



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

our Ref: P0946/let/TB/MG

Mr. Kieran Somers
Executive Officer
An Bord Pleanála

by Email Only

Your Ref: 26.VC0111

6th February 2018

RE: P0946 – Highfield Solar Limited – Proposed Development of a 110kV Substation at Rosspile, Co. Wexford

Dear Mr. Somers,

With regard to the pre-application consultation for the above proposed development, I am writing to confirm receipt of the written record of the first meeting which took place on the 7th of December 2017.

The applicant notes that the Board does not amend its own record but does request that the Board includes the following comments on the relevant sections of the minutes as part of the public record.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

The exclusive purpose of the proposed substation is to facilitate the connection of a proposed Solar PV electricity generation station to the electricity transmission system.

The applicant notes that the proposed substation, the proposed Solar PV generation facility or the proposed developments in combination **are not** classes of development listed in the 7th Schedule to the 2000 Act.

The applicant notes that, as is standard, post-construction the proposed 110 kV Substation would be divided into a portion owned and operated by the Transmission Asset Owner (TAO)/Transmission System Operator (TSO) and a portion owned and operated by the Independent Power Producer (IPP). These substation sections are by necessity contiguous. Therefore, in keeping with the details presented, the substation as a whole is contained within a single compound area (split only by a fence to demark the ownership boundaries) which is serviced by a single new track providing access to the public road

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Project Design:

The applicant notes that the existing Wexford – Great Island 110 kV overhead line traverses the site. The location of the Solar PV generating plant and more specifically the location of the proposed 110 kV substation have been selected to interface with this existing line with the minimum of additional infrastructure.

Public consultation and community benefit:

The applicant notes that the discussion in relation to the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) and community investment possibilities are in relation to the Solar PV generation facility in its entirety, which would be a development that generates revenue, and not in relation to the proposed 110 kV Substation in isolation.

Environmental Assessment and Scoping, SID screening:

With respect to Environmental Impact Assessment the applicant notes that the proposed substation, the proposed Solar PV generation facility or the proposed developments in combination **are not** classes of development listed in either Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)

The applicant notes that they have in fact secured rights to purchase the lands for the proposed substation. In addition, the applicant has the consent of the current landowner to make a planning application for the proposed substation.

The applicant trusts that the above comments add additional clarity to the matter and invite the Board to conclude their assessments and issue a determination on this matter as soon as possible. Should you require a further meeting to discuss the application, the applicant would be happy to attend same at the Board's convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Byrne', written over a horizontal line.

Trevor Byrne
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Contact email: trevor.byrne@ftco.ie