



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-307256-20 2nd meeting

Case Reference / Description	ABP-307256-20 Provision of a 110kV substation and associated site works at Avoca River Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	2 nd		
Date	05/10/20	Start Time	11 a.m.
Location	N/A	End Time	11.20 a.m.

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Staff Members
Rachel Kenny, Director of Planning (Chair)
Mairead Kenny, Senior Planning Inspector
Kieran Somers, Executive Officer
Representing the Prospective Applicant
Simon McCormick, Crag Digital Avoca Ltd
Patrick Denton, H&MV
Teri Hayes, AWN Consulting
Enda Baker, FTSquared
Luke Wymer, John Spain Associates

The meeting commenced at 11 a.m.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

General:

The prospective applicant referred to the proposed development generally and noted that the original pre-application consultation request was in respect of the substation element only and that an addendum to this request has included potential grid connections. The prospective applicant said that it has engaged with Eirgrid since the time of its previous meeting with the Board and that the preferred connection method now is via overhead lines to the existing Arklow substation. The prospective applicant clarified that this particular component would not form part of any subsequent SID application to the Board.

The prospective applicant set out some of the constituent elements of the proposed development and the final scope of the intended SID application. With regard to previous queries raised by the Board apropos the proposed development, the prospective applicant confirmed that the proposed substation will comprise a new node on the transmission grid and will serve an existing adjacent substation (Shelton Abbey), as well as an adjacent data storage facility. The prospective applicant confirmed that the proposed substation will not be a replacement substation, but rather will comprise a new node on the transmission grid as previously stated. The prospective applicant referred to the criteria set out under section 37A(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and, whilst noting that there is no direct link in legislation between section 182A applications and this criteria, stated its opinion that the proposed development would constitute strategic infrastructure development.

Board's comments:

The Board's representatives noted the prospective applicant's presentation and said that the nature and scope of the proposed development is clear. It also noted that an EIAR will be required as part of any subsequent planning application. The Board noted for the record that the EIA should focus on the subject development which is the proposed substation. Cumulative impacts (both direct and indirect) will also have to be addressed as part of the EIA process. The worst-case scenario should be assessed in relation to the overhead connection. The Board also emphasised the requirement and importance of thorough Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment.

The prospective applicant noted the Board's comments and said that the detailed design of the proposed overhead lines has not yet been finalised yet, but acknowledged that cumulative impacts will have to be addressed with respect to these. The Board advised the prospective applicant to obtain as much information as possible from Eirgrid in this respect.

Conclusion:

The prospective applicant signalled its current intention to lodge a SID application with the Board circa early – mid-November. The Board noted this and reminded the prospective applicant that it should await receipt of the record of the instant meeting prior to requesting formal closure.

The reporting inspector will then complete report and recommendation to the Board and a SID determination will issue shortly thereafter.

The meeting concluded at 11.20 a.m.

Rachel Kenny**Director of Planning**