



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-306140-19

Development	110kV substation bay, electrical cable connection and associated works at Gorman 220kV substation, Causetown, Co. Meath.		
Location	Cathal Brugha Room		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	1st		
Date	03/03/20	Time	11.30 a.m. – 12.05 p.m.

Attendees		
Representing An Bord Pleanála		
Anne Marie O'Connor, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)		
Breda Gannon, Senior Planning Inspector		
Josephine Hayes, Senior Executive Officer		
Kieran Somers, Executive Officer	k.somers@pleanala.ie	01-8737250
Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Paul Neary, Neo-Environmental		
Daniel Ferrier, Scottish Power Renewables		

Introduction:

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 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.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

- The prospective applicant provided the Board's representatives with a background regarding the proposed development which is for a 110kV substation bay, electrical cable connection and associated works to facilitate a

previously consented 100-megawatt energy storage facility. The subject site is located adjacent to the existing Gorman 220kV substation in Causetown, County Meath and access to the site will be via the L3411 which lies to the east. The area in the surrounding hinterland comprises mainly of agricultural land and Navan town is situated approximately five kilometres to the south-west of the subject site.

- The overall development layout for the proposed development was set out by the prospective applicant; the constituent elements comprise of a new 110kV bay within the existing Gorman substation which will be tail-fed in terms of method of connection. An underground electrical cable connection will extend from the substation in question for approximately 480 metres to the existing 220kV Gorman substation. The prospective applicant said that the proposed development will fit within the existing footprint of the building and will utilise standard equipment as per Eirgrid's functional specifications. In response to the Board's query on the matter, the prospective applicant confirmed that the proposed development would not facilitate any further use beyond that indicated.
- The prospective applicant set out the main reasons informing its opinion that the proposed development would not constitute strategic infrastructure. It noted that the proposed development utilises a tail-fed method of connection and relates solely to the functional area of one planning authority. In addition, the proposed development is not considered to be of strategic economic or social importance on a national or regional level and does not comprise a critical link for other strategic development in the area.

Discussion:

- The Board's representatives noted the points made by the prospective applicant and remarked that a key consideration for the Board apropos such proposed development is whether it comprises a node on the transmission network. The prospective applicant replied that the proposed development

will serve the consented energy storage facility only; it also confirmed that a loop-in loop-out connection is not involved in this particular instance.

- The Board's representatives stated their preliminary opinion that the proposed development would likely not constitute strategic infrastructure given that the proposed development does not constitute a node on the transmission network. The prospective applicant was advised that it can request closure to the pre-application consultation process following receipt of the record of the instant meeting and that it should allow for a period of approximately four weeks for the Board's formal SID determination.
- With regard to the prospective applicant's query in relation to an 'under-the-fence' option given the proximity of the proposed development to the existing substation in terms of connection, the Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant that it should forward further information to the Board for its consideration. The prospective applicant agreed to this and undertook to explain that such an option would not entail a node on the transmission network, nor would it have any wider implications for the security of supply. It was agreed that, following receipt of this further information, the Board will determine whether a second meeting for clarification might be necessitated or if it has a sufficient level of detail in order to make its determination. If the latter is the case, then the prospective applicant may proceed to request a formal SID determination.

Anne Marie O'Connor

Assistant Director of Planning