

Record Of Meeting



Case Reference/ Description	07.VC0091 Proposed 220kV power supply for Apple Data Centre development, Athenry, County Galway.		
Case Type:	Pre-app consultation		
Meeting:	Second		
Date:	4 th November, 2015	2.30p.m.	
Location:	Conference Room		
Chairperson:	Philip Green		

Attendees:

Representing An Bord Pleanála

Brendan Wyse – Assistant Director of Planning

Deirdre MacGabhann – Senior Planning Inspector

Marcella Doyle – Senior Executive Officer

Kieran Somers – Executive Officer

Representing Prospective Applicant

Sean Clarke, Arup, Planning and Engineering

Ria Lyden, Arup, Planning and Engineering

Gus McCarthy, McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan, Planning Advisor

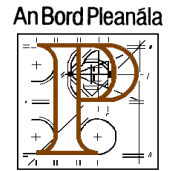
Tony Griffin, Data Centre Group, Apple Incorporated

Paul Kelly, Mott McDonald

Dennis McCormack, Mott McDonald

Spas Lazarow, Data Centre Group, Apple Incorporated

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Introduction:

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant of the 28th May, 2015 and the record of same. It referred briefly to the main issues/matters arising from that meeting.

With respect to the proposed data centre, the Board noted that this is now the subject of third party appeals to the Board (case reference number 245518).

In relation to the record of meeting of 28th May, 2015, the Board asked the prospective applicant if it had any comments to make on this. The prospective applicant said it had no comments to make.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant gave a brief overview of the proposed development. It noted that in respect of the appeal case before the Board (case reference number 245518), the target date for the decision of the Board is the 3rd February, 2016.

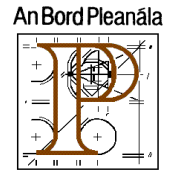
With respect to the instant project, the intention is to connect into two existing 220kV lines (220kV Cashla Tynagh and 220kV Cashla Prospect). The amount of power required for Phase 1 of the proposed development is 30MW. The projected power required for a full build-out on site would be in the order of 240MW. Future phases would be the subject of separate planning applications to the local authority.

Negotiations with the landowner in relation to the power supply route are well advanced.

With respect to the design of the proposed substation, the prospective applicant noted the requirement that this comply with Eirgrid's standards and specifications. The proposed work will be contested as it will be carried out by the prospective applicant and then transferred to Eirgrid upon completion. The prospective applicant advised that it has held a meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to the required M17/M18 interface.

In relation to the proposal to link into two existing 220kV lines, the prospective applicant commented that this is necessary in order to ensure a continual and robust power supply. It noted that maintenance and unforeseen circumstances such as a lightning strike have to be factored in in this regard.

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The prospective applicant presented a typical substation layout. In relation to the proposed substation for this project, it said that the final specifications are currently being finalised with Eirgrid. The prospective applicant gave examples of the types of equipment which would be involved in such a substation. It noted that a large substation is required in this case. It advised that the tallest structures on the substation site would be the towers (approximately 30 metres) and the lightning masts (approximately 25 metres).

With respect to the proposed connection to the existing 220kV lines, the prospective applicant noted that three towers will be retired and seven new towers constructed. The towers will be lattice. The prospective applicant also noted that a specific road will have to be provided for direct access to the proposed substation for Eirgrid, chiefly for maintenance and inspection.

The prospective applicant advised of the key milestones in respect of the proposed development. Its intention is to lodge the formal planning application with the Board in December, 2015. It also confirmed that long lead equipment will be ordered in advance.

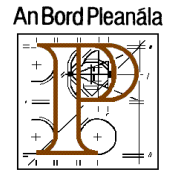
With respect to consultations, the prospective applicant provided the Board with a short update on these since the time of the previous meeting. It advised that a consultation pack has been issued to both statutory and non-statutory consultees. The prospective applicant also said that it has further plans to engage with the local community.

Board queries:

The Board enquired as to whether the nature of the proposed development has changed substantially since the time of its previous meeting with the prospective applicant. The prospective applicant replied that it has not.

In relation to the appeal case (case reference number 245518) the Board advised of its intention to deal with both this and the section 182A application at the same time. It informed the prospective applicant that the same planning inspector would be assigned to both cases. Noting this, the prospective applicant said that it intends to lodge the SID application with the Board as soon as it can. It said that this is contingent on it finalising its discussions with Eirgrid and noted again that these are at an advanced stage. The Board for its part emphasised that the preferred

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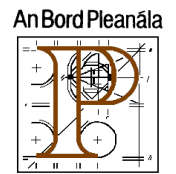


approach would be to deal with both cases at the same time, and also issue decisions on both at the same time.

In relation to the planning application, the Board noted some of the matters that should be addressed in this. These were as follows:

- The land in question is not zoned for development, albeit that it lies in a designated Economic Corridor. Alternative locations for the proposed development and reasons for selecting the proposed site should be elaborated upon. Reasons for not pursuing a site falling within zoned land should be explained. A consistency with strategic policies for the Economic Corridor should be demonstrated.
- Consistency with the wider policies of the County Development Plan and Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region should be demonstrated (e.g. core strategy, economic development strategy, transportation).
- Consistency with national policy objectives should be demonstrated (and should be reflected in those of the County Development Plan, e.g. National Energy Policy, Transport Policy).
- The cumulative impacts of the proposed data centre and proposed sub-station and overhead lines should be robustly examined.
- The demand for power and the consequences of this for generation and possible conflict with strategic energy policy documents and international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions should be addressed.
- Clarity is required regarding the source of energy for the proposed development (the prospective applicant had previously indicated that the site had been selected because of its access to renewable energy, on a regional basis, with the prospective applicant's intention to invest in wind energy to offset that consumed).
- Traditional EIA topics should be addressed, in particular noise from the proposed sub-station and the overhead lines (corona, continuous operational noise, wind turbulence noise), Electric and magnetic fields arising from same and proximity to dwellings, visual impact, construction methodology (proximity to the M6 and need to bring lines across same), flooding, impact on flora/fauna, emissions to air (implications for GHG emissions), material assets (impact on/implications for the generation of electricity and strategic energy policies), material assets (construction traffic), cultural heritage (archaeology).

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In relation to the site selection process, the prospective applicant said that the subject site was selected because of its location in the Strategic Economic Corridor and in terms of the size it allows for the instant project and proposed data centre and also for any future expansion. The prospective applicant said it can expand on the site selection process if required to do so. It also remarked that it had comprehensive discussions with the local authority in relation to this.

The prospective applicant asked the Board if letters of consent would be required from Galway County Council (in respect of over-sailing of the motorway) and Eirgrid. The Board replied that such letters of consent would probably be advisable.

With respect to the red line for the subject site, the prospective applicant advised the Board that it intends to take a conservative approach with respect to defining the boundary. Noting this, the Board said that the best approach would be for the prospective applicant to allow itself some leeway with regards to the red line. It emphasised that clarity in this regard is of paramount importance. The prospective applicant indicated that the overall site, including the proposed data centre, will be outlined in blue.

The Board confirmed to the prospective applicant that it will provide it with the formal list of prescribed bodies to be notified of the application when it is issuing its SID determination letter.

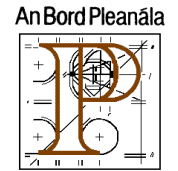
In response to the prospective applicant's query, the Board stated its opinion that it would be a worthwhile exercise for alternative methods for connecting to the grid to be also addressed in the planning application.

Procedures:

Procedures in relation to the making of a formal planning application to it were given by the Board:

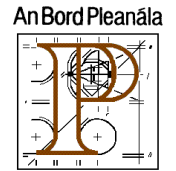
- An application can only be lodged after formal notice has been received by the prospective applicant from the Board.
- The application must be made by way of full completion of an application form to the Board.

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- The Board requires as a minimum that the public notice of the application would be in two newspapers circulating in the area to which the proposed development relates, one of which should be a national newspaper (A sample public notice is attached). A site notice in accordance with the protocols set out in the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001-2011 must also be erected. The date of the erection of the site notice is to be inserted; otherwise it should contain the same information as the newspaper notices and should remain in place for the duration of the period during which the public can make submissions to the Board.
- The documentation relating to the application is to be available for public inspection at the offices of the relevant planning authority and the offices of An Bord Pleanála. In this regard the requirements in terms of the number of copies of the documentation to be lodged with the relevant planning authority and the Board is as follows:
 - Planning Authority – 5 hard copies and 2 electronic copies.
 - An Bord Pleanála – 3 hard copies and 7 electronic copies.
- The Board also requires the prospective applicant to provide a stand-alone website containing all of the application documentation. The address of this website is to be included in the public notice.
- The public notice of the application is to indicate that the application documentation will be available for public inspection after the elapsment of at least 5 working days from the date of the publication of the notice so as to ensure that the documentation is in place for such inspection.
- The time period for the making of submissions by the public is to be at least seven weeks from the date the documents become available for inspection (not from the date of publication of the public notices). The Board requires that the public notice must indicate the deadline time and date for the making of submissions to the Board. It was agreed that the prospective applicant would advise the Board's administrative personnel in advance of the details of its proposed public notice and that any further definitive advice on same including confirmation of dates/times could be communicated at that stage.
- The service of notice of the application on any prescribed bodies must include a clear statement that the person served can make submissions to the Board by the same deadline as specified in the public notice.

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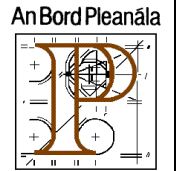


- The service letter on the planning authority with the necessary copies of the documents should be addressed to the Chief Executive and should also alert the authority to the Board's requirement that the application documentation be made available for public inspection/purchase by the planning authority in accordance with the terms of the public notice (copies of any newspaper/site notices should be provided to the planning authority). It is the Board's intention that all of the application documentation will remain available for public inspection during the currency of the application.
- The depositing of the application documentation and the making of the application to the Board should take place immediately after the publication of the notice and the completion of the service requirements. It should not await the elapsment of the period for the public to make submissions. The application documentation should include a copy of all letters serving notice of the application on prescribed bodies and the local authority, copies of the actual newspaper notices as published and the site notice.
- The fee for lodging an application is €100,000. The fee for making a submission in respect of an application is €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies which are exempt from this fee). There is an existing provision enabling the Board to recover its costs for processing any application from the applicant. In addition it was pointed out that the legislation also enables the Board direct payment of costs or a contribution towards same to the planning authority and third parties.
- The prospective applicant was also informed that the Board is in the process of updating its ICT system. In this regard, the prospective applicant was requested to submit the site location map in shape file format.

The sequencing of the making of the application was summarised as follows:

1. Publish newspaper notices.
2. Serve copy of relevant documents on bodies/persons required to be notified of the application. Deposit required number of copies with relevant planning authority.
3. Deposit required number of copies of application documentation with An Bord Pleanála and make an application to it.

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Conclusion:

The prospective applicant confirmed to the Board that only Stage 1 (Appropriate Assessment Screening) will be required in respect of the proposed development. The prospective applicant also confirmed that the subject site is not a Seveso site.

The prospective applicant said it would seek formal closure of the pre-application consultation process upon receipt of the record of the instant meeting with the Board, and following its final meeting with the local authority. In response to the prospective applicant's query, the Board said that it would take approximately two weeks for it to issue its formal SID determination following receipt of the closure letter. The prospective applicant reiterated its intention to lodge the planning application with the Board in December, 2015.

The meeting concluded at 3.50 p.m.

Brendan Wyse
Assistant Director of Planning