



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting 10.VC0108 2nd meeting

Case Reference / Description	10.VC0108 Uprate and refurbishment of the existing Great Island – Kilkenny 110kV overhead line substation in Co. Wexford and Co. Kilkenny		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	2 nd		
Date	15/03/18	Start Time	11 a.m.
Location	Meeting Room 3	End Time	11.45 a.m.
Chairperson	Phillip Green	Executive Officer	Kieran Somers

Attendees		
Representing An Bord Pleanála		
Staff Member	Email Address	Phone
Phillip Green, Assistant Director of Planning		
Stephen Kay, Senior Planning Inspector		
David Curran, Senior Executive Officer		
Kieran Somers, Executive Officer	k.somers@pleanala.ie	01-8737107

Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Des Cox, Planner, Eirgrid		
Sinead O'Malley, Planner, Eirgrid		

The meeting commenced at 11 a.m.

Introduction:

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant of the 14th August, 2017 and the record of same. The Board asked the prospective applicant if it had any comments it wished to make regarding the record of this meeting. The prospective applicant replied that it had no comments to make regarding the record of this meeting.

The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant that a preliminary report and recommendation had been prepared and presented to the SID division of the Board. The prospective applicant was informed that the Board had accepted the inspector's recommendation and come to the preliminary conclusion that the proposed development would constitute strategic infrastructure development. The Board's representatives summarised the main points raised in the assessment undertaken. The prospective applicant was informed that a key consideration in the assessment related to the policy context and, in particular, specific references in the document titled Ireland's Grid Development Strategy to the project under the heading of Regional Solution (formerly Grid Link).

The Board representatives also informed the prospective applicant that the assessment undertaken had regard to previous SID decisions made by the Board and that the decision to recommend that the proposed development would constitute SID was not specifically related to the scale and extent of development relative to previous proposals before the Board for determination.

The prospective applicant made a presentation to the Board in which it recapped the nature and extent of the proposed development. It said that planning permission was effectively required because appropriate assessment screening had determined that potential impacts on certain European Sites could not be ruled out.

The prospective applicant referred to some previous cases in which the Board had determined that the proposed development would not be SID; these included case reference numbers VC0072, VC0080, VC0086 and VC0106. The prospective applicant said that all of these cases had involved strategically important lines with lengths similar to the proposed development.

The prospective applicant set out the context for the original GRID LINK project which it said essentially entailed a single solution to meet multiple needs. The prospective applicant said that the new strategy, as set out in Ireland's Grid Development Strategy, provides for the maximisation of the infrastructure and involves multiple projects to serve multiple needs; to this end four separate projects (including the uprate and refurbishment of the existing Great Island – Kilkenny 110kV overhead line) are now proposed in the region in question. The prospective applicant emphasised that the four projects in question are distinct and independent of one another. The prospective applicant highlighted the fact that other projects identified under the Regional Solution heading, notably the uprating of the Great Island to Wexford 110kv circuit, had been undertaken as exempted development. It was also noted by the prospective applicant that the Moneypoint upgrade and grid connection into the station was determined by the Board not to constitute SID despite the fact that it is a project that would come under the heading of Grid West.

The prospective applicant referred to the High Court Judicial Review with respect to the Bellacorrick-Castlebar line. It said that this demonstrated how an independent and separate project feeds into a regional need. Noting this, the Board said that the difficulty for it is how the proposed development before it comprises transmission.

The prospective applicant concluded by reiterating its opinion that the proposed development would not constitute strategic infrastructure development. With regard to the policy context, the prospective applicant said that Ireland's Grid Development Strategy was essentially intended to facilitate the public's understanding of projects such as the instant one. The prospective applicant said it did not believe that this document altered the nature of proposed development such as this one vis-à-vis their SID status.

Conclusion:

The Board's representatives said that the additional information given by the prospective applicant at the meeting had assisted its understanding of the case and it undertook to arrange a further meeting with the SID division of the Board. The record of the instant meeting will issue to the prospective applicant shortly. Once a further meeting with the SID division has taken place, the Board will revert to the prospective applicant. If the preliminary opinion remains that the proposed development would constitute SID, then a further meeting with the prospective applicant will be required.

The meeting concluded at 11.45 a.m.

Phillip Green

Assistant Director of Planning