



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

**Record of Meeting**  
**ABP- 317824-23**  
**1<sup>st</sup> meeting**

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	Proposed Development of a 110kV Electrical Substation and Grid Connection at Scart Mountain, Co. Waterford		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-Application Consultation		
<b>1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>		
<b>Date</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	<b>Start Time</b>	3:20pm
<b>Location</b>	Virtually by Microsoft Teams	<b>End Time</b>	3:50pm

<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>
Paul Caprini, Assistant Director of Planning
Pauline Fitzpatrick, Senior Planning Inspector
Ashling Doherty, Executive Officer
Lauren Murphy, Executive Officer

<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>
Emer Campbell, Future Energy Ireland
Sinead O'Malley, Future Energy Ireland
Louise Byrne, Tobin Consulting Engineers
Oonagh Fleming, Tobin Consulting Engineers
John Staunton, Tobin Consulting Engineers

The meeting commenced at 3:20PM

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. The Board may at any time conclude the consultation where it considers appropriate to do so.
- 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:**

This pre-application consultation has been held in conjunction with pre-application consultation for ABP-315920-23 (associated windfarm development).

The prospective applicant stated that they gave a project overview of location, policy context and public consultation in previous pre-application consultation on the windfarm development ABP-315920-23 which immediately preceded this application. The location of the proposed grid connection starts at the proposed windfarm substation which is over 4km northeast of Cappoquin and runs to the existing Dungarvan 110kV substation. The route is approximately 16.4km long with 3km on the public road corridor. The proposed infrastructure elevation range is approximately 165m from the proposed windfarm to approximately 10m above sea level at the end of the route. It crosses the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The Dungarvan Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA) is approximately 600m east of the existing Dungarvan substation.

The prospective applicant set out the regional and local policy context for grid connections.

EIA scoping was initiated in January 2023 and consultations are ongoing with Waterford City and County Council and a number of Government Departments.

**Discussion:**

The prospective applicant confirmed they will be submitting an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the proposed development and the Scart Mountain Windfarm. The prospective applicant stated that the substation will be submitted as part of the windfarm application (pre-app reference ABP-315920-23).

The Board's representatives recommend that the grid connection be fully assessed in the EIAR as a singular project and in combination with the proposed windfarm.

The Board's representatives highlighted a previous case ABP-311670-21 which may be of relevance.

The Board's representative initial opinion is that the proposed application is a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID), but it is at the Boards discretion to issue a final decision.

The prospective applicant confirmed they will require consent from 3 private landowners having regard to the 3km of road that is off road.

The Board's representatives recommended that the prospective applicant highlights in their cover letter they will be submitting 2 separate applications to the Board so they can be considered associated files and allocated accordingly.

**Conclusion:**

The record of the instant meeting will issue in due course 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 onus is on the prospective applicant to request a further meeting.

The meeting concluded at 3:50pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Caprani', written over a horizontal line.

**Paul Caprani**

**Assistant Director of Planning**