



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-313042-22 1st meeting

| | | | |
|---|--|-------------------|------------|
| Case Reference / Description | ABP-313042-22 110kV electrical substation and grid connection. Within the townland of Monkstown, Athlone, Co. Roscommon. | | |
| Case Type | Pre-application consultation | | |
| 1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting | 1 st | | |
| Date | 10/05/22 | Start Time | 11:05 a.m. |
| Location | MS Teams | End Time | 11:30 a.m. |

| |
|---|
| Representing An Bord Pleanála |
| Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning |
| Karla McBride, Senior Planning Inspector |
| Niamh Thornton, Executive Officer |
| Representing the Prospective Applicant |
| Louise Byrne, Tobin |
| Tom Lawlor, Bord Gáis Energy |

The meeting commenced at 11.05 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 provided a brief background of the prospective applicant company, Greener Ideas Limited. Greener Ideas Limited is a joint venture company between Bord Gáis Energy Ltd. and Mountside Properties Ltd.

The proposed Cuilleen 110kV electrical substation will be located within the site boundary of a proposed gas fired peaking power plant, also being developed by Greener Ideas Limited. It will connect to the existing electricity transmission system via a new 110kV cable bay in the existing Athlone 110kV substation.

The proposed works will comprise of the following:

- The new Cuilleen 110kV Single Bay AIS Station
- A new 110kV underground circuit from the new Cuilleen 110kV substation to the existing Athlone 110kV substation, comprising 3 no. Power Ducts with cables and 2 no. Telecoms Ducts.
- A new 110kV Cable Bay in the existing Athlone 110kV Station, to connect to the new Athlone – Cuilleen 110kV underground circuit.

It was noted that the connection into the existing Athlone 110kV substation will be tail-fed.

The prospective applicant presented two potential grid connection route options.

The prospective applicant stated it is of the opinion that the proposed development falls under the definition of 'transmission' pursuant to section 182A(9)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and for that reason, application for approval must be made to An Bord Pleanála.

Discussion:

The prospective applicant clarified that the distance of the proposed grid connection is just over 2km.

The Board's representatives asked what relationship the proposed development will have to the River Shannon and associated Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area. The prospective applicant clarified that the planning application for

the peaking power plant includes a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which will cover and include mitigation measures for the plant and the grid connection.

The prospective applicant stated that it has not been in discussion with the NPWS or Inland Fisheries in relation to the grid connection to date. Consultation may take place when a preferred route emerges.

It was noted that a Traffic Management Plan would be prepared to manage any disruption to traffic during construction.

It was clarified that the application for the power plant does not include an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

The powerplant will have an output of 102MW and will require a licence from the EPA.

Regarding the NIS, it was clarified that it will be amended/repackaged as appropriate for the grid connection application.

The Board's representatives confirmed that it is acceptable to provide indicative routes at this point. It was advised that the prospective applicant include all potential route options, especially if there is any possibility of a route requiring an overhead line.

The Board's representatives confirmed that any application for approval should be accompanied by letters of consent from landowners/the Council.

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.

 18/5/22

Ciara Kellett

Assistant Director of Planning