

## Ashling Doherty

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**From:** Marine  
**Sent:** Tuesday 27 June 2023 12:58  
**To:** SIDS  
**Subject:** FW: ABP-313680-22 - 3rd Meeting Record  
**Attachments:** ABP-313680-3rd Mtg\_Cover Letter 27.06.23.pdf; ABP-313680-3rd\_Eirgrid Response 25.05.23.pdf; ABP-313680-3rd Mtg\_BNM Request for EirGrid Opinion.pdf; ABP-313680-3rd Mtg\_Case Examples.pdf

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**From:** Sinéad Ryan <Sinead.Ryan@mwp.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023 12:46 PM  
**To:** Marine <marine@pleanala.ie>  
**Cc:** Sarah Caulfield <s.caulfield@pleanala.ie>; Ann Marie Doherty <AnnMarie.Doherty@bnm.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: ABP-313680-22 - 3rd Meeting Record

Dear Sir/Madam

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence relating to the above.  
Please find attached a letter containing further comments relating to the matter and a formal request to close the process, together with supporting documents.

Regards,  
Sinéad  
Ph. 087-2518748

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**From:** Marine <marine@pleanala.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023 1:29 PM  
**To:** Sinéad Ryan <Sinead.Ryan@mwp.ie>  
**Subject:** ABP-313680-22 - 3rd Meeting Record

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Good Afternoon,

Please find attached a copy of the written record for the meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 and an accompanying letter.

A hard copy of the record and letter is in the post.

Kind regards,  
Evan McGuigan

Administrative Assistant  
Marine and Climate  
An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902  
Teil:  
Facs: 01-8722684

**Fógra Rúin:** Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon chomhaid atá nasctha leis faoi rún agus dírithe amháin don seolaí. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bainisteoir an chórais.

**Tabhair faoi deara led thoil:** aon tuairimí nochtaithe san ríomhphost seo is iad tuairimí an tseoltóra féin agus níl sé intuigthe gurb iad tuairimí An Bhoird Pleanála nó go gcloíonn siad le polasaithe ráite an Bhoird.

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Ref: SR/22308

27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## Strategic Infrastructure Section,

An Bord Pleanála,  
64 Marlborough St.,  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

**Re: SID Pre-application Consultation Request for a 110kV Substation & 110kV Underground Grid Connection at Blackwater Bog, Shannonbridge, Co. Offaly**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client and the prospective Applicant, Bord na Móna Powergen Ltd., MWP acknowledge receipt of the written record of the third meeting regarding a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) pre-application consultation held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 for a proposed 110kV electrical substation and grid connection at Blackwater Bog, Co. Offaly. We now wish to submit a request to close the process under Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and submit further information below and attached.

### Background

The Applicant intends to submit an application to Offaly County Council for permission to develop a 160-MW solar PV farm on lands formerly used for peat extraction at Blackwater Bog, Co. Offaly. For a development of this output, an export voltage of 110kV is required and this will require the construction of an on-site 110kV substation to transmit the generated electricity to the National Grid at the 110/220kV substation at West Offaly Power Station in Shannonbridge. The connection will be by way of an approx. 2.5 km long underground cable.

The proposed solar farm does not fall within the scope of SID; however, EIAR is required as thresholds relating to forestry felling and road construction are exceeded. The EIAR that is being prepared will encompass all elements of the proposed development, namely the proposed solar farm and the proposed substation/grid connection.

Following engagement with EirGrid to discuss the design of the proposed grid connection, it has been concluded that the connection will not form a node on the National Grid and therefore does not fall within the definition of SID under Section 182A.

We enclose the following to support our view that the proposal is not SID.

- Case examples from other relevant ABP pre-application decisions;
- Letter submitted to EirGrid from the Applicant;
- Response and view received from EirGrid by the Applicant.

Should you require any further information please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



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Sinéad Ryan  
Principal Consultant  
for MWP

**ABP Case Examples**

ABP Case No.	Applicant	Connection Method	Details	Outcome
ABP-307022	Statkraft	Tail fed	Dernacart Wind Farm. Proposed 110kV underground cable and associated works required to facilitate the connection of a proposed wind farm to the national transmission grid at the proposed EirGrid Bracklone substation in Portarlinton. It was stated that the connection would be tail fed and that the substation <u>would not be a node</u> on the national transmission network.	Not SID
ABP-306140	Scottish Power Renewables	Tail fed	110kV substation bay, electrical cable connection and associated works at Gorman 220kV substation, in Meath – Eirgrid provided confirmation that this <u>would not be a new node</u> but would be part of the existing Gorman 220/110 kV node.	Not SID
ABP-304789	Moanvane Wind Farm Ltd.	Tail fed	A proposed a 110kV grid connection and substation connecting the consented Moanvane windfarm to the national grid at Mountlucas substation. The connection was a tail fed connection. The purpose of the permitted substation and proposed cable route was stated to be to facilitate power being brought from the Moanvane wind farm <u>(itself not strategic infrastructure)</u> to the existing Mountlucas substation only. This is similar in terms of the nature of the proposed development, the considerations and decision to the above case ABP-307022 above.	Not SID
ABP-301420	Lightsource	Tail fed	A proposed tail-fed 110 kV substation and associated cable intended to serve only an associated solar energy development, and which <u>was not to be a node</u> on the national transmission system. The substation would serve only a solar farm and would feed into a permitted 400/110kV substation which was part of the Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement Project.	Not SID

## Ann Marie Doherty

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**From:** John McDonagh  
**Sent:** Thursday 25 May 2023 09:30  
**To:** Ann Marie Doherty; Sean Creedon  
**Subject:** Fw: [External] CP1143 Blackwater: Node Status Query to inform SID Process

Hi Ann Marie, Sean,

Find below confirmation note from EirGrid regarding tailed fed substation role on the transmission network.

Regards,  
John

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**From:** Miro.Cengic@Eirgrid.com <Miro.Cengic@Eirgrid.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday 25 May 2023 09:18  
**To:** John McDonagh <John.Mcdonagh@bnm.ie>  
**Cc:** Peter.Maxwell@Eirgrid.com <Peter.Maxwell@Eirgrid.com>  
**Subject:** [External] CP1143 Blackwater: Node Status Query to inform SID Process

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Hi John,

EirGrid has conducted a review of provided letter and can confirm tail station will not form part of the transmission system.

Kind Regards,

Miro Cengic | Project Manager  
EirGrid  
M: + 353 (0)86 013 1098  
[EirGrid.com](http://EirGrid.com)



We're working flexibly at EirGrid Group. I'm sending this message at a time that suits me. Please feel comfortable knowing that I don't expect you to read, respond to or action it outside of regular working hours.

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**From:** John McDonagh <John.Mcdonagh@bnm.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 4 May 2023 09:09  
**To:** Cengic, Miro (EXT) <Miro.Cengic@Eirgrid.com>  
**Subject:** CP1143 Blackwater: Node Status Query to inform SID Process

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Hi Miro,

Please find attached letter regarding Blackwater substation and its role on the network.  
Appreciate if EirGrid could review and provide response at your earliest convenience.

Regards,

**Bord na Móna**

**John McDonagh**  
Grid Manager

+353 87 6347309  
bordnamona.ie

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Bord Na Mona plc.

Registered Office: Main Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, W12 XR59

Registered No: 297717

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EirGrid plc - Transmission System Operator, Ireland.  
The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.

Oibrítheoir Eangach Leictreachais na hÉireann.  
160 Bóthar Shíol Bhroin, Droichead na Dothra, Baile Átha Cliath 4, D04 FW28.

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Directors:

Brendan Tuohy CHAIR, Mark Foley CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Dr Theresa Donaldson, Shane Brennan, Tom Coughlan, Michael Hand, James Nyhan, Rosa M. Sanz García (Spain)

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Séanadh:

EirGrid Plc.  
The Oval  
160 Shelbourne Road  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4

4<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## Re: EirGrid Opinion on Substation Role on Network

Dear Miro,

In respect of connection agreement P289 Blackwater Bog Solar Farm, Bord na Móna are currently engaged in preapplication discussions with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and are seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status under Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 of the proposed 110 kV substation that will serve this project.

The technical aspects of the connection agreement outline the need for development of a 110 kV tail-fed substation in line with EirGrid 110 kV station design standards for AIS tail stations (drawing reference XDN-LAY-ELV-STND-H-003) and hence no expansion requirements for further connectivity.

I am seeking confirmation from EirGrid that the proposed tail-fed substation for Blackwater Solar Farm will not form a transmission node. The intent would be to utilise EirGrid's response and furnish same to ABP to inform their preapplication SID decision process and enable close out of the preplanning consultation process for this project.

For further context in relation to this request see below details where EirGrid were consulted for determination on Timahoe North Solar Farm – ABP reference 300398-17. In this case the clarification from ABP to EirGrid was:

*“Clarification as to whether the proposed substation may form part of the national transmission network and any relationship that the proposed substation would have with the existing transmission network having regard to its indicated role as servicing a proposed solar farm.”*

The recorded response was summarised in the Inspectors report as:

- *“The applicant has a connection offer to the transmission grid.*
- *The proposed link into the existing circuit comprises a ‘loop-in / loop out’ meaning that power on the overall existing circuit is entirely diverted into the proposed substation and back out. In effect the proposed substation would comprise a new node along that existing circuit.*
- *Eirgrid state that the new substation and associated overhead line elements will therefore form part of the existing transmission grid when in operation. Part of the substation infrastructure will be transferred to Eirgrid for operational purposes on completion.”*

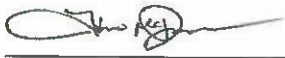


# Bord na Móna

In respect of the connection methodology and associated details for P289 Blackwater Bog Solar Farm there is material difference in both design and purpose of the substation as it will act as tail-fed substation and not form as a node on transmission system.

I would appreciate EirGrid's response on this query and confirmation of node status at your earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely,



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John McDonagh  
Grid Manager  
Bord na Móna Powergen Ltd.