



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of 1st Meeting

ABP-311778-21

Development	Provision of a 110kV GIS substation and associated development on a site to the north of the existing Kish Business Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow		
Location	Virtually by Microsoft Teams		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1 st / 2 nd / 3 rd Meeting	1 st		
Date	16/02/2022	Time	11:00a.m. – 11:30a.m.
Representing An Bord Pleanála			
Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)			
Donal Donnelly, Senior Planning Inspector			
Jennifer Sherry, Executive Officer	j.sherry@pleanala.ie	01-8737266	
Representing the Prospective Applicant			
Luke Wymer, John Spain Associates			
Simon McCormick Crag Wicklow Limited			
Enda Baker, FT Squared Project Management			
Jonathan Gauntlett, AWN Consulting			
Patrick Denton, H&MV Engineers			

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 advice 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 prospective applicant gave an overview of the proposed development setting out the site location and planning context in the presentation provided. The proposed 110kV GIS substation and transmission lines will serve a permitted ICT development granted

planning permission by Wicklow County Council Register Reference number 20/1088. A link road and reserved area for the proposed development was included in the permission for the ICT development.

The prospective applicant discussed four potential transmission line connection route options between the proposed substation site and existing electricity transmission infrastructure in the area. The options presented include connection to Arklow 220kV substation, Pollahoney 110kV substation and Arklow-Banoge 110kV overhead line.

The prospective applicant stated the proposed development would have the purpose of electricity 'transmission' as defined under section 182A(9) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). The proposed development will be part of the transmission system and will be transferred to EirGrid on completion of the project.

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 ultimately this is a decision for the Board.
- The prospective applicant in response to the Board's representatives' query stated a new EIAR and screening for appropriate assessment will be carried out, which will consider the cumulative and in-combination impacts with the permitted ICT development. The Board's representatives advised that any future planning application documentation should clearly highlight the works that are being applied for, separate from the works permitted under the ICT development.
- The prospective applicant stated it is their intention to have a transmission line route selected at the time it is lodging the planning application. The prospective applicant advised it will ultimately be a decision for EirGrid on where the connection is made, and it will seek to minimise the impacts as much as possible. The selected route will be considered in the EIAR with the alternatives highlighted. The Board's representatives noted that the proposed route options through Arklow town may be

more disruptive than the proposal to connect to the Arklow to Bannoge 110kV overhead line.

- The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to consider the visual impact of the proposed substation and in particular the visibility from the railway line and proposed distributor road in the vicinity.
- The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to have regard to a potential cultural heritage structure to the west of the site shown on historical mapping. The Board's representatives also noted the hydrological links from the stream in the vicinity and the prospective applicant stated that an assessment of the watercourse showed that there was limited potential impact.
- In addressing the cumulative effect with other relevant plans and projects in the vicinity, the Board's representatives noted the potential for traffic impacts and advised the prospective applicant to clearly demonstrate in the EIAR the cumulative impacts if all projects are under construction simultaneously.

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, it is up to the prospective applicant to either 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 prospective applicant.

Ciara Kellett

Assistant Director of Planning