

Board Order ABP-316129-23

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2021

Planning Authority: Westmeath County Council

(Associated application reference number: ABP-306396-20)

REQUEST received by An Bord Pleanála on the 23rd day of March 2023 from Clonfad Solar Limited care of Tom Phillips and Associates, 80 Harcourt Street, Dublin, under section 146B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, to alter the terms of a strategic infrastructure development described as a 110kV electrical substation and associated infrastructure works to connect a solar farm to the existing Mullingar to Kinnegad 110kV overhead line, the subject of an approval under An Bord Pleanála reference number ABP-306396-20.

WHEREAS the Board made a decision to approve, subject to conditions, for the above-mentioned development by Order dated the 25th day of August 2020,

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 is described as follows:

Amend the terms of the approval under ABP-306396-20 in order to relocate the approved substation compound circa 3 metres to the west and to lower the finished compound level by circa 2 metres.

AND WHEREAS the Board decided, in accordance with section 146B(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, not to invite submissions or

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observations from the public in relation to whether the proposed alteration would constitute the making of a material alteration to the terms of the development concerned,

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

AND WHEREAS having considered all of the documents on file and the Inspector's report, the Board considered that 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 above-mentioned decision so that the approved development shall be altered in accordance with the plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanála on the 23rd day of March 2023 for the reasons and considerations set out below.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Having regard to the terms of the development approved under section 182B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, under An Bord Pleanála reference number ABP- 306396-20 on the 25th day of August 2020 and to the nature and limited scale of the changes now proposed, it is considered that the proposed alterations, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have any significant effect on the environment, or on any European site having regard to their conservation objectives, or on the proper planning and sustainable development of the area that had not been considered prior to the granting of the said approval for the development. The proposed alterations, therefore, would not constitute a material alteration of the terms of the development concerned.

In accordance with section 146B(3)(a) of the Planning & Development Act, as amended, the Board hereby makes the said alterations.

Patricia Calleary

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

Dated this 22 day of May 2023