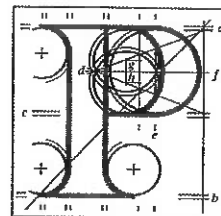


Our Case Number: ABP-310334-21

Your Reference: EP Energy Developments Ltd.



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Gravis Planning
121 Baggot Street Lower
Dublin 2

Date: 3rd August 2021

Re: Open Cycle Gas Turbine plant and ancillary connection infrastructure
Tynagh Power Station complex, Derryfrench, Tynagh, Loughrea, Co. Galway

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the first meeting of the 22nd July 2021.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Niamh Thornton
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-873 7247

PC07

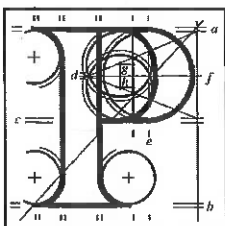
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An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-310334-21 1st meeting

Case Reference / Description	ABP-310334-21 Open Cycle Gas Turbine plant and ancillary connection infrastructure. Tynagh Power Station complex, Derryfrench, Tynagh, Loughrea, Co. Galway		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	1 st		
Date	22/07/21	Start Time	11.03 a.m.
Location	N/A	End Time	12.09 p.m.

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Sarah Lynch, Senior Planning Inspector
Niamh Thornton, Executive Officer
Representing the Prospective Applicant
Ed Barrett
David Kerr
Gary Mackin
William Lynch
Peter O'Connor
Rachel Devine

Adrian Sweeney
Penny Linton
Simon Bate
Daniel Grandjean

The meeting commenced at 11.03 a.m.

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 gave a brief overview of the project team and the history of the company, stating that it is the sixth largest provider of power in Europe and its primary focus is power generation.

The prospective applicant gave a presentation on the proposed development accompanied by maps and drawings. The proposed development is an Open-Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) peaking plant situated in the existing Tynagh power complex. The proposed plant can be started at short notice when there is a shortage of supply of power. The prospective applicant stated that this plant and similar developments will be necessary to ensure security of supply and that this type of plant will also assist in the move towards renewable energy. The prospective applicant clarified that secondary fuel storage will be required and that the proposed development will connect to existing grid infrastructure.

The various elements of the proposed development include the new OCGT plant, a 40m high stack, secondary fuel storage, an additional bay within the existing substation, gas AGI and relocation of the administrative building, warehouse and carpark.

The prospective applicant presented images of the proposed elevations and stated that it will sit comfortably within the existing industrial power plant environment. The prospective applicant also noted the screening surrounding the development site.

From a planning policy context, the prospective applicant stated that the proposed development is supported by national, regional and local policy and that the Galway County Development Plan includes supporting policies.

The prospective applicant stated that it does not consider that the proposed development constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development. The prospective applicant noted that the plant will be below the 300MW output threshold as listed in the 7th Schedule.

Regarding section 37A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, the prospective applicant stated that it does not consider that one single OCGT plant could be considered strategic development, as it would not meet any of the tests of s.37A(2). The prospective applicant reiterated that the plant would only be operational intermittently, when alternative supply is low. In addition, the prospective applicant does not consider the proposed development constitutes transmission infrastructure as it is an ancillary function to the existing transmission infrastructure in place.

The prospective applicant clarified that an EIAR is being prepared and that a scoping report has been submitted to Galway County Council and other prescribed bodies. The prospective applicant confirmed that technical assessments have been ongoing since May and a summary of the EIA report structure was provided.

The prospective applicant stated that it intends to submit an application for planning in October 2021.

Board's comments/queries:

The Board noted that the proposed development is just under the 300MW output limit for a project not to be considered Strategic Infrastructure Development as per the 7th Schedule. The Board queried other aspects of the development which could lead to the proposed project constituting SID including section 182(A) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the amount of fuel storage required and the thermal output level. The Board also queried how the prospective applicant will limit the output to 299 MW.

The prospective applicant referred to two previous cases ABP Ref. 307081 and 307080, both of which were determined by the Board not to constitute SID.

The prospective applicant stated that the secondary fuel storage and thermal output will be below the limits as listed in the 7th Schedule. It was clarified that the grid will determine the output from the facility and that an electrical generator with a fixed output of 299MW will be used.

The cumulative impact of the proposed plant was addressed. It was noted that the output of the existing CCGT plant is over 400MW. The prospective applicant stated that the two plants should not be considered cumulatively, because the proposed OCGT will not add capacity to the existing CCGT plant. .

The Board recommended that the prospective applicant provide the Board with more detail regarding the relevant headings under the 7th Schedule and the details and figures applicable to this project. It was agreed that more technical information will be submitted to the Board in writing in this regard.

Conclusion:

The Board advised the prospective applicant that it is open to it to keep the pre-application process open for the time being and said that a further meeting can be facilitated should one be required.

The record of the instant meeting will issue in the meantime and the prospective applicant can submit any comments it may have in writing or alternatively bring any comments for discussion at the time of any further meeting. The onus is on the prospective applicant to either request a further meeting or formal closure of the instant pre-application consultation process.

The meeting concluded at 12.09 a.m.

Post Meeting:

Further technical information, as requested, was submitted to the Board on 23rd July, 2021 to describe the development and to clarify the nature of the development.

Ciara Kellett

3/8/21

Ciara Kellett

Assistant Director of Planning