



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of 2nd Meeting ABP-319139-24

Description	9 No. wind turbines, grid connection, an energy storage facility and all associated site works in the townlands of Garrane, Ballynagoul, Creggane and Charleville, Co. Limerick.		
Case Type	Pre-Application Consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	2 nd Meeting		
Date	06/09/2024	Start Time	11:00 a.m.
Location	Virtually	End Time	11:40 a.m.

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Staff Members
Una Crosse, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Robert Speer, Senior Planning Inspector
Raymond Muwaniri, Executive Officer
Representing the Prospective Applicant
Larry O'Halloran, Project Manager Garrane Green Energy
David McDonnell, Director Garrane Green Energy
David Kiely, Director Jennings O'Donovan & Partners
Andrew O'Grady, Project Manager Jennings O'Donovan & Partners
John Doogan, Consultant
Tomas Leen, Assistant Project Manger
Nicholas Lyons

Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 19th of February, 2024 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 by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant provided a recap of the 1st meeting including the principle planning considerations arising. It was outlined that the proposed development of a 9 turbine windfarm with an output of up to 54MW, a proposed 'loop in' connection to the existing 110kV overhead line at a location to the south of a proposed 110kV substation would not now include the originally proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with the application having further considered matters such as the drainage regime and the buffer zones available.

The design principles were outlined including mitigation by avoidance, minimising habitat loss and safeguarding against the potential for increased local and downstream flood risk, safety considerations for access and egress to the N20 and utilising existing infrastructure. Opportunities to capitalise on biodiversity enhancement were also noted

The development as now proposed comprises 9 turbines with a 680m setback, 170m tip height (172m within identified flood zones). The assessment will consider 2 turbine models with 149m and 150m rotor diameter, with total capacity of 51.3MW (149m) and 54MW (150m), but permission would be sought for one model.

It is proposed to lodge the application for all the elements of the proposal under Section 37 and there would be no Design Flexibility request. The prospective applicant outlined the basis for their opinion that the proposed development would constitute Strategic Infrastructure Development.

Discussion:

- The Board's representatives noted that the development proposal was largely unchanged from that previously proposed with the amendments outlined in the presentation as outlined above.
- The Board's representatives enquired as to the strategy proposed for the consideration of turbine type with the prospective applicant stating that they had narrowed their assessment of the proposed development to 2 turbine types, at lower heights. The prospective applicant outlined that they have decided to focus on 1 turbine design and would not be pursuing the design flexibility option.

- The Board's representative reiterated to the prospective applicant that they need to ensure that the EIAR and NIS robustly address the matters arising. A flood risk assessment would be required and the EIAR should address matters such as flood risk in respect of their consideration of geotechnical matters, land and soil and water in particular.
- The Board's representatives also noted that the difference in levels of a number of the proposed turbines, to address flood levels on the site, should be reflected in the consideration of other factors such as visual impact and ornithology.
- The prospective applicant enquired about the timeline for determination, to which the Board's representative replied that it was not possible to give a timeline but that the Board were endeavouring to be as expeditious as possible in determining the consultation requests and that once the prospective applicant seeks closure of the pre-application process, the inspector would prepare and discharge the report for the consideration and determination of 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.



Una Crosse

Assistant Director of Planning