

An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of 1st Meeting ABP-316518-23

Case Reference / Description	ABP-316518-23 - 600MW power plant, 120MW Battery Energy Storage System, Above Ground Installation and associated development. Kilcolgan Lower and Ralappane, Tarbert, Co. Kerry.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	1 st		
Date	28/09/2023	Start Time	11:00 a.m.
Location	Virtually	End Time	11:50 a.m.

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Staff Members
Paul Caprani, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Deirdre MacGabhann, Planning Inspector
Niamh Hickey, Executive Officer

Representing the Prospective Applicant
Peter O'Connor, Aecom
Aiden O'Neill, Coakley O'Neill
Martin Ahern, Newfortress Energy
Kieran O'Connor, Newfortress Energy

Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 24th April 2023, requesting pre-application consultations under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, 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 on from the Board. The Board's representatives 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 in any legal proceedings.

Presentation made by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant gave a brief summary of the need for the proposed development in Ireland. The prospective applicant stated that Ireland's electrical demand is increasing but the State is not building a capacity that will align with this. It noted that on 28th March 2023 Shannon LNG Limited was awarded an electrical generation capacity contract from EirGrid to deliver a 400MW Power Plant by 1st October 2026. All their permits and consents must be approved by 4th November 2024. The prospective applicant also noted that no builders will engage with them if they have no planning permission. The prospective applicant stated that they placed €3.5 million performance security for this project in June 2023 and if they do not have planning permission by 4th November 2024, they will lose this.

The prospective applicant expressed their disappointment regarding the decision by An Bord Pleanála to refuse case Reference Number ABP-311233-21.

The prospective applicant gave a brief overview of the proposed development. The development is situated on 450 acres of the land zoned for marine and industrial development in local and regional development plans. The site is in proximity to high-capacity gas and electricity networks and 220kV electrical connection at a substation 5km to the east of the proposed development site. A large portion of the land will be used for biodiversity net gain which will be addressed in the biodiversity action plan.

The prospective applicant demonstrated the key differences between case Reference Number ABP-311233-21 and the proposed development on the drawing presented at the meeting. The infrastructure that is being removed is the FSRU, vaporisation, tugs and jetty infrastructure, LNG onshore facilities and the AGI odorization facility. The infrastructure that is being added is the secondary fuel diesel tanks that is Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) mandated.

The prospective applicant stated that it is applying for a power plant with up to 600MW capacity and 120MW, 1 hour Battery Energy Storage System. The prospective applicant gave a brief summary of the elements of the proposed development. It is proposed to have 3 blocks of Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) that facilitate a flexible multi shaft power plant and each block will have a total capacity of up to 200MW. Each block will have 2 gas turbine generators, 2 heat recovery steam generators and a steam turbine generator. It will be cooled down by steam condensers, have a 220kV substation, raw water treatment building and firewater storage tanks and pumps. The 220kV cable will run 5km east under the L-1010 road to the Eirgrid Killpaddogue 220kV substation and the prospective applicant plans to submit an application for this in Q1 of 2024. The prospective applicant stated that the proposed facility is identical to the facility in case Reference Number ABP-311233-21 and that the Inspector noted in this case that there was no environmental impact in regard to this. The prospective applicant also noted that it has 37% lower CO2 emissions than other open cycle gas turbines.

The prospective applicant discussed the context of the project at National and regional level and described how each relevant policy supports the implementation of the proposed development.

The prospective applicant gave their opinion that the proposed development would likely constitute a strategic infrastructure development with reference to section 37A(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and the Board's previous decision under ABP314007 (LNG terminal and 600 MW power plant).

The prospective applicant provided an overview of the documentation proposed to form part of the application so far. It also briefly discussed permits and licences that will be required.

The prospective applicant listed the prescribed bodies which they have consulted with and noted that meetings were held with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in May 2023 and Shannon Foynes Port Company (SFPC) in June 2023.

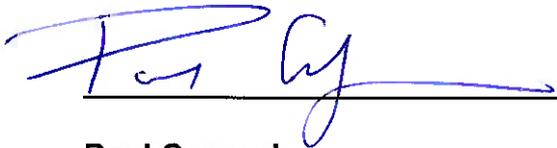
The prospective applicant advised there are still ongoing surveys for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Appropriate Assessment Report. The prospective applicant noted the importance of the proposed development in Ireland. The prospective applicant also noted that it was awarded 400MW but will be applying for 600MW and is hoping to be awarded the extra 200MW in the future.

Discussion:

- The Board's representatives advised that they cannot comment on the decision for case Reference Number ABP-311233-21.
- The prospective applicant confirmed that the power plant will not run continuously. It will be told by the grid operator when to come on.
- The prospective applicant stated that the source of gas will come from the National Grid.
- The Board's representatives queried if there were any offshore elements. The prospective applicant stated that there is a stormwater outfall pipe.
- The prospective applicant stated that the total land owned is 602 acres and that 453 acres of that land will be zoned industrial. The remaining 150 acres of the land are tidal and zoned secondary amenity and will be used for biodiversity gain.
- The prospective applicant stated that the proposed development would be capable to run on hydrogen in the future.
- The Board's representatives gave their preliminary view that the proposed development may be considered strategic infrastructure development but noted that the final decision would be a matter for the Board.

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 instant pre-application consultation process. The Board's representatives advised that the record of the instant meeting will be issued in the meantime 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.

**Paul Caprani****Assistant Director of Planning**