



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-309913-21 3rd meeting

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| Description | ABP-309913-21 – ‘North Connacht Project’, comprising of the laying of a 3 phase 110 kV UGC (approx. 60 km) between the existing substations, Moy 110kV substation and Tonroe 110kV substation and the upgrading of the existing Moy 110 kV and Tonroe 110 kV Substations, in the townland of Gorteen (Barony of Tirawley), County Mayo and the townland of Ballyoughter, County Roscommon | | |
| Case Type | Pre-application Consultation under Section 182E of the P&D Act 2000, as amended. | | |
| 1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting | 3 rd Meeting | | |
| Venue | Virtually by Microsoft Teams | | |
| Date | 30/03/2022 | Time | 11:00am –11:33am |

Representing An Bord Pleanála

Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)

Una Crosse, Senior Planning Inspector

Sarah Caulfield, Executive Officer

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Representing the Prospective Applicant

Tomás Bradley, Senior Lead Planner (EirGrid)

Des Cox, Lead Planner (EirGrid)

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| Jason Kenna, Project Manager (EirGrid) |
| Donna Hassett, Senior Environmental Scientist (Mott McDonald) |
| Roger MacNaughton, Principal Ecologist (Mott McDonald) |
| Paul Foley, Senior Engineer (Mott McDonald) |

Introduction:

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant of the 19th October, 2021 and the record of this meeting. The Board asked if the prospective applicant had any comments it wished to make on the record of this meeting; the prospective applicant replied that it had no comments to make.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant provided a brief recap of the 2nd meeting and said the main items to be discussed today include the final proposed development, the cable routing at Swinford and the project timelines.

The prospective applicant highlighted that any future planning application would only include works between two substations namely, Tonroe 110kV substation in County Roscommon and Moy 110kV substation in County Mayo and said the proposed development is now predominantly underground in nature.

The prospective applicant said the Flagford-Tonroe 110kV overhead circuit uprate has been removed from the project scope and is no longer considered as part of the proposed development. Following extensive surveys and a refinement of the scope, the prospective applicant said this element is now considered exempted development. The prospective applicant requested that the uprate of the overhead circuit be removed from consideration by the Board as part of this pre-application consultation process, as it will no longer form part of any future planning application.

The prospective applicant presented two maps which highlighted the route between the Moy and Tonroe substations and said the cable alignment has primarily remained the same, except for some micro-siting.

The prospective applicant provided an update on the cable routing in the town of Swinford, County Mayo. It was submitted that Swinford is a constrained location given the geographical nature of the town centre. The prospective applicant said several options were considered along with extensive stakeholder engagement to ensure the best option is chosen. Following feedback from the community, it was agreed to avoid the main street of Swinford (N26 National Road). The prospective applicant said its current intention is to apply for two route options within Swinford, one along Circular Road (which is located to the west of Main Street) and the other along Brookville Avenue (located to the east of Main Street). It said both options will be fully assessed and included within the red line boundary. It was submitted that both options are feasible but will require detailed technical design to be completed, prior to selecting the final route. Additionally, it was noted that both routes may be subject to road opening licenses, to be applied for with Mayo County Council.

The prospective applicant considers the proposed development is not a type of development which falls within Annex I and Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive. It said environmental impact assessment screening will be carried out and submitted as part of any subsequent planning application. The prospective applicant said a Natura Impact Statement will be submitted with any subsequent application.

The prospective application intends to submit a planning application for the proposed development in May 2022.

Discussion

The following matters were discussed:

- Following a query on the matter, the prospective applicant confirmed that an EIAR would not be required for the proposed development however it said an EIA screening report would be submitted as part of any future planning application.
- The Board's representatives said it is a matter for the prospective applicant to decide whether an NIS is required as screening is not undertaken by the Board at a pre-application consultation stage.

- A general discussion was had around procedures and the Board's representatives noted that a list of prescribed bodies to be notified, including a full list of procedures will be issued if/when the Board determine the development is SID.
- In relation to the two route options in Swinford, the Board's representatives said this would be reasonable but emphasised that both options must be equally considered in terms of potential impacts, the red line boundary, public notices etc. Additionally, the Board's representatives advised consulting with Mayo County Council in relation to the two route options proposed.

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 is up to the prospective applicant to request a further meeting or request formal closure of the pre-application consultation process.

Ciara Kellett

Assistant Director of Planning