



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-311394-21 2nd meeting

Case Reference / Description	110kV electrical substation, a 110kV loop in/loop out cable connection to the Kinnegad - Rinawade 110kV overhead line and all associated development. In the townlands of Ballynamullagh, Kilmurry, Coolree, Mulgeeth and Drehid, Co. Kildare.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	2 nd		
Date	23/11/23	Start Time	11.00 a.m.
Location	MS Teams	End Time	11:30 a.m.

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Stephen Kay, Assistant Director of Planning
Donal Donnelly, Senior Planning Inspector
Anthony Kelly, Planning Inspector
Ashling Doherty, Executive Officer
Lauren Griffin, Executive Officer
Breda Ingle, Executive Officer
Representing the Prospective Applicant
Brian Cronin, FTCO
Rita Mansfield, FTCO

Kevin MacMahon, Statkraft
Jane O' Connor, Statkraft
Alexander Brem, Statkraft

The meeting commenced at 11.00 a.m.

The Board welcomed the prospective applicant to the meeting and introduced those attending 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.
- 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 an update on the proposed development and noted that this meeting is being held in conjunction with pre-application consultation 314463-22, for Drehid Wind Farm.. The proposed location is approximately 2.05km south of Johnstown Bridge, and approximately 4.89km to the east of Carbury in Co. Kildare. The rationale for the proposed substation is based on the unsuitability of other substations, including the Dunferth Substation, and the fact that there is no additional capacity on the Derryiron-Maynooth 110kV overhead line. Based on this, the proposed applicant is now seeking permission for a 110kV substation and an on-site 110kV loop-in/loop-out connection to the Kinnegad-Rinawade 110kV overhead line.

Following alterations to the design of the proposed wind farm development, the number of turbines has decreased from 12 to 11, turbine no. 5 has been relocated, and amendments are proposed to the access track (see Record of Second Meeting on Ref. 314463 held on 23rd November, 2023). The proposal the subject of this pre application consultation will comprise 1 no. 110kV substation, including control buildings, underground electrical and communications cabling, drainage and sediment controls, temporary site compounds, tree felling and associated works. It also includes approximately 1,050m of 110kV double circuit underground electricity cable and 2 no. single circuit strain towers to facilitate connection to the existing Kinnegad-Rinawade 110 kV overhead line.

The prospective applicant stated that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will be submitted with the application. It was stated that surveys completed to date include breeding birds and winter birds, lizards, aquatic ecology, terrestrial habitats, bats, peat probing and topographical surveys.

Discussion:

The prospective applicant confirmed that the location of the proposed substation presented at the 1st meeting has since been moved approximately 400m north. This is due to peat probing highlighting that peat depth was significant at the previously proposed location. The land is a mixture of farmland and forestry with some concentration of peat in the forestry. The depth of the peat at the proposed substation location is approximately 0.5m.

The Board's representatives sought clarification if the new proposed substation location would require tree felling to which the prospective applicant confirmed it would to a certain degree although the extent of such felling was likely to be less than that shown on the drawings presented in the presentation to the Board.

A discussion was held having regard to drainage channels and watercourses to the west of the proposed site. The prospective applicant stated that the OPW Boyne arterial drainage channel and a tributary of the River Boyne, the Blackwater Longwood watercourse, skirts along the west of the proposed development. As part of the EIAR, consideration will be given to the cumulative effects of ongoing maintenance of the arterial drainage channel with the project to ensure their drainage is a standalone, compared to the actions the OPW take within the area.

The prospective applicant confirmed they have completed 2 seasons for the surveys and also have extensive data from the previous application.

The Board's representatives restated the opinion given at the first pre application consultation meeting that screening for AA and any NIS prepared should give full consideration to the in combination effects of the permitted solar farm and proposed wind farm development (Revised Drehid Wind Farm the subject of pre application consultation Ref. ABP-314463-22).

The Board's representatives stated that their preliminary view is that the proposed substation application is a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) but the decision will lie solely with the Board.

Conclusion:

The onus is on the prospective applicant to either request a further meeting or formal closure of the instant pre-application consultation process. 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 meeting concluded at 11.30 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Kay', is written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Kay

Assistant Director of Planning