



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Record of 1st Meeting ABP-321711-25

Case Reference / Description	ABP-321711-25 - 10 no. Turbine Wind Farm, located in Toobrack, Tullaghanrock, Boleysillagh, Cloonmeen, Islandmore, Attiantaggart and Largan, Co. Roscommon.		
Case Type	Pre-application Consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	1 st		
Date	05/03/2025	Start Time	14:30 hrs
Location	Virtual	End Time	15:10 hrs

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Staff Members
Una Crosse, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Rachel Gleave O'Connor, Senior Planning Inspector
Emmet Smyth, Ecologist
Raymond Muwaniri, Executive Officer

Representing the Prospective Applicant
Simon Carlton, Senior Planner, Galetch Energy Services
Blaithin Rafferty, Planner, Galetch Energy Services
Bernice Cahil, Senior Development Manager, Islandmore Wind farm Ltd

Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 20th of January 2025 requesting pre-application consultations under Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and advised the prospective applicant that the first meeting 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 applicant provided a presentation for the meeting, which is on the file which outlines the site location, character and context. The initial design had 12 turbines which has been revised to 10 turbines after an environmental constraints analysis. Three turbines are proposed to have an overall tip height of 185m, while the other seven are proposed at 150m. The output proposed is approximately 53MW, (4.5MW and 7.2MW per turbine). The grid connection is proposed to connect to the existing Tonroe 110kV substation at Ballaghaderreen and while assessed as part of the EIAR and NIS will be subject to a separate application. Environmental Scoping and Constraints Analysis are ongoing.

The next steps include continued evaluation of identified environmental constraints and interactive project design process, continued public consultation, preparation of the EIAR and NIS. The prospective applicant has formed a preliminary view that the project constitutes SID.

Discussion:

- While outlining the further evaluation and design iteration required, the Board's preliminary view is that the proposed development constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID), but the prospective applicant was advised to further refine and examine the proposal. Any changes to the proposal such as the reduction in number of turbines could affect the status of the proposal.
- A discussion was held in respect of the design flexibility provisions and the requirements for same. The proposal to include two separate turbine types within the application at defined locations was discussed with the Board's representatives outlining the need to define which turbine is proposed at each specific turbine location e.g Turbine X dimensions would be proposed at T1-T3 and Turbine Y dimensions proposed at T4-T10.

- The Board's representatives outlined that the EIAR should be comprehensive and robust and address matters including the Turbine Delivery Route and the consideration of alternatives. Community engagement should also be detailed.
- The prospective applicant clarified that they would be seeking a 10-year permission for the proposed project. The Board's representative advised that a justification for same would be necessary.
- The prospective applicant was also advised to ensure that the documentation presented provided details in respect of the proximity of the site to the existing Windfarm within the local area including the separation distances between the proposed and existing, to inform visual and wind take examinations.
- The prospective applicant was further advised that the environmental examination of the site should consider amenity considerations, forestry and any carbon calculations.
- The requirements in respect of the Water Framework Directive should be addressed in the EIAR.
- A comprehensive consideration of landslide susceptibility on the site with technical investigations to inform same required.
- The Board's representative addressed the use of borrow pits on site, the reuse of material, storage of materials including peat.
- The restricted provisions in relation to timelines and further information once the REDIII Directive is transposed was discussed.

Conclusion

The Board's representatives advised that the onus is on the prospective applicant to either request a further meeting or to seek 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 due course 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