



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of 2nd Meeting ABP-315645-23

Case Reference / Description	Proposed 110kV electrical infrastructure and connection to the National Grid at the existing 400kV Moneypoint substation in Cahermurphy and Moneypoint, Co. Clare		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	2 nd Meeting		
Date	19 th September 2024	Start Time	11:00am
Location	MS Teams	End Time	11:40am

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Stephen Kay (Assistant Planning Director) Chair
Auriol Considine (Senior Planning Inspector)
Lauren Murphy (Executive Officer)

Representing the Prospective Applicant
David Heelan, FuturEnergy Ireland
Ciaran McNamara, FuturEnergy Ireland
Alan Clancy, MKO
Eoin McCarthy, MKO
Jonny Fearon, MKO
Adrian Moran, MKO

Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 26th July 2024, requesting pre-application consultations under section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The Board representatives advised the prospective applicant that the meeting was a second consultation meeting and that the procedures set out at the initial meeting held on 29th August and recorded in the Record of that meeting remained applicable.

Presentation made by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant began the presentation by providing an overview of the applicant 'Cahermurphy renewables DAC'.

They outlined the background to the pre application consultation, informing the Board that they are intending to submit separate planning applications for the proposed wind farm layout under section 37A and the proposed grid connection under section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Both applications will have one Environmental Impact Assessment Report which will cover all relevant aspects of the project.

The prospective applicant provided a quick recap of the proposed development, which is intended to comprise of a grid connection, construction of 110kV electrical infrastructure including a substation, underground electrical cabling and associated infrastructure. This is to connect the proposed development of 8 number wind turbines to the national grid.

The prospective applicant presented a drawing of the proposed under ground 110kV cabling which is intended to connect the proposed onsite substation to the existing 110kV GIS substation building which is located within the 400kV ESB Moneypoint

Substation. The proposed grid connection is intended to be approximately 26.1km long and will predominantly run within public roads.

The prospective applicant presented drawings of the cable trench detail for the proposed underground cabling.

The prospective applicant briefly discussed the national policies which will apply to this proposed development. These include, the National Energy Security Framework April 2022, The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, the Climate Action Plan 2023, Project Ireland 2040 and EU Regulation 2022/2577. The prospective applicant also set out how the proposed development would be consistent with the Clare County Development Plan, 2023-2029.

The prospective applicant presented drawings identifying Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Proposed Natural Heritage Areas and Natural Heritage Areas and their relationship to the proposed development site. The prospective applicant stated that the potential impact of the proposal on these identified sites would be addressed in detail as part of the Natura Impact Statement and the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

The prospective applicant stated that they are of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of Strategic Infrastructure Development and that the application should be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

The prospective applicant stated that they issued an EIAR scoping document to prescribed bodies in April 2024. They also stated that they have requested a consultation with Clare County Council in April 2024 and are still awaiting a date for this meeting.

The prospective applicant briefly discussed their public consultations to date. These included a public information event held in June of this year, and it was stated that a further consultation event will be held later in the year.

The prospective applicant gave a brief rundown of the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Assessment report which will be submitted as part of the Planning Application.

The prospective applicant concluded the presentation by providing a proposed project timeline for the proposed development with the intention of submitting a planning application in Q1/Q2 2025.

Discussion:

- The Boards representatives began the discussion by reiterating their opinion given in the 1st meeting that the proposed development would fall within the scope of Strategic Infrastructure Development, and that, based on the information presented in today's meeting, this preliminary opinion remains unchanged.
- The Boards representatives asked the prospective applicant to discuss the feedback received to date from Clare County Council. The prospective applicant stated that they have requested a consultation with Clare County Council regarding this proposed project but have been unsuccessful. They are intending to follow up with Clare County Council again in the coming weeks on this request.
- The Boards representatives acknowledged that it is unfortunate that consultations with the council have not been possible to date and advised the prospective applicant to continue to try to engage with Clare County Council before the planning application is submitted.

- The Boards representatives asked the prospective applicant to provide a breakdown of the proposed grid connection route. The prospective applicant stated that the proposed grid connection cable would be contained within the public roads (approximately 98%). The only constraint points which have been identified in their studies to date are 3 bridge crossings along the proposed route. They are proposing a direction drill crossing on these three bridge crossings.
- The Boards representatives recommended the prospective applicant to engage with Uisce Eireann to clarify if there is any water infrastructure located in the vicinity of the proposed development location.
- The Board representatives noted that there is potential that this area of County Clare is also covered by private Group Water Schemes and these bodies should be consulted regarding potential impacts on their infrastructure.

Conclusion:

The Board's representatives advised that the onus is on the prospective applicant to either request a further meeting or formal closure of the pre-application consultation process. The Board's representatives advised that the record of this meeting will be issued and that 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 11:40am



Stephen Kay

Assistant Director of Planning