



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-309375-21 2nd meeting

Description	ABP-309375-21 – Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3, Co. Mayo		
Case Type	Pre-application Consultation under Section 37B of the P&D Act 2000, as amended.		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	2 nd Meeting		
Venue	Virtually by Microsoft Teams		
Date	11/11/2021	Time	11am –12:03pm

Representing An Bord Pleanála

Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)

Patricia Calleary, Senior Planning Inspector

Sarah Caulfield, Executive Officer | s.caulfield@pleanala.ie | 01-8737287

Representing the Prospective Applicant

Sean Creedon, Bord na Móna Powergen Limited

Michael Gill, Bord na Móna Powergen Limited

Brian Gallagher, TOBIN Consulting Engineers

Mark McCarthy, TOBIN Consulting Engineers

Introduction

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant held on the 28th April, 2021 and the record of that meeting. The Board asked if the prospective applicants had any comments it wished to make on the record of this meeting and the prospective applicant replied that it had no comments to make.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant outlined that the main topics to be discussed at this meeting would include a recap on the previous meeting, an update on the proposed development/design and the current project timeline.

The prospective applicant provided an update on some items raised at the previous meeting. With regard to peat depths and stability, the prospective applicant noted that the proposed site is relatively flat, however, it said a peat stability assessment would be carried out and submitted as part of any future planning application. In relation to the Bellacorrick turbines (constructed in 1992), the prospective applicant said their intention is to decommission these 21 turbines as part of the proposed development.

The prospective applicant noted that construction commenced in Spring 2021 on the phase 2 development of Oweninny which is located to the west of the proposed site.

In relation to a previous query in relation to turbine foundations, the prospective applicant said 75% of turbines (22/29 turbines) in phase 1 of the Oweninny development required piled foundations, which was largely due to the proximity to the Bellacorrick Iron Flush Special Area of Conservation. This figure is anticipated to be approximately 20% for the phase 2 development.

With regard to Ornithology, the prospective applicant said the findings from the 2021 breeding bird season have been gathered and noted that there was no unusual additional activity recorded in 2021 compared to previous years. It said these findings would be included along with historical surveys from the entire site and submitted in the Ornithology chapter of the EIAR.

The prospective applicant said there has been little change made to the proposed development, mainly with reference to the positioning of some turbines. The proposed development would consist of 18 wind turbines, with an approximate

capacity of 90MW and with a tip height ranging between 180-200metres. The corresponding blade length would be between 72-80 metres with the hub height would range between 108-120 metres.

It was noted that the preferred location for the associated 110kV substation has been agreed.

The prospective applicant presented a site layout map which detailed the elements of the proposed development. It was noted that the planning boundary has yet to be finalised. The map identified the turbine locations, proposed substation location, the grid connection route, the internal site access roads, proposed amenity track, potential borrow pit locations and the construction compounds and storage areas.

The prospective applicant said there has been some minor changes to the turbine locations. Two turbine locations have been removed from the south west and have been re-positioned throughout the site. The prospective applicant stated that this change would be beneficial from an environmental perspective due to the proximity to the Lough Dahybaun Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

It was noted that a consultation meeting was held with Mayo County Council in June 2021 and additional public information clinics were also held in August 2021.

The prospective applicant said a leave for substitute consent application for peat extraction was submitted to the Board on the 4th November 2021 (ABP-311862-21) and it is prospective applicant's intention to submit a planning application in March 2022.

Discussion

The following matters were discussed:

- Following a request from the Board's representatives, the prospective applicant agreed to submit a full context map following this meeting which identifies all existing and proposed turbine locations on the site and neighbouring sites including those of the proposed development
- There was a general discussion had in relation to the recent Derryadd High Court Judgement in relation to providing specific turbine tip heights as part of

the planning application. The Board's representatives advised that if a specific tip height is not finalised and that ranges are instead brought forward, these configurations within the ranges should be specific (as distinct from a worst-case envelope configuration) and the specific configurations should be examined in the EIAR to allow the Board to also examine and evaluate the likely impacts. Specific configuration details should also be presented on the planning application drawings.

- There was a general discussion had in relation to the Climate Action Plan 2021 and in particular, carbon sequestration. The prospective applicant said there is historical site data available from the Oweninny site in relation to carbon flux measurements and carbon sequestration on the site. The prospective applicant said that this data would be included in any subsequent planning application. (Post meeting note: The data to be included in any future Climate Assessment should be relevant to the forthcoming application).
- In relation to noise, the prospective applicant confirmed there are 11 sensitive receptors within two kilometres and no sensitive receptors within one kilometre. The prospective applicant said they typically use a conservative approach to ensure flexibility in relation to the noise limit values.

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. It will be a matter for the prospective applicant to revert to the Board if it requires a further meeting or if it wishes to close the pre-application consultation process.

Ciara Kellett

Assistant Director of Planning