

Board Order ABP-313557-22

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Roscommon County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: DED 514

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether works consisting of a proposed underground 10kV grid connection to connect a permitted onsite solar farm substation to the existing 38kV Castlerea substation is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

AND WHEREAS Elgin Energy Services Limited of 4th floor, Hambleden House, 19-26 Pembroke Street Lower, Dublin requested a declaration on the said question from Roscommon County Council and the said Council issued a declaration on the 14th day of April, 2022 stating that the said matter was development and was not exempted development:

AND WHEREAS Elgin Energy Services Limited referred the declaration for review to An Bord Pleanála on the 11th day of May, 2022:

AND WHEREAS An Bord Pleanála, in considering this referral, had regard particularly to –

- (a) Section 2(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,
- (b) Section 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,
- (c) Article 6(1) and Article 9(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 2023, as amended,
- (d) Class 26 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 2023, as amended, and
- (e) The planning history of the site.

AND WHEREAS An Bord Pleanála has concluded that works consisting of a proposed underground 10kV grid connection to connect a permitted on-site solar farm substation to the existing 38kV Castlerea substation constitutes 'development', as defined under Section 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended and would come generally within the scope of the exempted development provision provided at Class 26 of Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2023, as amended.

NOW THEREFORE An Bord Pleanála, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 5 (3) (a) of the 2000 Act, hereby decides that works consisting of a proposed underground 10kV grid connection to connect a permitted onsite solar farm substation to the existing 38kV Castlerea substation is development and is exempted development.

Mick Long

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

Dated this 19 day of October

2023