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**Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2017**

**Planning Authorities: Kerry County Council**

**(Associated reference number: 08.VA0011)**

**REQUEST** received by An Bord Pleanála on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2017 from Eirgrid of The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin under section 146B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, in respect of a strategic infrastructure development described as construction of a 220/110kV substation in the townland of Trien, modifications to existing lines, construction of 110kV line between existing Trien 110kV substation and proposed interface tower in townland of Patch, associated underground cables and site works, County Kerry.

**WHEREAS** the Board made a decision to approve, subject to conditions, the above-mentioned development by order dated the 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2012 under case reference number 08.VA0011,

**AND WHEREAS** the proposed alteration is described as follows:

- An extension of the approved substation compound footprint to the east by approximately 1,050 metres to accommodate the provision of a single 50 MVar shunt reactor. The reactor would comprise three number shunt reactance coils, each approximately three metres in diameter and ten metres high. Other associated substation equipment would include:

- 220 kV switch gear comprising three number cable sealing ends, three number surge arresters, three number coupling capacitors, three number combined CT/VTs and three number support insulators;
  - a cable/switchgear interface within the existing 220 kV GIS building to facilitate cable connection of the new reactance coils to the existing switchgear;
  - pipe ducting and block ducting for electrical control cables, and
  - an extension of the earthgrid works.
- An associated extension to the existing 2.6 metre high palisade perimeter fence to encompass the substation extension, and the erection of an inner security fence around the reactance coils;
  - An extension to the substation's internal access road of approximately 30 metres;
  - Four number associated lightning protection rods, each 15 metres high;
  - Associated revisions to the landscaping plan approved under case reference number 08.VA0011 in order to facilitate the proposed extension; and
  - All other associated site development works and site drainage.

**AND WHEREAS** having regard to the nature of the alteration requested, the Board decided, in accordance with section 146B(8)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to invite submissions or observations in relation to the matter from persons who had made submissions or observations in relation to the application, the subject of this alteration,

**AND WHEREAS** having considered all of the documents on file and the Inspector's report, the Board considered that:

- (i) the making of the proposed alteration would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment or on any European Site, and
- (ii) the making of the proposed alteration would be acceptable in terms of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

**NOW THEREFORE** in accordance with section 146B(3)(b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, the Board hereby alters the above-mentioned decision so that the approved development shall be carried out in accordance with the plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanála on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2017.

### **MATTERS CONSIDERED**

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

### **REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS**

In deciding to make the alteration, the Board had regard to the following:

- (a) the planning history of the site, including the scope and nature of the approved development under An Bord Pleanála planning reference number 08.VA0011, under which development of the nature proposed by the amendment was considered acceptable in principle,
- (b) the nature and extent of the development in question,
- (c) the location of the development within an established electrical station compound,
- (d) the limited interaction between the proposed construction works and the natural environment,

- (e) the absence of any indication that the amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity of the site would be adversely affected by the proposed alteration,
- (f) the documents on the subject file and the submissions and documents on the approved development case reference number 08.VA0011, and
- (g) the report and recommendation of the Inspector.

The Board was satisfied that the information before it was adequate to undertake screening for Appropriate Assessment and a screening for environmental impact assessment in respect of the proposed alteration.

**Appropriate Assessment Screening:**

The Board considered the Appropriate Assessment Stage 1 Screening Report submitted with the alteration request, as well as the relevant information submitted and assessments carried out on the approved development (case reference number 08.VA0011), and the Inspector's reports on the subject file. The Board completed a screening exercise in relation to the potential impacts of the proposed alteration on European Sites, having regard to its nature and scale and to the receiving environment, and concluded that the proposed alteration, in itself or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on any European Site.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment Screening:**

The Board considered the potential environmental impacts that might arise due to the proposed alteration taking into account the information available from the approved development file (case reference number 08.VA0011), the documents submitted by the applicant in relation to the proposed alteration, and the Inspector's report. Having regard to the characteristics of the proposed alteration, the planning history of the site, the limited environmental impacts associated with the proposed alteration and the characteristics of the receiving environment, the Board was satisfied that the proposed alteration would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and that the completion of an environmental impact assessment report was not required in respect of the alteration being sought.

### **Conclusions on the Proper Planning and Sustainable Development of the Area:**

The Board concluded that the making of the alteration would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and, furthermore, that the making of the proposed alteration would be acceptable in terms of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

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**Member of An Bord Pleanála  
duly authorised to authenticate  
the seal of the Board.**

**Dated this                      day of                      2018.**