



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of 2nd Meeting ABP-304629-19

Case Reference / Description	ABP-304629-19 Proposed development of a 110kV substation and associated transmission grid connection in townlands of Harristown, Castlejordan and Clongall, Co. Meath.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	2 nd		
Date	23/01/20	Time	11.00 – 11.20a.m.

Attendees
Representing An Bord Pleanála
Anne Marie O'Connor, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Pauline Fitzpatrick, Senior Planning Inspector
Josephine Hayes, Senior Executive Officer
Kieran Somers, Executive Officer
Jennifer Sherry, Executive Officer
Representing the Prospective Applicant
Aidan Collins, Lightsource BP
Eoin O'Mullane, Mott MacDonald

Introduction:

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant held on the 27th August 2019 and the record of this meeting. The Board enquired as to whether the prospective applicant had any comments it wished to make on the record of this. The prospective applicant replied that it had no comments to make.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

- The prospective applicant provided the Board with an overview of the proposed development which includes a 110kV substation and grid connection as well as ancillary elements. The solar development and battery storage elements of the overall project have already been granted permission by Meath County Council. The prospective applicant confirmed to the Board that the said grant of permission was not the subject of any third-party appeals within the appropriate time period.
- The prospective applicant reiterated that the project will require a 110kV electrical grid connection and, as previously indicated, will utilise an existing 110kV overhead line to loop-in the proposed substation. The proposed substation will comprise of separate customer and Eirgrid compounds and will also require two new lattice towers to be inserted into the existing overhead line to facilitate the loop-in of the proposed substation. Approximately 50 metres of overhead line will be required to facilitate the loop-in.

Discussion:

- The prospective applicant referred to the main issue it wished to discuss with the Board's representatives which relates to the requirement for a fibre optic connection from the proposed substation to the existing Kinnegad ESB substation (approximately five kilometres in terms of distance). It added that ESB Networks and Eirgrid have confirmed that this connection will be by means of fibre wrap along the existing overhead line. The prospective applicant said that this potential project element had not been assessed in the EIAR as completed.
- The prospective applicant advised the Board's representatives of its proposed approach which is to complete the design of the proposed substation and grid connection and to submit the SID application to the Board with the accompanying EIAR as drafted. The prospective applicant enquired as to whether the Board might have a view or any suggestions to make vis-à-vis this proposed approach and as to whether it would be comfortable with this.
- The Board replied that it would be carrying out an EIA on this aspect of the overall project (i.e. proposed substation and grid connection) and that the process would also entail an assessment of cumulative effects apropos the consented solar farm element. The prospective applicant noted this and asked if it would need to amend the existing EIAR in some fashion to include the fibre optic connection. The Board said that this particular element is not a significant change in the context of the project and suggested that an overarching statement regarding the implications, if any, of the fibre optic connection could be included with the EIAR to accompany the SID application when lodged. Any additional impacts arising from the new element should be identified and assessed.

- The prospective applicant noted the advice of the Board and said that the main concern from its perspective is that it will not have design control over this element of the project as ESB Networks has sole ownership with regard to design and installation. The Board suggested that the prospective applicant might set out any worse case scenario as well as generally indicating the broad design envelope for the fibre optic connection. The Board said that the paramount matter with respect to the EIA process is that this new element has been properly considered and assessed.

Conclusion:

The prospective applicant said that it would consider the advice of the Board and indicated that it would not likely require a further meeting. It was noted that the application procedures for SID were previously given to the prospective applicant in the record of the first meeting.

The record of the instant meeting will issue to the prospective applicant in due course and the prospective applicant can then formally request closure to the pre-application consultation process. The Board reminded the prospective applicant that a SID determination would likely issue within four weeks following receipt of the request for closure.

Anne Marie O'Connor
Assistant Director of Planning