



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-301392-18 1st meeting

Case Reference / Description	ABP-301392-18 Laying of a 110kV cable and connection to an existing substation from a 100 MW Open-Cycle Gas Turbine or a Battery Energy Storage System. Purcellsinch, Kilkenny.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	1 st		
Date	24/6/2019	Start Time	2.30 p.m.
Location	Cathal Brugha Room	End Time	3.00 p.m.
Chairperson	Brendan Wyse	Executive Officer	Fergal Kilmurray

Attendees		
Representing An Bord Pleanála		
Staff Member	Email Address	Phone
Brendan Wyse, Assistant Director of Planning		
Niall Haverty, Senior Planning Inspector		
Josephine Hayes, Senior Executive Officer		
Fergal Kilmurray, Executive Officer	f.kilmurray@pleanala.ie	01-8737266

Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Mark McCarthy, Mott MacDonald Senior Environmental Planner		
Declan Lynch, Bord Gáis Energy Senior Technical Engineer		

Introduction:

Following introductions, the representatives of the Board referred to the request under 182E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended received from the prospective applicant to enter into pre-application consultations.

The Board 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 in writing which will form part of the case file. An opportunity would also be given at any subsequent meeting to comment on the record.

The Board will serve formal notice at the conclusion of the process as to whether or not the proposed development is SID. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process as to whether the proposed development would likely constitute strategic infrastructure.

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 Boards' representatives said that having regard to the documentation already received by the Board, it had been noted that the view of the prospective applicant was that the proposed development would not constitute Strategic Infrastructure Development.

The Prospective Applicant's presentation.

The prospective applicant gave an overview of the proposed development as follows.

- The prospective applicant is Greener Ideas Limited a joint venture company between Bord Gáis Energy and Mountside Properties Limited. Greener Ideas Limited is a vehicle for developing power generation and battery energy storage projects in the Republic of Ireland.
- The proposed development site has the benefit of two planning permissions one for an Open-Cycle Gas Turbine power plant and one for a 100MW Battery Energy Storage System.
- Either project will require a 110kV underground electrical cable grid connection.
- The gas power plant will also require a gas connection to the Gas Network Ireland national transmission system.
- The preferred project at this time is the battery energy storage facility.

- The project site will have a 110kV substation with separate 'customer' and 'EirGrid' compounds.
- The grid connection will comprise an approximate 4km 110kV underground cable route from the project site via IDA lands, an Irish Rail crossing and the public road (N10 ring road/R712) to the existing EirGrid/ESBN Kilkenny 110kV Substation.
- There is a possibility that the battery facility could connect to the grid at 38kV.
- The underground cable will be a contestable build and developed by Bord Gáis Energy.
- The proposal is for a tail-fed connection into the Kilkenny 110kV substation. It is not a loop in connection – Bord Gáis Energy's Grid Contractor TLI advised that it is not part of the transmission system.
- The prospective applicant indicated, having regard to the definition of transmission in the Electricity Regulation 2009 section 2(1) and section 182A(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, that in similar scenarios the Bord has viewed tail fed electrical connections as non-SID. In addition, project site substations have been viewed as 'electric plant'. Due to a lack of clarity in S182A(9) the Bord has also referred to S37A(2) to determine if a proposal is of strategic importance. It is not considered that the electrical connection would be strategic infrastructure having regard to S37A(2). Furthermore, the MW capacity of each power plant is below the threshold for SID identified in the 7th Schedule. The battery facility is not a project type identified in the 7th Schedule.

Discussion

The following matters were discussed:

- The prospective applicant confirmed that the Battery Energy Storage System plant is the preferred development on site. The Open-Cycle Gas Turbine power plant is retained as an option. They also confirmed that the grid connection would be a single 110kV cable from the development site to the substation site and that Eirgrid would have ownership of cable.
- It was also confirmed that only one of either the battery facility or gas power plant can be constructed on the site.

- It was also indicated that there is nothing further from Eirgrid since correspondence, dated 11th October 2018 (copy on file), advising that it is not yet possible to determine whether or not the grid connection would form part of the transmission network.

Conclusion:

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wishes to do so. Following this, the prospective applicant should seek a second meeting with the Board or request closure to the pre-application process.

If closure to the pre-application process is requested, the reporting inspector will complete the report and recommendation which will be forwarded to the Board for determination. A decision will then issue to the prospective applicant.

The meeting concluded at 3.00 p.m.



Brendan Wyse

Assistant Director of Planning

28 June 2019