

An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Record of Meeting ABP-318119-23 1<sup>st</sup> meeting

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	ABP-318119-23 - Proposed 220kV Grid Connection and 2no 220kV GIS substations in the townlands of Ralappane, Kilcolgan Lower, Carhoonakineely, Carhoonakilla, Cockhill, Coolnagoonagh, Carhoona, Farranawana and Kilpaddoge, Tarbert, Co.Kerry.		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application Consultation		
<b>1st / 2nd / 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>		
<b>Date</b>	01/12/2023	<b>Start Time</b>	11:00am
<b>Location</b>	Virtually by Microsoft Teams	<b>End Time</b>	11:35am

<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>
Stephen Kay – Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Deirdre MacGabhann – Senior Planning Inspector
Evan McGuigan – Executive Officer

<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>
Kieran O'Connor – New Fortress Energy
Alan Ryan – Mott MacDonald
Elaine Bennet – Mott MacDonald
Lara Gough – Mott MacDonald

## **Introduction:**

The meeting commenced at 11:00am.

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023, requesting pre-application consultations under section 182E 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 by the prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant began its presentation with an introduction to the project team and a description of the need for the proposed development.

It submitted that national and local policies showcase the need for an uplift in the delivery of flexible gas-fired power generation capacity and strengthening of the gas network. It stated that Shannon LNG Limited was awarded an electrical generation capacity contract from EirGrid in March 2023 to deliver a 400 MW power plant, with the terms of the contract stating that the power plant must be operational by October 2026. Shannon LNG Limited successfully applied to EirGrid for the connection of its proposed power plant to the EirGrid network. Shannon LNG Limited also received a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) determination from the Board on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 that a proposed 600 MW power plant, battery energy storage system, above ground installation and associated development was strategic infrastructure (ABP-316518-23). The prospective applicant submitted that a 600MW power plant has been proposed instead of a 400 MW one for reasons related to future usage on site and the ability to enter future auctions.

The prospective applicant provided a general description of the proposed development, which would comprise of two 220kV gas insulated switchgear (GIS) substations (including two-storey GIS buildings and associated transmission infrastructure) and approximately 4.6km of 220kV underground transmission cables. The connection point is in the vicinity of the existing Kilpaddoge substation and specifically to the Kilpaddoge-Tarbert 220kV circuit, which is located approximately 5km east of the proposed 600 MW power plant. It is estimated that 3km of the cable route would be located under public roadway (L1010) with the last c.1.6km located off road and in private lands. The prospective applicant submitted that the cable route does not pass through any Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or any other designated habitat or feature. It stated that the route corridor alignment along the private lands is yet to be defined as preliminary designs are ongoing. A series of drawings were presented to showcase the location of the proposed cable route and substations.

The prospective applicant stated that it is targeting the lodgement of an application for the proposed development in May 2024. It stated its belief that the proposed

development qualifies as a SID case. Regarding documentation for an application for the proposed development, the prospective applicant stated that it has commenced work in relation to planning drawings, an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), an Appropriate Assessment (AA), a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), and a Traffic Management Plan (TMP). It also stated that it would produce a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) if deemed necessary following a screening assessment.

The prospective applicant stated that its next steps in relation to the proposed development is to finalise the planning drawings, complete surveys associated with the EIAR and AA, complete prescribed bodies consultation, continue liaising with landowners regarding the proposed cable route and complete pre-application consultations with the Board.

#### **Discussion:**

- The Board's representatives stated that based on the presentation from the prospective applicant, it is likely that the proposed development would constitute a SID case – but that ultimately a final decision on this would be made by the Board.
- The Board's representatives queried the prospective applicant in relation to the current permission status of the gas pipeline (consented in 2009) for the proposed power plant and how this would impact the proposed development. The prospective applicant stated that there is no expiry date for the gas pipeline's permission and that it was originally proposed to serve the Shannon LNG terminal. The prospective applicant stated that the pipeline would follow the same route and same design as that previously permitted. Following a query from the Board's representatives and a reference to the proposed substation providing a new generation node on the national energy grid, the prospective applicant stated that the proposed development would principally serve the proposed power plant.
- Following a query from the Board's representatives, the prospective applicant state that reason for including a second substation in the proposed development is because the bays at the Kilpaddock substation are fully

allocated. It submitted that any alternative proposals would require an expansion at Kilpaddoge substation and that the current proposal had been determined following consultations with EirGrid. The Board's representatives recommended that the prospective applicant outline any alternative proposals and the meeting of EirGrid's requirements clearly in any future application for the proposed development.

- The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to be aware of new requirements in relation to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening for rural restructuring.
- The Board's representatives queried the prospective applicant in relation to consultations with prescribed bodies. The prospective applicant stated that it had engaged with Kerry County Council regarding the proposed development. It also stated that it had engaged with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) regarding the proposed power plant and that the NPWS had been made aware of the proposed development.
- The Board's representatives recommended that any planning application should consider the role, function, physical integration of the development with the proposed energy plant and access to it during construction and operation.
- The Board's representatives recommended that the prospective applicant consider on site constraints (e.g. archaeology, habitats, species), connectivity to the wider environment (e.g. surface water links to the River Shannon) and cumulative effects with the energy plant, including visual impact assessment, issues that arose in the previous planning application for the energy plant and biodiversity net gain.
- The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant that a NIS may be required in any future application for the proposed development, in particular if the development relied on the surface water management system for the energy plant.
- The Board's representatives recommended that the prospective applicant consider additional documentation in relation to a phasing plan and a summary for mitigation measures.
- The prospective applicant submitted that it has applied to the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) for consent under section 39A of the Gas Act

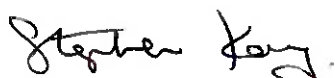
1976, as amended, for the gas pipeline for the proposed power plant. It stated that it does not foresee any design changes for the gas pipeline and anticipates a 6-9 month turnaround time for a decision from the CRU.

- The Board's representatives recommended that the prospective applicant finalise the proposed cable route leading to Kilpaddoge substation prior to any potential further meeting or closing off consultations. The prospective applicant stated that it would provide clarity on the proposed cable route as early as possible – potentially by January 2024, depending on the completion of survey work.
- The Board's representatives suggested that the prospective applicant could have enough time for a second pre-application consultation meeting if it wished, given its estimated timelines for lodging an application for the proposed development. The Board's representatives also suggested that the prospective applicant could provide a finalised version of the proposed cable route and request the closure of consultations without a second meeting. The prospective applicant stated that it would take this into consideration and that it hopes to request the closure of consultations as soon as possible.

### **Conclusion:**

The record of the 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 either request a further meeting or formal closure of the pre-application consultation process.

The meeting concluded at 11:35am.



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**Stephen Kay**

**Assistant Director of Planning**