

**An
Bord
Pleanála**

**Record of 1st Meeting
ABP-311394-21**

Development	110kV electrical substation, a 110kV loop in/loop out cable connection to the Kinnegad -Rinawade 110kV overhead line and all associated development		
Location	Virtually by Microsoft Teams		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	1 st		
Date	15/12/2021	Time	15:00p.m. – 16:00p.m.
Attendees			
Representing An Bord Pleanála			
Brendan Wyse, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)			
Donal Donnelly, Senior Planning Inspector			
Jennifer Sherry, Executive Officer	j.sherry@pleanala.ie	01-8737266	
Representing the Prospective Applicant			
Declan Morrissey, Fehily Timoney and Company			
Jim Hughes, Fehily Timoney and Company			
Kevin MacMahon, Statkraft Ireland			
Jane O'Connor, Statkraft Ireland			

Introduction

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 that it wished to receive 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 any legal proceedings.

Presentation by the prospective applicant

The proposed development, the subject of this pre-application consultation meeting, is for a 110kV substation and an on-site 110kv loop-in/loop-out connection to the Kinnegad-Rinawade 110kV overhead line to serve permitted development Drehid Wind

Farm. The Board granted permission in September 2020 under ABP-306500-20 (Kildare County Council Reg. Ref: 18/1534) for Drehid Windfarm to include 12 wind turbines with a tip height of 169m, underground grid connection to Dunfiirth substation and associated site works.

The prospective applicant advised the rationale for the proposed development is guided by EirGrid as Dunfiirth substation is not suitable for a generator connection and would require a complete rebuild of the substation. The prospective applicant stated the proposed development will include the following infrastructure:

- 1 no. 110kV onsite substation including control buildings, underground electrical and communications cabling, 2 no. overhead line single circuit strain towers, drainage and sediment controls, temporary site compounds, tree felling and associated works.
- Approx. 1,200 metres of 110kV double circuit underground electricity cable and two single circuit strain towers to facilitate connection to the existing Kinnegad-Rinawade 110kV overhead line.

A number of drawings were discussed in the presentation provided of the site layout, site location and indicative substation layout. The prospective applicant stated survey work is ongoing and completed in some areas. The prospective applicant advised that it is their intention to include an EIAR and NIS with the application, using the information previously gathered for the application for Drehid Wind Farm.

In conclusion to the presentation, the prospective applicant stated that the current proposed development will form part of the transmission network. The prospective applicant stated it is their opinion the proposed development should be considered a strategic infrastructure development.

Discussion

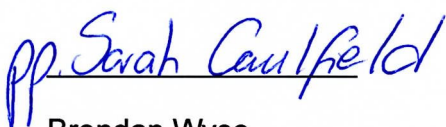
The following matters were discussed as part of the meeting:

- The Board's representatives advised it is their preliminary view that the proposed development would constitute a strategic infrastructure development but that it is ultimately for the Board to make a determination on the matter.
- The Board's representatives noted the proposed substation is to be located in the townland of Killyon and advised the prospective applicant to clarify the townlands affected by the proposed development.
- In response to the Board's representatives' query, the prospective applicant confirmed that no direct planning application has been made to Kildare County Council for the alternative connection proposal, which was previously determined by the Board not to be Strategic Infrastructure Development (ABP-308828-21). The prospective applicant also advised that the High Court challenge to Drehid Wind Farm is still before the courts.
- The Board's representatives noted the planning history of the area and advised the prospective applicant to consider the adequacy of the local road network for access during construction, residential amenity of dwellings to the north and east of the site, construction traffic, ecology and biodiversity of protected species located within 1km of the site. The prospective applicant stated it would have a good understanding of the local biodiversity from baseline surveys of the habitats that have been undertaken.
- The Board's representatives further stated that due consideration in the NIS should be given to the in-combination effects of the permitted solar farm and wind farm in the area.
- The Board's representatives noted the proximity of national monuments to the north of the site and the possible presence of a pathway through the substation site, as shown in historic mapping. The prospective applicant advised that this should be reflected in any cultural heritage assessment.

- The prospective applicant in response to the Board's representatives' query advised they have been in discussions with EirGrid throughout the process and it is not confirmed yet if the substation will become an EirGrid asset.
- The Board's representatives noted if the prospective applicant intends to submit an EIAR that it should be very focused on the assessment of the proposed development. There should be no doubt or possibility that the permitted development for Drehid Wind Farm is being revisited.

Conclusion

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant, and it will be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wishes to do so. Following this, the prospective applicant should seek a second meeting with the Board or request closure to the pre-application process in writing. If closure to the pre-application is requested, the reporting inspector will complete the report and recommendation which will be forwarded to the Board for determination. A copy of the procedures will be attached, and the decision will then issue to the prospective applicant.



Brendan Wyse

Assistant Director of Planning