



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-303412-19 1st meeting

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| Case Reference / Description | ABP-303412-19 220kV electrical substation, 2 number 220kV circuits forming a loop-in/loop-out to the existing Maynooth-Woodland 220kV overhead line and three number 220kV circuits at Intel Ireland Facility, Leixlip, Co. Kildare. | | |
| Case Type | Pre-application consultation | | |
| 1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting | 1 st | | |
| Date | 14/03/19 | Start Time | 11 a.m. |
| Location | Parnell Room | End Time | 11.55 a.m. |
| Chairperson | Brendan Wyse | Executive Officer | Kieran Somers |

| Attendees | | |
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| Representing An Bord Pleanála | | |
| Staff Member | Email Address | Phone |
| Brendan Wyse, Assistant Director of Planning | | |
| Una Crosse, Senior Planning Inspector | | |
| Ellen Morrin, Senior Administrative Officer | | |
| Kieran Somers, Executive Officer | | |

| Representing the Prospective Applicant | | |
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| Tomas Bradley, Senior Planner (Planning and Environment), Eirgrid | | |
| Des Cox, Team Lead (Planning and Environment), Eirgrid | | |
| Darren Cremin, Project Manager (New Connections), Eirgrid | | |
| Niamh Roche, Senior Environmental Scientist, Mott McDonald | | |

The meeting commenced at 11 a.m.

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 also referred to the further plans and particulars which it received from the prospective applicant in February 2019 which provided more detail in relation to the proposed development. It said it imagined that at least one further meeting would be required in respect of this particular pre-application case.

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 prospective applicant set out the overall need for the proposed development within the context of its obligations as the statutory Transmission System Operator (TSO). It said that the proposed development is for a demand customer (Intel in this case) and its need to be connected directly to the transmission network. The prospective applicant said that there is a current planning application with Kildare County Council for a further expansion of facilities on the existing Intel site. The prospective applicant said that the existing facility is served by three 110kV lines and added that the new demand, which such a proposed expansion would entail, cannot be accommodated by the arrangement of the existing network. It emphasised the fact that security of supply is paramount for the facility and any future expansion on site. The prospective applicant added that a loop-in/loop-out connection into a

proposed new substation would be required and acknowledged that the proposed development will likely constitute strategic infrastructure development.

The prospective applicant set out the range and extent of constraints within the area in which the proposed development is to be located. It said that there are a number of natural heritage and built heritage features, including the Carton House and Ravensdale House Demesnes. There are also archaeological monuments, residential dwellings and agricultural holdings which have to be considered with respect to the proposed development. The prospective applicant highlighted, in particular, the presence of the Rye Water Valley/Carlton Special Area of Conservation (site code: 001398) in the vicinity which it said will have to be traversed by some means so that the Intel facility can connect to the existing Maynooth-Woodland 220kV overhead line via the proposed 220kV substation a distance of circa 2-3 kilometres.

The prospective applicant set out the constituent elements of the proposed development which are as follows:

- A new 220kV substation adjacent to the Intel site
- Two new electricity circuits connecting into the Maynooth-Woodland 220kV power line which runs to the north of the facility
- Three new circuits which will be required to connect the new 220kV substation to new transformers which will be located within the Intel facility

With regard to the aforementioned transformers, the prospective applicant noted that there is an extant planning permission for these and added that there is currently an alteration application before Kildare County Council.

With respect to development alternatives, the prospective applicant said that three different sites were considered for the proposed substation. It said that the best performing option has been identified directly north of the Intel facility and that further assessment is on-going in this regard. It also reported on-going liaison with landowners in the area.

In relation to the emerging preferred route for the connection from the proposed substation to the Maynooth-Woodland 220kV overhead line, the prospective applicant said that the cross-country option is currently the emerging best option.

There is also an option under consideration which would generally follow the route of a local road. The prospective applicant confirmed to the Board that both options, which are being examined, would be underground. The crossing of the Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC required for the connection into Intel from the proposed 220kV substation is being examined with underground and over ground options being considered. Geotechnical investigation results are awaited.

Landowner and community consultation is also continuing. In relation to stakeholder consultation, the prospective applicant reported that a second open day is planned for the end of March 2019. The prospective applicant signalled its current intention to lodge the formal planning application in Quarter 2 2019. It said that the timing of this would be to fit in with its client's overall development programme.

In relation to Appropriate Assessment, the prospective applicant said that Stage 2 (Natura Impact Statement) is likely in view of the potential impacts on the Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC. The prospective applicant stated its opinion that the need for an EIAR is unlikely unless overhead lines are required to connect the facility's transformers to the proposed new substation. It added that it would expect to screen out the need for formal EIA if the said connection can be done by way of underground lines. In a general context, the prospective applicant stated its intention to firm up on such options by the end of March 2019.

The Board's representatives reiterated the opinion that a further meeting would be required in the instant pre-application consultation process. Prior to the holding of this meeting, the Board advised that the prospective applicant should have defined the main elements of the project so as to inform the overall understanding of the proposed development. The prospective applicant agreed to proceed on this basis.

From a planning perspective, the Board stated its view that the proposed crossing of the Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC would likely be the most critical factor with regard to the matter of appropriate assessment. The prospective applicant said that it is currently engaging with representatives from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in this regard.

The prospective applicant also noted for the record that consultations with representatives from Kildare County Council and Meath County Council are on-going.

Conclusion:

It was agreed that the prospective applicant will revert to the Board when it wishes to request a further meeting. The prospective applicant indicated that such a request is likely sometime in April 2019. The record of the instant meeting will issue in the meantime and the prospective applicant can submit any comments it may have on this prior to or at the time of the further meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11.55 a.m.

Brendan Wyse**Assistant Director of Planning**