



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-318588-23 2nd Meeting

Case Reference / Description	Proposed development of Codling Wind Park, an offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea, located in the Codling Bank, approximately 13-22 kilometres off the coast of County Wicklow, between Greystones and Wicklow Town. (Design Option)		
Case Type	Marine pre-application consultation under Section 287A.		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	1 st		
Date	19/12/2023	Start Time	11:30 a.m.
Venue	Virtually by Microsoft Teams	End Time	12:50 p.m.

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Ciara Kellett, Director of Planning (Chair)
Stephen Kay, Assistant Director of Planning
Deirdre MacGabhann, Senior Planning Inspector
Eugene Nixon, Consultant
Marcella Doyle, Senior Administrative Officer
Nichola Meehan, Senior Executive Officer
Niamh Hickey, Executive Officer

Representing the Prospective Applicant
Lis Royle, CWP
Callum Draper, CWP
Jerry Barnes, MacCabe Durney Barnes
Alan Roberts, A&L Goodbody
Brendan Curran, A&L Goodbody
Sean Leake, CWP (online attendance)
Fiona Campbell, CWP (online attendance)

Discussion:

At the start of the meeting and for information purposes only, the prospective applicant provided a document containing all elements of the proposed development and highlighting those for which design flexibility is sought.

Originally, under ABP-317821-23, the prospective applicant submitted its request for design flexibility under 287A in August 2023. However, this was withdrawn, and a new application for design flexibility submitted in December 2023. The prospective applicant stated that key principles have remained the same regarding the flexibility request for certain elements of the whole project and for the temporary structures. However, the new pre-application request has included some updates to their request and its full justification for the design flexibility.

The Board's representatives requested clarification on the cabling of the proposed development. The prospective applicant advised that the all the turbines will be connected by inter-array cables and the three substations by interconnector cables.

The offshore export cables will connect the offshore substations to the onshore cable at landfall. Offshore cables will be joined to the onshore export cables in transition joint bays (TJBs).

The offshore export cables will be laid by cable laying vessel to c.4km offshore (due to limited depth closer to the shore). Between c.4km, through the high-water mark (HWM) and to the TJBs export cables will be laid in non-ducted and ducted sections. Landfall cable ducts will be used in the near shore area to protect the cables. The

prospective applicant is currently considering two methods of installing landfall cable ducts, the open cut method, or the horizontal directional drilling method. The open cut method will extend from the transition joint bays to the intertidal zone for c. 50 metres. The horizontal directional drilling method will extend from the TJB for c.80 to 120 metres.

The prospective applicant stated it is not requesting flexibility on these methods as one method will be chosen before lodging an application. However, the prospective applicant is seeking flexibility regarding temporary and permanent structures associated with the different construction methodologies (landfall and onshore infrastructure). For the landfall infrastructure, if an open cut method is used, it will require a temporary cofferdam which is considered a significant temporary structure and the prospective applicant cannot confirm the location of this. Permanent structures will also differ depending on the construction methods used (e.g. tunnel/cable duct). For these reasons, the prospective applicant believes that it is important to include different temporary/permanent structures in the flexibility request.

The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant of legal advice it received.

The Board's representatives confirmed that it is their interpretation with respect to construction that the Board can issue a split decision if necessary i.e. to grant some elements of the flexibility request and not others.

The prospective applicant stated that the flexibility sought is based on a well-considered approach to the project considering part of its location is in a European Site.

The prospective applicant discussed the table in the document provided. The Board's representatives queried some of these topics.

- The prospective applicant clarified that the revetement referred to was in respect of the Liffey Embankment where sheet piling is required to stabilise the bank and allow minor reclamation.
- The depth of the ESNB cables between the Codling substation and the EirGrid substation needs to be confirmed and therefore, the prospective

applicant is requesting flexibility on this and the method of installation (HDD or open cut)

- The prospective applicant is also requesting location flexibility on the location of construction compounds. The preferred location will be demonstrated in the application, with other options all within the red line boundary.
- The prospective applicant confirmed it is still engaging with the Dublin Port Company.

The Board's representatives advised that the 287A pre-application will follow the same process as the 287 pre-application. Once the pre-application has been closed, the Board will issue an Opinion to the prospective applicant.

The Board's representatives advised that the fees have yet to be confirmed for the making of an application.

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.

The meeting concluded at 12:50 p.m.



Ciara Kellett

Director of Planning