



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order

ABP-315975-23

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Tipperary County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 22/662

Appeal by Soleire Renewables SPV Alpha Limited care of Entrust Limited of Unit 1D, Deerpark Business Centre, Oranmore, County Galway against the decision made on the 7th day of February, 2023 by Tipperary County Council to grant subject to conditions a permission in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council.

Proposed Development: Amendment to the design of the previously approved development (planning register reference number 21/261) which comprises consent for a 10-year period to construct and a 40-year period to operate a 142.7-hectare Solar PV Energy Development to include slight increase in the height of the Solar PV panels, slight increase in the bottom height of the Solar PV panels off the ground, slight reduction in the spacing of Solar PV rows (strings), slight decrease in size of solar panels, slight increase in the area of transformers/inverters as a result of slight change in dimensions and an increase in the number of solar panels, all at Monaincha Townland, Roscrea, County Tipperary.

Decision

Having regard to the nature of the condition the subject of the appeal, the Board is satisfied that the determination by the Board of the relevant application as if it had been made to it in the first instance would not be warranted and, based on the reasons and considerations set out below, directs the said Council under subsection (1) of section 139 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to AMEND condition number 2 so that it shall be as follows for the reason set out.

2. The structures shall be removed before the expiration of a period of 40 years from the date of commissioning of the proposed development, unless planning permission for a further period has been granted.

Reason: To enable the planning authority to review the operation of the solar farm having regard to the circumstances then prevailing.

Reasons and Considerations

The provision of renewable energy and energy security is a European and National priority as outlined in the following policies and plans:

- The REPowerEU Plan 2022 and Directive EU 2018/2001, as amended.
- Energy Security in Ireland to 2030, Energy Security Package, November 2023.
- The European Green Deal 2020.
- The Policy Statement on Security of Electricity Supply, 2021.
- The National Climate and Energy Plan 2021-2030 (NCEP).
- The Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP 2023).
- The National Planning Framework 2018-2040 (NPF).

- The National Development Plan 2021-2030.
- The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (2020).
- The Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Having regard to the nature of solar farms and the limited operational impacts arising from them, it is not considered necessary to review the technology in 25 years; therefore, the need to provide for an operational life of 40 years is considered acceptable.

Eamonn James Kelly

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Member of An Bord Pleanála

**duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**



Dated this *23rd* day of *January*, 2024.