



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of 5th Meeting PL26.VC0102

Development	VC0102 Proposed electricity interconnector between Ireland and Wales from Great Island, Co. Wexford.		
Location	Virtual MS Team meeting		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
Meeting	5 th meeting		
Date	03/06/2020	Time	11:10 -11:55

Attendees		
Representing An Bord Pleanála		
Rachel Kenny, Director of Planning (Chair)		
Una Crosse, Senior Planning Inspector		
Maeve Williams, Executive Officer	m.williams@pleanala.ie	01-8737287
Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Paul Hickey, Greenlink		
Tom Brinicombe, Greenlink		
Daniel Garvey, Arup		
Michael Daly, Arup		

Introduction

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant held on the 31st January, 2020 and the record of this meeting. The Board enquired as to whether the prospective applicant had any comments it wished to make on the record. The prospective applicant requested that at page 5 of 7 in the first line of section entitled 'Other Matters' the word 'location' be replaced with 'layout' in respect of the proposal to submit two options for the design/layout of the proposed converter station to facilitate the technological requirements of future contractors.

Discussion

The following matters were discussed:

- **Jurisdiction of An Bord Pleanála**

In respect of the Board's jurisdiction as it relates to the foreshore, reference was made to the memo from the Board, dated 21 May 2020, in response to a request from the Senior Planning Inspector which provided a view on the matter as follows:

1. That the provisions of section 225 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, apply to applications for approval under section 182A of the Act so that the proposed development of an electricity interconnector in the foreshore (as defined by the Foreshore Acts 1933 as amended) fall within the jurisdiction of the Board.
2. In respect of any application or appeal that may come before it, the Board will consider that part of the development that falls within the High Water Mark and all on-shore elements, and will not be assessing that part of the development that is subject of a foreshore licence (i.e. up to the 12 Nautical Mile Limit).

- **Development Description**

In response to a request from the Board's representatives, the most up to date description of the proposed development is to be forwarded to the Board.

- **Crossing of Train Line**

In response to a request from the Board's representatives it was outlined by the prospective applicant that it is proposed to cross the existing train line at the two

proposed locations within the public road/agricultural land which run under two existing bridges.

- **Application Procedures**

In respect of the planning application boundary, it was advised by the Board's representatives that where the route traverses into the foreshore, e.g. crossing the estuary, that the route of the cable is demarcated by way of a hatched line. Other matters discussed included the proposed scales and naming of the application drawings particularly the onshore cable route, the content of the public notices and the location of site notices along the route. The Board's representatives made reference to procedures followed in respect of the previous East-West Interconnector (Ref. VA0002). In respect of the provision of hard copies of planning application drawings and documents, the requirements remain notwithstanding Covid-19 considerations.

- **Natura Impact Statement**

The Board's representatives stressed the requirement for a robust NIS and enquired as to whether the NPWS had made any comments on the Foreshore application which may be relevant to the onshore planning application. It was also advised that a compendium of proposed mitigation measures would be useful as an Appendix to the NIS.

- **Environmental Impact Assessment Report**

In relation to the EIAR which it is proposed to submit, the Board's representatives outlined the requirements of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU including the requirement to address environmental factors including 'land' and providing a compendium of mitigation measures within the Report.

- **Closing of Pre-Application Process**

The Board's representatives outlined the process for the closure of the pre-application consultation process.

Conclusion

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wishes to do so.

If closure to the pre-application process is requested, the reporting inspector will complete the report and recommendation which will be forwarded to the Board for determination. A decision will then issue to the prospective applicant.

Rachel Kenny
Director of Planning

11th June 2020