



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-321858-25 (VO)

Case Reference / Description	Proposed Design Flexibility Opinion on ABP-321855-25 for proposed development of AIS tail fed substation and associated grid connection located in the townlands of Ballyloo, Linkardstown, Kilballyhue, Graiguenspiddoge, Castletown, Moyle Big, Kellistown West and Kellistown East, County Carlow.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	1 st Meeting		
Date	31/03/2025	Start Time	11:20am
Location	MS Teams	End Time	11:35am

Representing An Bord Pleanála

Una Crosse, Assistant Director of Planning, Chair

Bríd Maxwell, Planning Inspector

Sinead White, Executive Officer

Lauren Murphy, Executive Officer

Representing the Prospective Applicant

Mark McCarthy, Ballyloo Solar Farm Limited

Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 10th February 2025, requesting design flexibility opinion consultation under section 182F 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's presentation, which is on file, outlined the design flexibility provisions sought, whereby the proposed development is intended to consist of either a 110kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation or a 220kV AIS or Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation. The prospective applicant noted that the underground grid connection cabling will be the same voltage as the proposed substation with two options for the last 400m of the cable connection into the substation.

The prospective applicant outlined the rationale for seeking a design flexibility opinion, with the grid application to EirGrid for connection into either the 110kV side or the 220kV side of the existing Kellis substation yet to be made. The application will be made to EirGrid via ECP-GSS batch process opening later in 2025.

The prospective applicant also noted that the road leading up to the existing Kellistown substation, L30535 is a narrow single lane road which may not be sufficient for the proposed cables to fit in the carriageway and therefore they are proposing to include an off-road grid route option in adjacent private lands as part of the planning application.

Discussion:

- The Boards representatives requested that the prospective applicant clarify that there are 2 options for the proposed substation and 2 options for the proposed grid connection, the prospective applicant clarified this was correct with the rationale outlined, as detailed above.
- The Board's representatives then concluded the discussion.

The Meeting concluded at 11:35am.



Una Crosse

Assistant Director of Planning