



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Record of Meeting ABP-301173-18 1<sup>st</sup> meeting

|   |  |                          |               |
|---|--|--------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Case Reference / Description</b>                             | ABP-301173-18<br><br>Battery storage facility comprising a 110kV electrical substation at Caherdowney, Millstreet, Co. Cork. |                          |               |
| <b>Case Type</b>  | Pre-application consultation   |                          |               |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting</b> | 1 <sup>st</sup>  |                          |               |
| <b>Date</b>   | 14/05/18   | <b>Start Time</b>        | 2.30 p.m.     |
| <b>Location</b>   | Parnell Room   | <b>End Time</b>          | 3.10 p.m.     |
| <b>Chairperson</b>  | Philip Green   | <b>Executive Officer</b> | Kieran Somers |

| Attendees                                      |                      |            |
|--|----------------------|------------|
| Representing An Bord Pleanála                  |                      |            |
| Staff Member                                   | Email Address        | Phone      |
| Philip Green, Assistant Director of Planning   |                      |            |
| Pauline Fitzpatrick, Senior Planning Inspector |                      |            |
| David Curran, Senior Executive Officer         |                      |            |
| Kieran Somers, Executive Officer               | k.somers@pleanala.ie | 01-8737107 |

| <b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b> |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Andrew O' Donoghue, Enerco Energy Ltd         |  |  |
| William O'Connor, Enerco Energy Ltd           |  |  |

The meeting commenced at 2.30 p.m.

### **Introduction:**

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant requesting pre-application consultations and advised the prospective applicant that the instant meeting essentially constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board; it also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters it wished to receive advice on from the Board.

The Board mentioned general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process as follows:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Board will serve notice at the conclusion of the process as to the strategic infrastructure status of the proposed development. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process on the matter.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.

- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or any legal proceedings.

The Board said that the main purpose of the instant meeting was to seek further information from the prospective applicant in order to inform its determination as to whether or not the proposed development might constitute strategic infrastructure. The Board also referred to the fact that it had sought in writing further clarification from the prospective applicant and that it had received a response to this letter. The Board's representatives said that the meeting was being called in order for them to gain a better understanding of the nature and extent of the battery storage facility, the associated 110kV substation and as to whether the proposed development would properly fall under the Seventh Schedule or section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The Board said it also wished to establish the relationship, if any, with other proposed or existing development in the vicinity.

#### **Presentation by prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant said that the site of the proposed development is located south of Millstreet and north-west of Macroom. The prospective applicant outlined the nature of the proposed development which it said is to provide system services to the national electricity grid. It stated that the proposed development would comprise up to 40 battery container units and a 110kV substation. The substation would be to Eirgrid's specifications. Associated electrical equipment and an underground grid connection to the nearby Ballyvouskill substation are also proposed as part of the development.

The prospective applicant set out the layout for the proposed development and also that for a typical battery storage facility. An alternative development layout is still being considered and the prospective applicant said that it has yet to make a decision as to whether a single building or a containerised unit will comprise the final design.

The prospective applicant referred to the legislative context with particular regard to section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and section 2(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999. Noting that there is nothing specific in defining the nature and threshold in respect of a substation, the prospective applicant said that it also was having regard to the criteria as set out under section 37A(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. It said its conclusions were that the proposed development is not a generator, will not form an integral part of the transmission network and would not constitute strategic infrastructure.

**Board queries:**

Responding to the Board's query on the matter, the prospective applicant said that the proposed battery storage facility would provide support to the national grid when required. By way of clarification on this point, the prospective applicant explained that the said facility would be utilised during dips or spikes which can arise in the system in order to maintain a consistency of electrical supply. The prospective applicant added that the batteries will re-power when not in use so that they are again available when needed. The prospective applicant clarified that power for the batteries is sourced from the national grid and not from power generating sources.

The prospective applicant referred to ECP1 and said that there is a new grid offer in connection with this which is a primary reason for proposed developments such as this at this point in time. The prospective applicant told the Board that the reason for the proposed 110kV substation is to render the development stand-alone rather than requiring additional infrastructure in the existing Ballyvouskill substation to facilitate the step up from the proposed development. It added that a single cable will connect the existing and proposed substations.

The prospective applicant emphasised that the proposed battery storage facility is not an electrical generator. It also confirmed that the proposed 110kV substation would pass into the control of Eirgrid once complete. In response to the Board's query, it confirmed that it has had discussions with Eirgrid in relation to the proposed development.

With regard to the proposed development in the immediate vicinity of the subject site, which is similar in nature and extent, the prospective applicant said that it had only become aware of this from the Cork County Council website. It said its understanding is that this is currently at further information stage and that the applicant in that case may be required as part of this to make a pre-application consultation request to the Board.

Responding to the Board, the prospective applicant confirmed that the proposed development is stand-alone in nature and does not relate to a wind farm or solar farm.

### **Conclusion:**

The Board said that it will consider the matters which have arisen in the instant meeting and will revert to the prospective applicant in due course. The Board said that it will produce a record of this meeting and that the file will then be forwarded to the SID division of the Board for a preliminary opinion.

The prospective applicant said it would welcome the case being expedited in as timely a fashion as possible. Noting this, the Board said it would interpret the legislation in order to determine if the proposed development constitutes strategic infrastructure or not. The Board said it would have to ultimately determine if the proposed development forms part of the transmission network. It added that it might also seek to elicit the opinion of Eirgrid in this regard.

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant in the meantime.

The meeting concluded at 3.10 p.m.

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**Philip Green**

**Assistant Director of Planning**