

Our Case Number: ABP-306662-20



An
Bord
Pleanála

Wicklow County Council
Planning Department
County Buildings
Whitegates
Wicklow Town
Co. Wicklow
A67 FW96

Date: 25th November 2020

Re: Onshore transmission connection infrastructure related to the Arklow Bank Wind Park offshore wind energy project.
Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation. Please be advised that following consideration of the issues raised during the consultation process the Board is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Accordingly, the Board decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 182A of the Act. Any application for approval for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under section 182A(1) of the Act.

A copy of the documentation relating to the Board's pre-application file is enclosed for your information including a copy of the written record of the pre-application consultation meetings between An Bord Pleanála and the prospective applicant. A copy of the pre-application consultation file can be made available for public inspection at this stage and must be associated with any application file documentation when such an application is made. In this regard please note that the Board has directed the prospective applicant to include a statement in the public notices of any planning application indicating that the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the local authority (as well as the offices of the Board) and on a stand alone website. The Board would therefore be obliged if you could make the necessary arrangements in this regard following receipt of the copies of any application documentation from the prospective applicant. Please note that the public will have the right to make submissions/observations on the application only to An Bord Pleanála and within a time limit which will be specified in the public notices (copies of same will accompany the application documentation) and the public should be alerted to this fact when inspecting the file. It is the Board's intention that all of the application documentation will remain available for public inspection during the currency of the application.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

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The attachment contains information in relation to challenges to the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Jennifer Sherry
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737266

VC12

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