



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting
ABP-314112-22
3rd meeting

Case Reference / Description	ABP-314112-22 Development of a 400 kV underground cable between Dunstown 400 kV substation in the townland of Dunnstown, Co. Kildare and Woodland 400 kV substation in the townland of Woodland, Co. Meath known as the 'Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade'		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	3 rd		
Date	16/02/23	Start Time	14:30
Location	N/A	End Time	15:15

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Staff Members
Stephen Kay, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Conor McGrath, Planning Inspector
Doina Chiforescu, Executive Officer
Representing the Prospective Applicant
Tomas Bradley, Eirgrid
Kevin Dolan, Eirgrid
Fay Lagan, Jacobs

Introduction

The Board referred to its previous meetings with the prospective applicant and the record of those meeting. The Board asked if the prospective applicant had any comments it wished to make on the record of those meeting; the prospective applicant replied that it had no comments to make.

Presentation by the prospective applicant

The prospective applicant opened its presentation with a brief description of the works at Woodland 400 kV station and Dunstown 400 kV station.

The prospective applicant advised that in respect of the concurrent planning application at the Woodland Station (Meath County Council Reference 22/1550), the planning authority has requested further information, including in relation to the status of parts of the electrical infrastructure proposed, noting that the layout differs from that presented to the Board under Ref. ABP-314111-22. In response to this request, the application is to be amended, removing the 400kV elements from the local authority application. These items will be included in the SID application on foot of this pre-application consultation request (ABP-314112-22).

The proposed contents of the future SID planning application, including statutory particulars and reports, were described by the prospective applicant.

The prospective applicant will likely seek to close the pre-application consultation file in coming weeks following receipt of the record of this meeting, if the Board is satisfied that all matters have been discussed and addressed by the prospective applicant and no further questions arise.

The prospective applicant stated its current intention to lodge the subsequent planning application circa Quarter 1 2023, likely end of March 2023.

Discussion/Queries

- The prospective applicant advised that, since the last meeting, a request for further information had been received from the planning authority (Meath County Council Ref. 22/1550). They are preparing a response and intend to lodge this next month, prior to lodgement of the SID application with the Board. As referenced above, the prospective applicant stated that it is their intention to remove the electrical infrastructure within the Woodland sub station compound indicated in green on the slide presented from the application to Meath County Council and to include it as part of the current pre application request.
- The Board's representatives queried the timing of the SID application and any dependencies on Meath County Council Ref. 22/1550 which may arise, particularly with regard to the substation compound extension. The prospective applicants indicated that it was likely that a response to the further information request issued by Meath County Council would be submitted within the next 1-2 weeks.
- The Board's representatives requested that the proposed modification to the scope of the pre-application consultation request, to include the additional items at Woodland Station, be clarified in writing prior to the closure of the pre application process.
- In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant provided detail on the drawings in respect of the works at Woodland 400 kV station and Dunstown 400 kV station. A corrected final drawing for Dunstown Station will be submitted before the closure, instead of the one submitted (Belcamp 220kV substation extension-site drainage layout plan).
- In response to a query from the Board's representatives, the prospective applicant indicated that routing options have been closed out, subject to minor local revisions / micro-siting. The prospective applicant was advised that where flexibility is sought, the potential impacts of each scenario should be fully assessed.

- The Board's representatives enquired about the potential noise impacts of works along public roads passing residential properties. It was requested that the application adequately describe the likely nature and duration of such impacts. The prospective applicant noted that the extent of cable trenching would probably extend up to ca. 50m -100m per day.
- The Board's representatives noted the potentially significant environmental impacts given the length of the project as discussed in previous meetings, and also highlighted the need for full archaeological assessment along the route.
- The Board's representative advised that the application should be clear with regard to its relationship with the previous pre-application consultation request and the concurrent planning application at Woodlands Station.
- The Board's representatives gave some preliminary advice regarding the prescribed bodies to whom notification should be sent.
- The prospective applicants advised of their intention to seek closure in the coming weeks. It was agreed that the prospective applicant would provide the Board with additional written detail in relation to the items discussed.
- It is the prospective applicant's current intention to lodge the consequent planning application circa Quarter 1 2023, likely end of March 2023.
- The Board's representatives gave their preliminary opinion that the proposed development is SID. The final decision, however, is for the Board to make.

Conclusions

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant, and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if they wish to do so. It will be a matter for the prospective applicant to revert to the Board if it wishes to close the pre-application consultation process.



Stephen Kay

Assistant Director of Planning

