



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

**Record of Meeting  
ABP-320865-24**

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	Proposed development comprising of a 220kV Substation and associated 220kV Grid Connection in the townlands of Garryard West, Gortshanroe & Silvermines, Co. Tipperary		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application consultation		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting		
<b>Date</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	<b>Start Time</b>	11:00 am
<b>Location</b>	MS Teams	<b>End Time</b>	11:25 am

<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>
Una Crosse, Assistant Planning Director, Chair
David Ryan, Senior Planning Inspector
Lauren Murphy, Executive Officer

<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>
Barry Balding, SLR Consulting
Hannah McGillicuddy, SLR Consulting
Stephen Barrett, Tom Philips and Associates
Kenny McDonnell, Aecom

## Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 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.
- The Board also noted that that while the presentation provided outlined a wider hydro pumped storage project, which the proposed development is proposed to serve, this pre-application meeting which is held under the provisions of Section

182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, relates solely to the electricity infrastructure which is subject of the pre-application request.

**Presentation made by prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant began the presentation by giving a brief introduction to Siga-Hydro Limited (applicant) and the team.

The prospective applicant provided the Board with some background information on the entire project and how the proposed grid connection route is required to facilitate the proposed development of the Hydro Pumped Storage project which has been designated as an EU project of Common Interest and the process for same and outlined a general layout of the proposed development.

The prospective applicant then provided an overview of the proposed development which is the subject of the pre-application request, and which consists of an underground cable route which links a newly constructed substation switchyard to the 220kV transmission line serving the Irish National Grid.

The prospective applicant presented a drawing of the proposed grid connection route options which are currently under consideration and gave their view that the proposed development falls under section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

**Discussion:**

- Noting that the pre-application consultation request applies to the electricity infrastructure only, the Boards representatives began the discussion by advising the prospective applicant about the need to address cumulative and in-combination assessments as part of the consideration of any future application.

- The Boards representatives noted the presence of cultural heritage and a number of archaeological monuments to the south of the substation site which the prospective applicant is reminded to consider as part of the application process.
- Furthermore, the Boards representatives noted the location of two designated European Sites which are located in close proximity to the substation site and also adjacent to the route options, and the prospective applicant is reminded that a robust Appropriate Assessment Screening Stage 1 should be carried out, which will inform if AA Stage 2 is required.
- The Boards representatives gave their preliminary view that the proposed development falls under the scope of Strategic Infrastructure Development and Section 182 (A)(1), but the prospective applicant is reminded that the final determination lies with the Board.
- The Boards representatives queried whether the prospective applicant was likely to seek a design flexibility opinion for their proposed grid route options under section 182F of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The Boards representatives outlined the process for engaging with the design flexibility provisions and the requirement that the pre-application process is open to avail of same. The prospective applicant advised that they intend on having the grid connection route finalised as part of their planning application and do not intend seeking a design flexibility request.
- The prospective applicant queried the timelines for receiving a determination on the request. The Boards representatives outlined once the prospective applicant closes the consultation, after the record is issued, the Board will move to make a determination as expeditiously as possible.

The meeting concluded at 11:25am

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Una Crosse', is written over a horizontal line.

Una Crosse

Assistant Director of Planning