



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of 1st Meeting ABP-320703-24

Case Reference / Description	Construction of up to 19 no. wind turbines (Tirawley Wind Farm), a permanent 110kV substation, 110kV underground cable and grid connection to the existing 110kV substation at Tawnaghmore Co. Mayo.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	1 st Meeting		
Date	10/10/2024	Start Time	11:00am
Location	MS Teams	End Time	11:25am

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Una Crosse, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Laura Finn, Senior Planning Inspector
Lauren Murphy, Executive Officer

Representing the Prospective Applicant
Darren Timlin, Jennings O'Donovan
Michael Garvey, Jennings O'Donovan
Richard Keily, Jennings O'Donovan
Richard Barker, APEM Group
Paddy Hynds, Constant Energy

Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 22nd August 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 made by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant began the presentation by discussing the planning history of the proposed development and the project proposals including the proposed site location.

The prospective applicant presented a series of drawings as part of their presentation including a site location map, the proposed wind farm layout and the proposed grid connection route.

The prospective applicant gave a brief discussion of the aspects of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report to be submitted as part of the planning application and discussed their studies and reports to date.

The prospective applicant discussed relevant legislation and policy context in relation to the proposed development, the prospective applicant is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of Strategic Infrastructure Development. They intend to submit their planning application to the Board in December 2024.

Discussion:

- The Boards representatives began the discussion by questioning if the prospective applicant intend to include the wind farm and the grid connection within a single section 37A application. The prospective applicant confirmed they propose to submit one application.
- The Boards representatives queries if the prospective applicant intends on seeking a design flexibility opinion from the Board. The prospective applicant stated that they do not intend seeking design flexibility for the proposed development. They clarified that they are proposing two turbines, one turbine

which is proposed for the majority of turbine locations and a smaller turbine for a specific part of the site, rather than having two options over the wider site. The two turbines will be assessed in the EIAR as they relate to the specific areas of the site where they are specifically proposed. The prospective applicant was advised that the public notices should clearly outline which turbine is proposed in the specific locations intended e.g. the turbine reference number should be provided for the turbine type proposed at each location.

- The Boards representatives gave their preliminary opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of Strategic Infrastructure Development, but the prospective applicant is reminded that the final decision will be made by 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.

The Meeting concluded at 11:25am.



Una Crosse

Assistant Director of Planning