the need to provide for an operational life of 40 years is considered acceptable.

Board Member: Eamonn James Kelly **Date:** 18/01/2024
Eamonn James Kelly