



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-302516-18 1st meeting

Case Reference / Description	ABP-302516-18 110kV 4-bay C-type electricity substation and associated loop-in infrastructure to tie into existing 110kV transmission line. Tullamore, Listowel, Co. Kerry.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	1 st		
Date	12/2/2019	Start Time	12.00 p.m.
Location	Cathal Brugha Room	End Time	12.45 p.m.
Chairperson	Anne Marie O'Connor	Executive Officer	Fergal Kilmurray

Attendees		
Representing An Bord Pleanála		
Staff Member	Email Address	Phone
Anne Marie O'Connor, Assistant Director of Planning		
Mary Kennelly, Senior Planning Inspector		
Fergal Kilmurray, Executive Officer	f.kilmurray@pleanala.ie	01-8737247

Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Donal Fewer, Project Director, Terra Solar II Ltd.		
Maria Lombard, Planning Consultant, RPS.		

Introduction:

Following introductions, the representatives of the Board referred to the request under 182E of the Planning and Development Act, 2001, 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 constitute Strategic Infrastructure Development.

The Prospective Applicants presentation.

The prospective applicant submitted a hard copy of the submission issued to the Board by email on the 11th February 2019. The submission included 6 number plans/drawings.

The prospective applicant then gave a breakdown of the proposed development as per submission. They stated that the development is related to a proposed development of a solar PV farm (case reference ABP-302681-18), and that EirGrid confirmed in October 2018, that the proposed new substation will comprise a new node along the existing circuit and would therefore, form part of the existing transmission grid when in operation, and would be part of EirGrid's Grid25 Programme.

The prospective applicant stated that:

- the proposed development falls with the legal interpretation of section 182A (1) of the Act,
- the proposed development will be inserted on a regionally significant part of the transmission network between Tarbert and Tralee,
- the proposal involves a break in the OH line and a loop-in. The two short sections linking the lattice towers to the substation are anticipated to be overhead lines.
- the proposed development is of 'strategic importance' and will fulfil objectives of the National Planning Framework and Regional Planning Guidelines for the

South West Region with reference to the scale of renewable energy it will serve, and

- there is relevant precedent in relation to similar proposed developments in which the Board has determined that they would constitute Strategic Infrastructure Development.

Discussion

The following matters were discussed:

- The Board representatives advised that the preliminary view is that proposed development would constitute strategic infrastructure development.
- The proposed development will include a small section of 110kv overhead line between the proposed substation and the new lattice towers along the existing Tralee-Tarbert 110kv power line. This will result in the proposed development being sub-threshold for the purposes of EIA, necessitating the need for EIA screening. Under the provisions of the recent amendments to the Planning and Development Regulations, a Screening Determination may be required where the need for an EIAR cannot be ruled out following a preliminary examination. Where a Screening Determination is required, the information specified under Schedule 7A of the Regulations must be provided to the competent authority. Information intended to be submitted in accordance with Schedule 7A should be referenced as such and the matter addressed in the application and the cover letter. The cumulative effects of the proposed development with the solar farm and other relevant existing or permitted development should also be addressed for the purposes of screening.
- Any application should address the potential impacts arising from the substantial area of cutting and filling required as a result of the c.7 metre difference in levels within the site. Issues in relation to the visual impact of the development, particularly from the south (Knockroe Drive) should be addressed in terms of sections and photomontages. In addition, proposals for the management and mitigation measures for the 2000m³ of leftover topsoil

should be addressed. A detailed construction management plan should also be looked at early in the process and should be submitted with the application.

- The prospective applicant stated that a NIS had been prepared for both the solar farm and the substation projects. The Board advised that the screening documentation submitted with an application should provide support the decision to screen out European sites not included in the NIS.
- The prospective applicant advised that following consultation with Eirgrid in November 2018, there is a possibility that an altered design for the substation from that presented at pre-app may form the basis of the application. This would mean a slight increase in the footprint of the substation. This change would require a small reduction in the number of solar panels. A further meeting with Eirgrid scheduled for 22nd February 2019 will determine whether the design/layout of the substation will remain the same or will be slightly increased in size. The Board stated that this would be unlikely to affect the pre-application process.
- The prospective applicant raised the issue of the dual consent process for the solar farm appeal and SID application. It was noted that in the past, the Board had allowed an appeal relating to a solar farm application to travel through the system in tandem with a SID application for a related substation. The prospective applicants asked if, following the conclusion of the pre-application process, the two related appeal/applications could travel together and be decided at the same time. The Board advised the prospective applicant to formally put this request to the Board in writing as soon as possible as the related appeal was in its final stages, and the request would be considered.

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.

A copy of the procedures for the making of an application to the Board are attached.

The meeting concluded at 12.45 p.m.

Anne Marie O'Connor
Assistant Director of Planning