

**Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2021**

**Planning Authority: Laois County Council and Kilkenny County Council**

**(Associated application reference number: PL11.VA0015)**

**REQUEST** received by An Bord Pleanála on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 2021, from EirGrid plc of The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Dublin 4 under section 146B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, to alter the terms of a strategic infrastructure development comprising an electrical transmission infrastructure project, referred to as the Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement Project, in Counties Laois and Kilkenny, the subject of an approval under An Bord Pleanála reference number PL11.VA0015.

**WHEREAS** the Board made a decision to approve, subject to conditions, the above-mentioned development by Order dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2014,

**AND WHEREAS** the Board has received a request to alter the terms of the development, the subject of the approval,

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

- Relocation of existing End Mast ('BK1 (EM)') approximately 50 metres westward into the area of the approved Ballyragget 110kV/38kV substation, provision of 1 number new double wooden Intermediate Poleset ('IMP 2') along the existing 110kV overhead line alignment to the east of Ballyragget substation, associated minor realignment of structures up to Angle Mast 4

('AM4'), all as illustrated on drawing number PE687-D371-029-001-001 submitted with the request.

**AND WHEREAS** having regard to the nature of the issues involved, the Board decided, in accordance with section 146B(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, not to invite submissions or observations in relation to the matter from other persons,

**AND WHEREAS** the Board decided, in accordance with section 146B(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that the proposed alteration would not result in a material alteration to the terms of the development, the subject of the approval,

**AND WHEREAS** having considered all the documents on file and the Inspector's report, the Board considered that, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures contained in the Natura Impact Statement for the approved strategic infrastructure development, the making of the proposed alteration would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment or on any European Site,

**NOW THEREFORE** in accordance with section 146B(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, the Board hereby alters the abovementioned decision so that the approved development shall be altered in accordance with the plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanála on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 2021, for the reasons and considerations set out below.

### **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.

RW

## REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

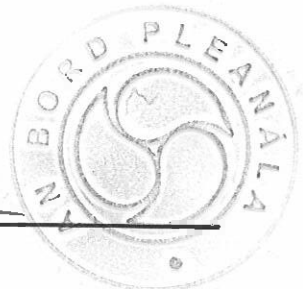
Having regard to:

- (i) the nature and scale of the development approved by An Bord Pleanála under reference number PL11.VA0015 for this site,
- (ii) the examination of the environmental impact, including in relation to European Sites, carried out in the course of that application,
- (iii) the limited nature and scale of the proposed alterations when considered in relation to the overall approved development,
- (iv) the absence of any new or additional environmental concerns of a material nature (including in relation to European Sites) arising as a result of the proposed alterations, and
- (v) the report of the Board's Inspector, which is adopted,

it is considered that the proposed alteration would not be material. In accordance with section 146B(3)(a) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board hereby makes the said alteration.



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



Dated this *28<sup>th</sup>* day of *February* 2022