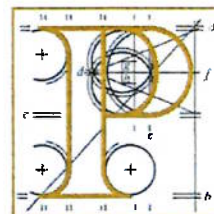


Our Case Number: ABP-311528-21



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Ian Thorn
Energia Group ROI Holdings
Designated Activity Company
The Liberty Centre
Blanchardstown Retail Park
Dublin 15
D15YT2H

Date: 16 October 2023

Re: Construction of a 2 storey 220kV GIS substation known as 'Mooretown', 4 no. underground transmission cables and all associated and ancillary site development and construction works. Lands adjacent to Huntstown Power Station, North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11.

Dear Sir / Madam,


I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer to your email dated 5th October 2023, the contents of which are noted.

The Board is currently working through a back log of cases including all strategic infrastructure development applications. As you will be aware, additional Board members have now been appointed to the Board.

Over the coming weeks and months, the Board will now be in a position to increase its decision making on all case types. The Board is aware of the urgency and importance of all strategic development applications and will endeavour to make decisions on all outstanding applications as soon as practicable.

Please note that the Board is not in a position to specify a time frame for the making of decision on this application at this time. The board has recently published a statement on its website in relation to the backlog of cases and can be viewed here: <https://www.pleanala.ie/en-IE/Backloginformation>

Yours faithfully,


Evan McGuigan
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 7200

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Marine / Electricity

Jennifer Carleton

From: Bannerman Isobel <Isobel.Bannerman@energiagroup.com>
Sent: Thursday 5 October 2023 15:44
To: Bord; Jennifer Carleton
Subject: Letter from Energia Group CEO - Ian Thom
Attachments: 20230927 Letter to ABP Chairperson vfinal.docx

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please find attached letter from Mr Ian Thom, CEO Energia Group. Please acknowledge receipt of same.
A hard copy will follow in the post next week.
Kind regards.

Isobel Bannerman

Personal Assistant to Ian Thom Chief Executive Officer

Office: +44 (0)28 9038 3757
Energia Group, Greenwood House, 64 Newforge Lane, Belfast, BT9 5NF

enērgia group



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FAO: Mr Peter Mullan
Chairperson
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin
D01 V902

BY EMAIL – bord@pleanala.ie ; j.carleton@pleanala.ie

05 October 2023

Re: Decision delays on infrastructure projects:

- **An Bord Pleanála Ref. No. PL06F.313583 - Lands adjacent to Huntstown Power Station, North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11 - Construction of 2 no. data hall buildings;**
- **An Bord Pleanála Ref No. VA06F.311528 - Lands adjacent to Huntstown Power Station, North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11 - Construction of a 2 storey 220kV GIS substation.**

Dear Mr Mullan,

As CEO of the Energia Group, I am writing to you as interim Chairman of An Bord Pleanála ("ABP") to highlight the impact on our business of ongoing delays to decisions for critically important infrastructure investments that have been with ABP for decision for an extended period of time.

This is the second time this year that I have written to ABP, the first being in relation to an appeal regarding a proposed substation and overhead line for a windfarm in Co. Monaghan – Ref. No. ABP-309906-21 (Reactivated case, Old No. ABP-305536-19). This particular appeal was before ABP for four years, inclusive of a judicial review challenge, and the extended delay resulted in this windfarm being unable to proceed to construction as the windfarm consents had expired. This windfarm project will therefore no longer contribute to national renewable targets.

As a leading energy provider and infrastructure investor, Energia Group is fully aware of the administrative challenges to building new energy infrastructure in Ireland, however, continuing delays to decisions by ABP will put the projects named herein at risk, impacting continued inward investment to Ireland, economic growth and jobs. It is also important to note that these projects will also a) secure the future of an important Dublin power station which is needed to support Ireland's increasing electricity generation requirements; b) deliver significant transmission infrastructure helping alleviate the electricity network constraints in north Dublin making the network more resilient to faults; and c) not impact national renewable targets as the data centre will be operated on a net zero carbon basis.

The data centre appeal has now been with ABP for 72 weeks, more than 1 year since a decision was due (19/09/2022), and the matter has been with the ABP Board awaiting decision for over 30 weeks. The linked electrical substation application has been with ABP for 105 weeks. I am aware of the many demands on ABP and will continue to advocate for the necessary resources to be made available to allow the