

An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Record of Meeting ABP-321034-24

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	Proposed development of 110kV Substation, Grid connection cabling, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated works within Glenora and adjacent townlands, County Mayo.		
<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>	15/11/2024	<b>Start Time</b>	11:00am
<b>Location</b>	MS Teams	<b>End Time</b>	11:45am

### Representing An Bord Pleanála

Una Crosse, Assistant Planning Director (Chair)

Tomas Bradley, Senior Planning Inspector

Lauren Murphy, Executive Officer

### Representing the Prospective Applicant

Tom Coleman, Glenora Wind Farm DAC

Cora Plant, Glenora Wind Farm DAC

Lisa English, Glenora Wind Farm DAC

Edward Ryan, MKO

John Willoughby, MKO

Tommy Harlin, MKO
Evan Connelly, MKO
Eoin McCarthy, MKO

## Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 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.

**Presentation made by the prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant began the presentation by introducing themselves. Glenora Wind Farm DAC is a joint venture of SSE Renewables and FuturEnergy Ireland.

The prospective applicant provided an overview of the entire proposed development of Glenora Wind Farm. The wind farm is currently with the Board awaiting decision (ABP-318701-23). This pre-application relates to the grid connection and Battery Energy Storage System only.

The prospective applicant provided a drawing and discussed the proposed grid connection route which will run from the existing Tawnaghmore 110kV substation for approximately 26km to the proposed 110kV substation on the proposed Glenora Wind Farm site.

The prospective applicant further discussed the proposed 110kV substation and proposed Battery Energy Storage System, stating that these have been considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Appendix 4-6) which was submitted as part of the Glenora Wind Farm Application (ABP-318701-23).

The prospective applicant provided an overview of the Regional, National and European policy context which will be adapted in their planning application.

The prospective applicant gave their view that they believe the proposed development falls under the scope of section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and an application should be made directly to An Bord Pleanála.

A brief overview of the EIA scoping undertaken to date was provided, stating that feedback had been received from prescribed bodies such as Geological Survey Ireland, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Development Applications Unit and the Department of Transport to date.


The prospective applicant concluded their presentation by providing the intended project timeline with the intent of submitting a Planning Application in Q1 of 2025.

### **Discussion:**

- The Board's representatives began the discussion by providing their preliminary view that the 110kV substation aspect of the proposed development would likely fall under the scope of Strategic Infrastructure Development. However, the Board's representatives made a distinction in relation to the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) element noting that recent determinations by the Board in relation to BESS had determined that they were not SID. It is possible that any determination from the Board would direct that a separate application would need to be made directly to the Local Planning Authority for the BESS element.
- The prospective applicant provided their opinion that they believe the BESS aspect of the proposed development is comparable to a Transformer Compound which can form part of a substation proposal and accepted by the Board as part of the SID and stated that they believe the BESS can be included in the application under section 182A as ancillary development on this basis. The Board's representatives said it would make the position of the prospective applicant in respect of the BESS known to the Board. But ultimately, it may be determined that the BESS is not SID based on the recent precedent.
- The Board's representatives requested that the applicant submit further information by way of a Substation Layout Drawing and Appendix 4-6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report which was submitted as part of the Glenora Wind Farm Application (ABP-318701-23), following the pre application consultation meeting.

- The Boards representatives asked for clarity on the intended relationship of the BESS to the national grid. The prospective applicant clarified that the BESS comes in between the transmission from the IPP to the national grid.
- The Boards representatives asked the prospective applicant to clarify if they are carrying out additional works to connect to the existing Tawnaghmore 110kV substation, the prospective applicant clarified that there will be no upgrade works needed as they are connecting to an existing bay within the substation.
- The Boards representatives advised the prospective applicant that the planning application documentation should address the rational for the final grid connection route.
- Following from a query raised by the Boards representatives the prospective applicant clarified that the Planning Application will include a Natura Impact Statement and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.
- The Boards representatives concluded the discussion by advising the prospective applicant to ensure appropriate prescribed bodies are notified and any issues raised are considered and while completing their planning application documents to ensure development plan policies, landscape policies and archeology policies are taken into account.

The Meeting concluded at 11:45

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

**Una Crosse**

**Assistant Director of Planning**