

An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order ABP-320832-24

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Laois County Council and Kilkenny County Council

(Associated reference number: PL11.VA0015)

REQUEST received by An Bord Pleanála on the 13th day of September, 2024 from EirGrid Plc care of RPS Group Limited of West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin under section 146B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, to alter the terms of the strategic infrastructure development described as the Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement Project, 400kV/110kV Gas Insulated Substation, all in the townland of Coolnabacky, County Laois, the subject of an approval under An Bord Pleanála reference number PL11.VA0015 and alterations under Reference Numbers ABP-312316-21, ABP-305108-19 and ABP 11.VM0012.

WHEREAS the Board made a decision to approve the proposed development subject to conditions, for the above-mentioned development by Order dated the 23rd day of April, 2014.

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

AND WHEREAS the proposed alterations are described as follows:

- (a) Alteration Number 1 – Changes to 400kV Substation Building – Relocation of the approved 400kV substation building within the substation compound approximately two metres north of its approved initial location;
- (b) Alteration Number 2 – Changes to 400kV Gantry – Relocation of the approved 400kV gantry slightly south-west of its approved initial location, also requiring a slight re-arrangement of the overhead line structures entering the substation connecting to the gantry;
- (c) Alteration Number 3 – Changes to Transformer and Reactor Bunds – two number reactor bunds sized to hold a minimum of 110% of the oil capacity of its respective plant item will be omitted, with the remaining two number transformer bunds to be slightly re-sized (26.15 metres by 25.93 metres by 12 metres high each, replacing approved bunds approximately 80.9 metres by 11.15 metres by 12 metres high), relocated and arranged back-to-back, and positioned separately and accommodate 200% of the transformer oil capacity. The remaining bunds will remain largely in the same location as previously approved;
- (d) Alteration Number 4 (a) and (b) – Changes to Internal Road Layout – 4 (a) includes a slight reconfiguration of approved road layout within the substation compound, 4 (b) seeks a slight realignment of a section (approximately 10 metres long) of the access track linking the substation compound to the main access road; and
- (e) Alteration Number 5 – Changes to Drainage – To include a slight reconfiguration of the approved surface water collection network.

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 observations from the public in relation to the matter,

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 alterations 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 13th day of September 2024, for the reasons and considerations set out below.


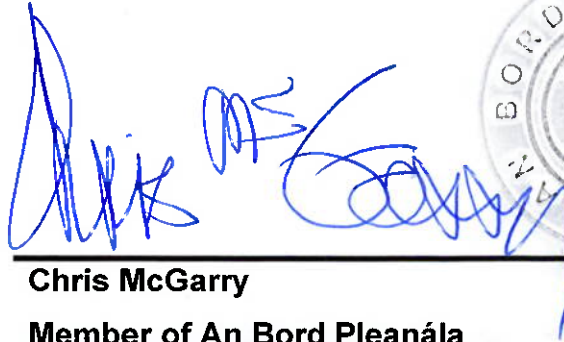
REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Having regard to:

- (a) the nature and scale of the development approved by An Bord Pleanála under Case Reference PL11.VA0015;
- (b) the examination of the environmental impact, including in relation to European Sites, carried out in the course of that application;
- (c) the limited nature and scale of the alterations when considered in relation to the overall permitted development;
- (d) the location of the proposed alterations, within the footprint of the existing PL11.VA0015 site;

- (e) the absence of any significant new or additional environmental impacts arising as a result of the proposed alterations,
- (f) the documentation on file, and
- (g) the report of the Board's Inspector, which is adopted,

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



Chris McGarry

Member of An Bord Pleanála

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

Dated this 14th day of November 2024.