



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-301740-18 1st meeting

Case Reference / Description	ABP-301740-18 Wind Farm at Knockaun North, Lyrenacarriga, Ballycondon Commons, Kilcalf Mountain, Ballycolman, Kilnafurrery, Kllcronat Mountain and Knockakeo the site straddles the county boundary between Co. Waterford and Co. Cork.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	1 st		
Date	30/8/2018	Start Time	11 a.m.
Location	Parnell Room	End Time	12.25 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		
Ciara Kellett, Senior Planning Inspector		
Diarmuid Collins, Senior Administrative Officer		
Fergal Kilmurray, Executive Officer	f.kilmurray@pleanala.ie	01-8737247

Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Jimmy Green <i>McCarthy Keville</i> <i>O'Sullivan</i>		
Michael Watson <i>McCarthy Keville</i> <i>O'Sullivan</i>		
Ciara Conboy <i>McCarthy Keville</i> <i>O'Sullivan</i>		
Charles Langley <i>Innogy</i>		
Cathal Hennessy <i>Innogy</i>		

The meeting commenced at 11 a.m.

Introduction:

Following introductions, the representatives of the Board referred to the request received from the prospective applicant on 29th May 2018 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 which will form part of the case file.
- The Board will serve formal notice at the conclusion of the process as to whether or not the proposed development is Strategic Infrastructure Development. 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 Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant that the pre-application consultation is not a scoping process for an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

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

The prospective applicant is a subsidiary of Innogy SE, a leading German energy company. They stated they are a major operator in Europe with activities in 16 countries across Europe including Npower Limited in UK.

They have installed capacity of more than 925 megawatts in offshore wind and with over 2100 megawatts in onshore wind. Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm is a joint project between Innogy Renewables Ireland and Highfield Energy, with Innogy taking the lead in the development.

The proposed windfarm will encompass approximately 25 no. turbines. In any event the proposed development will have a total output greater than 50 megawatts which is the Seventh Schedule threshold. The turbines will have a ground to blade tip height of up to 150 metres and will be a 3-4 megawatt machine. There will be an associated substation, anemometry masts and borrow pits. Existing roads on site will be upgraded and new roads developed, and underground cabling will be used for the grid connection. There is a 110kV line going through the site. There is a considerable amount of forestry on site.

The site is partly in Waterford and Cork, with the majority of the proposed development to be situated in Waterford. The prospective applicant stated that according to the Waterford County Development Plan 2011 – 2017 (as extended), the portion of the site in Waterford is located within an area designed as 'Preferred', for wind energy purposes. The Cork County Development Plan 2014 identifies three categories of 'Wind Deployment Areas' for large scale commercial wind energy developments, and the portion of site in Cork is located within an area designated as 'Open to Consideration'.

The prospective applicant went through the constraints in relation to the proposal's location and listed a number of buffer distances which included; watercourses 50 metres, Recorded site/Monuments 30 metres, Telecoms 100 metres, Overhead ESB 110kV lines 390 metres and housing 700 metres. The prospective applicant also

highlighted the viable areas for development as per drawing submitted with the presentation.

The proposed development includes 3 temporary construction compounds, borrow pit areas to reduce site traffic, upgrade of existing roads, a proposed new road, and a 110 kV permanent substation to be operated by Eirgrid. The layout also provides for optioned land, owned by Coillte and private landowners.

The prospective applicant said that they had a pre-planning meeting with Cork County Council, without a defined site layout plan. The discussion focused on policy matters. The council indicated that they were comfortable with the project on this basis.

The prospective applicant indicated that the nearest Special Area of Conservation, the Blackwater River, would not be an issue. The prospective applicant also stated there is no terms Landscape Character Assessment for County Waterford. Within the terms of the Waterford County Development Plan 2011 – 2017 (as extended) the site is in an area that has a number of Class 4: Sensitive and Class 5: High Sensitivity areas, which will be assessed as part of the EIAR process. Scenic Route 4 of the Plan lies approximately 3 kilometres to the east of the site.

Under the Cork County Development Plan 2014, the most valuable landscapes are designated as High Value Landscapes. The site of the proposed wind farm is not located within such a designation. Scenic route S45, which runs from Youghal to Tallow, traverses the southern part of the proposed development site.

The prospective applicant said the preferred grid connection option is via a 110kV loop-in connection to the existing 110kV network which runs through the site.

Housing constraints are a major factor with the proposed development and they would be applying higher buffer zones than required by the Guidelines.

The prospective applicant said that they had a lot of experience in regards to community engagement and had begun the process in accordance with DCCA Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland - Guidelines for Community Engagement. The first public consultation was held on 31st May 2018 in the Knockhill Community Centre and a second event is arranged for the beginning of October 2018. There is also a Community Liaison Officer available to the local community during the pre-planning phase of the project, and there has been door to door house calls and information newsletters to all homeowners within 1.5 kilometres of the site. A Project Website went live on 30th May 2018 – (www.lyrewindfarm.com).

The prospective applicant also discussed a possible community benefit scheme that would give €2 per megawatt back to the community.

The prospective applicant held pre-planning consultation meetings with Waterford County Council on 17th May 2018, and Cork County Council on 20th June 2018. Neither Council had any major issues with the proposal.

The prospective applicant said that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report was 2 years into the process and the Scottish Natural Heritage Guidance in relation to Bird survey methods was being followed. The prospective applicant also said they would have to adhere to the new European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 296 of 2018).

Discussion

The Board's representative said that clustering is an issue that should be taken into account when lodging the application. The prospective applicant said that they intended to submit the substation and grid connection as a part of the application.

The prospective applicant queried if any EIA screening requirements under the new Regulations might cause a delay to an application. The Board's representatives indicated that they would seek to clarify this matter at the next meeting.

The prospective applicant said the grid connection would be underground, and there would be 40-55 hectares of forestry felled, which will be replaced. The Board's representatives asked that this be included in the EIAR. A separate chapter setting out all mitigation measures should also be included.

The prospective applicant said that they would be meeting with Waterford County Council and Cork County Council, and they are scheduled to have a public consultation meeting in October and intended to seek a 2nd meeting with the Board following the public consultation meeting.

Conclusion

The Board's representatives concluded the meeting, indicating that a record of the meeting would be forthcoming, and that the Board will wait for the prospective applicant to revert for a second meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12.25 p.m.

Brendan Wyse

Assistant Director of Planning