

Tomas Bradley
Eirgrid Plc
The Oval
160 Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge
D04 FW28

Date: 9th September 2021

Re: Uprate of the 110 kV circuit between Castlebar 110kV Substation in the townland of Aghalusky Co. Mayo and Cloon 110 kV Substation in the townland of Cloonascragh, Tuam, Co. Galway.
Townlands of Aghalusky Co. Mayo and Cloonascragh, Tuam, Co. Galway.

Dear Sir,

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 8th September 2021.

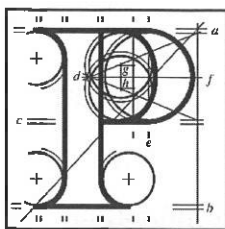
If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

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

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Caulfield
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-873 7287

PC07



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting

ABP-310830-21 1st meeting

Description	ABP-310830-21 - Uprate of the 110 kV circuit between Castlebar 110kV Substation in the townland of Aghalusky Co. Mayo and Cloon 110 kV Substation in the townland of Cloonascragh, Tuam, Co. Galway.		
Case Type	Pre-application Consultation.		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	1 st Meeting		
Venue	Virtually by Microsoft Teams		
Date	08/09/2021	Time	11am – 11:20am

Representing An Bord Pleanála		
Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)		
Una Crosse, Senior Planning Inspector		
Sarah Caulfield, Executive Officer	s.caulfield@pleanala.ie	01-8737287
Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Tomás Bradley – Eirgrid plc		
Owen Zamboglou – Eirgrid plc		

Introduction:

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 14th July 2021, 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 that it wished to receive advice on from the Board. The Board mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- 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 in any legal proceedings.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant gave an overview of the proposed development under the following headings:

Development Need: The current network in the North West does not have the capacity to accommodate the expected future renewable energy generation and maintain compliance with the Transmission System Security and Planning Standards (TSSPS). The proposed development is part of a suite of uprates being progressed in the North West of Ireland in order to bring existing assets up to these standards.

Development Location: The proposed development occurs in the administrative areas of both County Mayo and County Galway. The existing line crosses over agricultural land for much of the route, with ground conditions described as poor. Peatlands are also present at several locations.

Development Description: Works to include the replacement of:

- 57.3 Kilometres one phase Optical Phase Conductor (OPPC),
- 39 lattice steel towers, 53 wooden polesets, 21 anti-climbing guards, 50 crossarms, 6 suspension insulators, all strain insulators, 292 labels and notices,
- The bay conductor in the Castlebar bay in Cloon 110 kV substation,
- The bay conductor in the Cloon bay in Castlebar 110 kV substation, and
- The 175-metre cable section at the Castlebar 110 kV section to ensure a busbar-to-busbar summer/winter rating of 835A/1102A on the Castlebar-Cloon 110 kV circuit.

Exempted Development: The prospective applicant is of the opinion that the proposed works would usually fall within the definition of exempted development under Section 4(1)(g) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. However, as this development has been screened in for appropriate assessment, planning permission/approval is required. The prospective applicant is of the opinion that the proposed development does not require an EIAR.

Statement on Strategic Infrastructure: The prospective applicant is of the opinion that, given the nature, scale, and function of the proposed development, it is not a Strategic Infrastructure Development as it does not come within the qualifying conditions for such development set out in Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. It is also stated that the proposed development does not fall within 37(A)(2) of the Act and does not fall within the categories of development listed in the Seventh Schedule. The prospective applicant states that the proposed development is for typical uprate works required as part of the EirGrid and ESB's routine function.

Precedent Cases which were determined as not SID

1. **VC0116** – Refurbishment of the existing Cloon to Lanesboro 110 kV Overhead Line, Co. Galway (Decision Date: 25/10/2017)
2. **VC0108** – Uprate and refurbishment of the existing Great Island-Kilkenny 110 kV Overhead Line substation in Counties Wexford and Kilkenny (Decision Date: 27/06/2018)
3. **ABP-305276-19** – Refurbishment works to the existing Great Island-Kellis 220 kV Line, Co. Wexford (Decision Date: 23/10/2019)
4. **ABP-309446-21** – Uprating of the 110 kV circuit between Binbane 110 kV substation in Tullinlough, Co. Donegal and Cathaleen's Fall 110 kV station, Beleek Road, Tully, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal (Decision Date: 14/06/2021)

Board's comments/queries

The following matters were discussed:

- In response to the Board's query on the matter, the prospective applicant advised that there is a source pathway in the area to a Special Area of Conservation.
- The prospective applicant stated that they have a programme in place for uprating works at other locations and anticipates similar applications will be lodged over the coming months.

- The Board's representatives stated their preliminary opinion that the proposed development would not be SID, however, it was emphasised that the final decision on this would rest with the Board.

Conclusion

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to request formal closure of the pre-application consultation process. The prospective applicant indicated that it would do so and then await the Board's determination.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Ciara Kellett', is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the date '9/9/21' is handwritten in the same blue ink.

Ciara Kellett

Assistant Director of Planning

