

Lauren Murphy

From: Claire Boohan <cboohan@clarecoco.ie>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 4:28 PM
To: SIDS
Subject: Your Ref.: ABP-319080-24
Attachments: 1803_001.pdf

Categories: Lauren

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A Chara,

You might please substitute the attached letter for the one previously sent with multiple enclosures.

The letter sent via registered post today will also have to be swapped out.

The previous letter had the incorrect title on same.

You might please confirm by return that this has been done.

Many thanks.

Mise le Meas

Claire

Claire Boohan
Clerical Officer

Planning Department

Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2

T: 065 6846456 | **E:** cboohan@clarecoco.ie | **W:** www.clarecoco.ie



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Tá an t-eolas atá sa ríomhphost seo, agus in aon cheangaltán leis, rúnda, agus is d'aird agus d'úsáid an fhaighteora nó na bhfaighteoirí amháin nó eintiteas ainmnithe thuas atá sé. Murar tusa faighteoir beartaithe an ríomhphoist seo nó aon chud de, níor chóir duit an teachtaireacht seo a úsáid, a nochtadh, a chóipeáil, a dháileadh nó a choinneáil. Más rud é gur trí bhotún a fuair tú an ríomhphost seo cuir sin in iúl don tseoltóir gan mhoill.

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COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

By Email & Registered Post

Your Ref: ABP-319080-24

16th April 2024

**An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902**

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG- _____	
ABP- _____	
17 APR 2024	
Fee: € _____	Type: _____
Time: _____	By: _____

Proposed 12 Turbine Windfarm located on a 140-hectare site located within the townlands of Cappateemore East, Ballyfarnon West, Ballycannan East, Ballycar South, Ballycar North and Glennagross, Co. Clare

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the above and **enclose** herewith the following:-

1. Chief Executive's Report dated 02nd April 2024.
2. Copy Resolution passed at the April 2024 meeting.
3. Submission on behalf of Cllr. Ian Lynch dated 29th March 2024.
4. Extract from the Minutes of the April Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council.

Yours sincerely,

**Anne O'Gorman
Staff Officer
Planning Department
Economic Development Directorate**

Enc.

**An Roinn Pleanála
An Stiúrthóireacht Forbairt Gheilleagrach
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2**

**Planning Department
Economic Development Directorate
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2**





CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006
Chief Executive's Report in Accordance with the Requirements of Section 37E (4) of the
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to the
MONEYPPOINT SECURITY OF SUPPLY PROJECT
ABP Reference: ABP-319080-24

1.0 Introduction

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 37E (4) and 37E (5) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, following on from the submission of a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) to An Bord Pleanála, known as the Moneypoint Security of Supply Project. The proposed development would comprise the transition and conversion of the existing coal fired power station's primary fuel to Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO), with limited run hours for a period of five years until the end of December 2029, when it is stated that the Moneypoint electricity generating station is to cease generation. The transition from burning coal to oil is to allow the continued generation of electricity at Moneypoint during its transition to the development of the "Green Atlantic at Moneypoint" project. Said project, forms part of the Electricity Supply Board's (ESB) 2040 strategy - "Driven to Make a Difference", which commits the ESB to a zero-carbon future and includes the development of its Green Atlantic project, which would see Moneypoint become a strategic resource for the offshore wind industry and as a location for key grid services. The main components of the proposed development are as follows:

1. Transition and conversion of the existing coal fired power station's primary fuel from coal to Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) for limited hours of operation and a temporary period of five years until the 31 December 2029;
2. Construction of 2no. HFO tanks each with a capacity of 25,000 tonnes (approx. 48.7m diameter x 15m H) and associated bund walls (approx. 5.0m high). These would be located centrally within the site and to the north of the existing HFO tanks;
3. Construction of a new boiler house (approx. 24m L x 18m W x 11m H) to house 2no. auxiliary boilers (1no. electric and 1no. distillate, each 22.7MW (thermal output), including:
 - 1no. Blow down vessel (approx. 4.5m wide x 13m high)
 - 1no. Exhaust Stack (approx. 1.0m diameter and 30m H)
 - 1no. Annex structure (approx. 10.0m L x 5m W x 4m H)

The new boiler house would be located to the immediate west of the existing generator buildings and to the south of the westernmost onsite chimney.

4. Construction of an extension to each of the existing 3no. Flue Gas Desulphurisation Absorbers (FGD) - units 1, 2 and 3, to provide additional reclaimed ash unloading facilities (ash injection plant extension), comprising of 1no. conveyor enclosure (approx. 7.0m L x 2.5m W x 22m H) and 1no. hopper enclosure (approx. 6m L x 5m W x 6m H),
5. Construction of a reclaimed ash unloading facility at the existing landfill capping batching plant, comprising of a hopper enclosure adjoining the existing batching plant (approx. 14.0m L x 6.5m W x 6.0m H) and conveyor enclosure (approx. 3.5m L x 3.5m W x 11.5m H). This would be to the south of the existing HFO tanks.
6. Dismantling and removal of 2no. mobile stacker reclaimers and 1no. coal conveyor bridge. These are located in the south east of the site, and are adjacent to the existing open-air coal storage area;
7. Changes to existing permitted Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) by-product and ash storage area (ASA) arrangements (Pl. Ref. 14/373) to utilise spare capacity in the existing ASA (capping layer thickness increase from 0.6m (minimum) up to a maximum of 1.6 meters) with an overall proposed reduction in height of the currently permitted ASA by approx. 1.85m. The proposed development will result in a reduction of ash volumes from the combustion process. Consequently, this reduction of ash volumes for deposition in the existing on-site Ash Storage Area will result in the proposed reduction in the final capped profile level. This is located in the north west of the site and to the north of the N67 national road
8. All associated ancillary site development works to facilitate the proposed development, including (a) a new lighting arrangement, (b) surface water drainage, (c) internal roads and, (d) temporary construction compounds and laydown areas.
9. There would be no change to the existing generating boilers, turbines, transformers or associated equipment.

The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

2.0 Site Location

The proposal site, which accommodates the Moneypoint Generation Station, and which measures approximately 53.1 hectares, is located to the southeast of Kilrush and to the southwest of Killimer. It is on the northern shores of the Shannon Estuary and the estuary has an approximate width of 2.3km at this location. Tarbert power station (oil powered – not operating), and Tarbert Pier are located approximately 3.5km to the southeast of the Moneypoint site.

The entirety of the works are proposed within the footprint of the existing Moneypoint Generating Station site in the townlands of Carrowdotia South, Carrowdotia North and Ballymacrinan, Killimer. The N67 national road passes through the site in a generally west to east direction and access to the site is gained from same. The environs of the overall Moneypoint site are rural in nature and accommodate agricultural lands, agricultural buildings/structures and dwellings. This large industrial facility accommodates the power station and substations, overhead power lines and towers, wind turbines, the existing jetty, and coal and ash storage areas. Moneypoint Generating Station lies within a larger ESB landholding comprising approximately 180 hectares of land onshore and approximately 65 hectares within the nearshore.

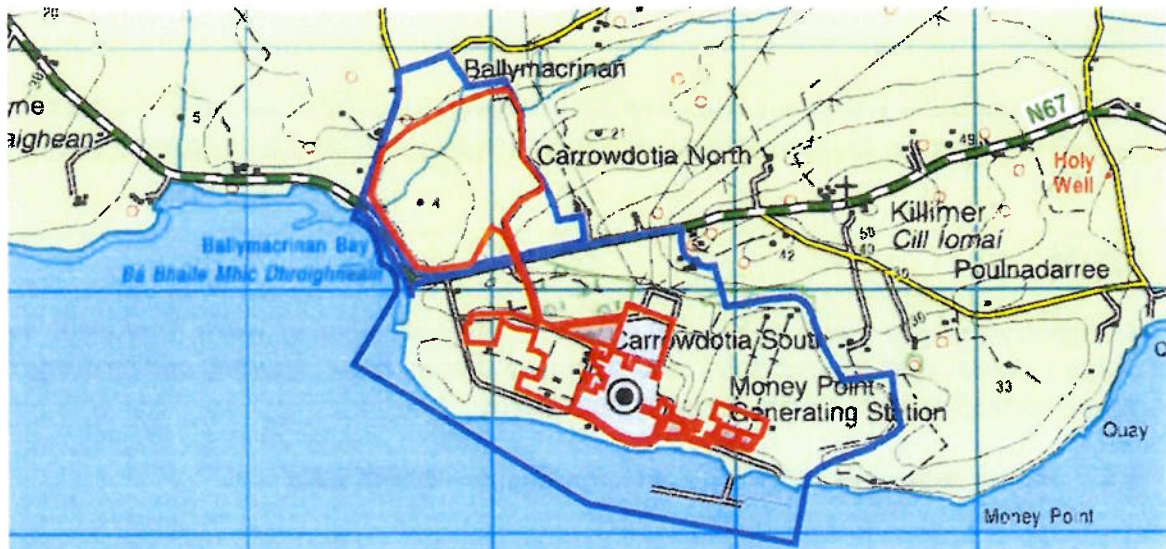


Figure 1: Site Location (taken from submitted Strategic Site Location Map)

3.0 Planning Policy Context

3.1 National Planning Framework (Project Ireland 2040)

The National Planning Framework guides planning and development for the country at a high-level strategic to 2040 and beyond, so that as the population grows, that growth is sustainable (in economic, social and environmental terms).

National Policy Objective (NPO) 41a

Ensure that Ireland's coastal resource is managed to sustain its physical character and environmental quality.

NPO 52

The planning system will be responsive to our national environmental challenges and ensure that development occurs within environmental limits, having regard to the requirements of all relevant environmental legislation and the sustainable management of our natural capital.

NPO 53

Support the circular and bio economy in particular through greater efficiency in land management, greater use of renewable resources and by reducing the rate of land use change from urban sprawl and new development.

NPO 54

Reduce our carbon footprint by integrating climate action into the planning system in support of national targets for climate policy mitigation and adaptation objectives, as well as targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

NPO 55

Promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a low carbon economy by 2050.

NPO 56

Sustainably manage waste generation, invest in different types of waste treatment and support circular economy principles, prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery, to support a healthy environment, economy and society.

3.2 Policy Statement on Security of Energy Supply – DoECC 2021

The Policy Statement on Security of Electricity Supply sets out a number of updates to national policy in the context of the Programme for Government commitments relevant to the electricity sector, planning authorities and developers. The policy statement includes explicit Government approval that:

- *the development of new conventional generation (including gas-fired and gasoil/distillate-fired generation) is a national priority and should be permitted and supported in order to ensure security of electricity supply and support the growth of renewable electricity generation.*
- *it is appropriate that existing conventional electricity generation capacity should be retained until the new conventional electricity generation capacity is developed in order to ensure security of electricity supply.*

3.3 National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030

The National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 (NECP) incorporates all planned policies and measures identified up to the end of 2019 which collectively would deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 in non-ETS (Emissions Trading System) greenhouse gas emissions (from 2005 levels) across the European Union. In accordance with the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation, a draft updated NECP was submitted to the European Commission in December 2023. This outlines the national energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. This draft is to be further revised prior to final submission to the European Commission in June 2024. The draft updated NECP text is unaltered (in comparison to the 2021- 2030 NECP) in relation to its objectives on the phasing out of fossil fuels and oil dependency. The NECP outlines number of objectives for Ireland energy generation, including:

- *Facilitate the continued operation of sufficient infrastructure to import and supply oil to the market place.*
 - *Ensure, in the most cost-effective way, that there is sufficient flexibility in the energy system to maintain energy security of supply and facilitate the integration and transition to clean energy sources.*
-

3.4 National Energy Security Framework

Published in April 2022, the National Energy Security Framework, responding to the State's energy security needs in the context of the war in Ukraine, outlines the structures which are in place to monitor and manage national energy supplies. It sets out the plans which are in place to deal with energy security emergencies should they arise.

3.5 Climate Action Plan 2024

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) outlines how Ireland will accelerate the action required to respond to the climate crisis, putting climate solutions at the centre of Ireland's social and economic development. Since 2019, the CAP has stated that electricity generation from coal and peat must end and committed to the closure of Moneypoint Generating Station in 2025.

3.6 Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Southern Region

The Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) came into effect on the 31st January 2020. The RSES acknowledges that the provision of secure energy supply is vital to ensure the region can maintain sustainable growth. The RSES recognises that Moneypoint is an energy generating station of national and regional importance, as it has the capacity to produce 25% of the national energy requirement. The RSES also supports Moneypoint's transition away from burning fossil fuels by 2025.

Regional Policy Objective (RPO) 56 Low Carbon Economy (a)

The RSES recognises the urgency to transition to a low carbon future and it is therefore an objective to accelerate the transition towards low carbon economy and circular economy through mechanisms such as the Climate Action Competitive Fund.

RPO 87 Low Carbon Energy Future

The RSES is committed to the implementation of the Government's policy under Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-30 and Climate Action Plan 2019. It is an objective to promote change across business, public and residential sectors to achieve reduced GHG emissions in accordance with current and future national targets, improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy sources across the key sectors of electricity supply, heating, transport and agriculture.

RPO 97 Power Stations and Renewable Energy

It is an objective to support the sustainable technology upgrading and conversion of power stations in the Region to increase capacity for use of energy efficient and renewable energy sources.

RPO 219 New Energy Infrastructure

It is an objective to support the sustainable reinforcement and provision of new energy infrastructure by infrastructure providers (subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process) to ensure the energy needs of future population and economic expansion within designated growth areas and across the Region can be delivered in a sustainable and timely manner and that capacity is available at local and regional scale to meet future needs.

3.7 Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

The proposal site is zoned for "Marine Related Industry" in the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029. It is designated as "*Strategic Development Location B – Moneypoint*". It is partially located with the "Shannon Estuary Working Landscape" and partially within a "Settled Landscape". There are a number of recorded monuments either within the site or within its immediate environs. The site is immediately adjacent to the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA).

CDP12.6 of the Development Plan – 'Strategic Development Location B – Moneypoint' has the following objective:

It is an objective of Clare County Council:

- a) *To safeguard the role and function of Strategic Development Location B – Moneypoint as a key strategic driver of economic growth in the country, facilitating its sustainable growth, operational expansion and diversification, in accordance with national and regional energy objectives.*
- b) *To support the redevelopment of the Moneypoint power generation station site as a green energy hub and the development of the Shannon Estuary as a focal point for the offshore wind industry in Europe.*
- c) *To support and facilitate the development of marine related industry on lands adjacent to Moneypoint which is compatible with the primary use of the SDL as a Strategic Energy Location.*
- d) *To ensure that all proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EC Directives.*
- e) *To ensure that all proposed development at Strategic Development Location B shall incorporate the Mitigation Measures as contained in the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary (Volume 9 of this plan) for ensuring the integrity of the Natura 2000 Network.*

The site is also zoned for Marine Related Industry:

Land zoned for marine-related industry provide for marine-related industry and large-scale uses that create a synergy with the marine use. Marine-related industry shall be taken to include the use of land for industry that, by its nature, requires a location adjacent to estuarine/deep water including a dependency on marine transport, transshipment, bulk cargo or where the industrial processes benefit from a location adjacent to the marine area.

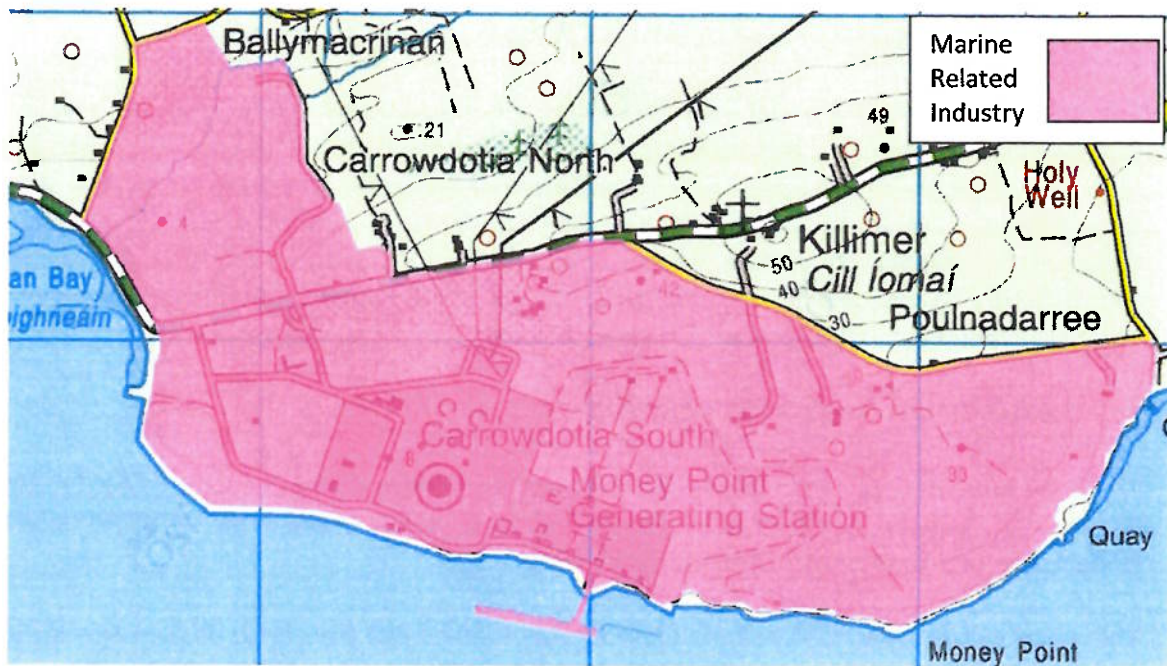


Figure 2: Clare CDP2023-2029 – Marine Related Industry Zoning

Other relevant policies and objectives of the Development Plan include:

- CDP2.6 Flood Risk Assessment and Management
- CDP2.14 Transition to a Low Carbon Economy and Society
- CDP6.10 Shannon Estuary
- CDP6.17 Energy Supply
- CDP11.43 SEVESO III Directive
- CDP11.44 Energy Security
- CDP11.50 Power Stations and Renewable Energy
- CDP12.1 Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary
- CDP12.2 Integrated Development of the Shannon Estuary
- CDP12.3 Marine-Related Industry/Large-Scale Industry on the Estuary
- CDP12.4 Strategic Development Locations
- CDP13.5 Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Development
- CDP14.2 Settled Landscapes
- CDP14.4 Shannon Estuary Working Landscape
- CDP14.6 Seascape Character Areas
- CDP14.7 Scenic Routes
- CDP15.3 European Sites
- CDP15.10 Environmental Impact Assessment
- CDP15.11 Brownfield Site Regeneration and Contaminated Land
- CDP15.19 Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows
- CDP16.3 Industrial Heritage
- CDP16.8 Sites, Features and Objects of Archaeological Interest
- CDP16.10 Zones of Archaeological Potential
- CDP16.11 Archaeology and Infrastructure Schemes

3.8 Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary

The Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary (i.e. Volume 9 of the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029) is a land and marine based framework plan to guide the future development and management of the Shannon Estuary. It has identified an additional 1,200 hectares for marine related development (9 no. strategic development locations) by building on existing industry connectivity and synergy as well as the existing infrastructure to create a more sustainable and attractive network for further investment. The Moneypoint site is designated as a strategic development location in the SIFP.

3.9 Clare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

The Clare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 sets out key actions that will support County Clare in its transition to becoming a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050.

The actions of the Plan look at how Clare County Council can transform its own operations and services, and also addresses what other organisations the Council can partner with and what supports it can give to local communities and individuals.

The Plan states that *“Clare County Council supports the ESB’s ‘Green Atlantic’ project for the redevelopment of the Moneypoint power generation station site as a green energy hub.”*

4.0 Relevant Planning History

Moneypoint Site

P8-13759 – Granted – To erect an electricity generating station & ancillary works.

P8-23179 – Granted – To retain the construction quay and change of use of part of the coal store to allow screening and grading of coal and transport of coal by water.

P8-22368 – Granted – To change use of part of the coal store to allow screening and grading of coal and transport of coal from the site by road.

P8-24408 – Granted – To construct a reception building, security building and car park.

P8-27018 – Granted – To change use of part of the ash handling facility to allow transport of ash from the site by road for sale in bulk.

91-744 – Granted - Electricity Supply Board - Permission to erect a chain link fence at E.S.B. Moneypoint Generating Station.

91-1102 – Granted - Electricity Supply Board - Permission to construct single storey security building and stores.

92-777 – Granted - Electricity Supply Board - Permission to construct single storey extension to existing administration building.

93-659 – Granted - Electricity Supply Board - Permission for the construction of a Conveyor Housing and Vehicle Building.

93-860 – Granted - Electricity Supply Board - Permission for an administration block extension (above existing single storey building) at Moneypoint Generating System.

99-797 – Granted - Electricity Supply Board - to construct an Ash Benefication Process Plant, ash storage silos, compressor building, access roadway.

99-1390 – Granted - ESB Power Generation - for the erection of a 40m anemometer mast.

01-1538 – Granted - Electricity Supply Board - Wind Energy Project. - 9 wind turbines, each having a rated electrical output of up to 2,500 kilo watts.

03-625 – Granted - Electricity Supply Board - for an Environmental Retrofit Project , the project will abate emissions of Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) to comply with the conditions of the station's Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence.

06-935 – Granted - Electricity Supply Board - for the construction of a new canteen building.

07-2701 – Granted - Electricity Supply Board - to construct a Mechanical and Electrical Workshop Building.

08-1849 – Granted - ESB Telecoms - to erect a 30-metre high, free standing lattice type communication structure, carrying antennae and communication dishes to provide for future third party co-location.

11-457 – Granted - EirGrid Plc - A new indoor Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) 400 kV substation; A new indoor Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) 220 kV substation; A new indoor Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) 110 kV substation; and associated transmission infrastructure connections.

12-74 – Granted (at appeal) - ESB Wind Development - 10 year planning permission for a Wind Farm Project at Moneypoint Generating Station. The development will consist of five wind turbines each having a rated electricity output of approximately 3,000 kW

13-573 – Granted - ESB Telecom Ltd - for the continued use of the existing 30 metre high, free standing lattice type communication structure, carrying antennae and communication dishes to provide for future third party co-location.

14-190 – Granted - EirGrid PLC - for development at the existing 400 kV substation site.

14-373 – Granted - ESB Power Generation & Wholesale Markets Division - for development which will consist of works to the existing 32 HA ash repository site located within the Moneypoint generating station complex.

15-81 – Granted - ESB Wind Development Ltd - The development will comprise an electrical transformer station and all associated site development works above and below ground. The proposed development is an amendment to the previously approved electrical transformer station at Moneypoint Wind Farm (CCC Ref: 12-74 APB Ref: PL03.241624).

16-616 – Granted - EirGrid PLC - to Extend the Appropriate Period of Planning Permission P11-457 for the development of electrical transmission infrastructure and associated works.

17-809 – Granted - ESB Power Generation and Wholesale Market - for development which will consist of two water storage tanks above ground level and an underground pump chamber located within the Moneypoint generating station complex.

18-520 – Granted - The Electricity Supply Board - The development will consist of a c.7.5 MW capacity battery storage facility within a secured compound, on a 0.42 Ha site.

19-746 – Granted - The Electricity Supply Board - The development, will consist of a 300 to 400 MVA (electrical rating) synchronous condenser.

20-318 – Granted - The Electricity Supply Board - The development, consist of a up to 400 MVA (electrical rating) synchronous condenser which shares the existing 400 KV/17 kV transformer and 400kV underground cable belonging to the existing coal fired unit 2. The following plant will be included within the compound: (This application represents a relocation within Moneypoint of a similar application permitted by Clare County Council under Reg. Ref. P19/746. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared and accompanies this planning application.

23-32 – Granted - The Electricity Supply Board - The development, which will be located at various locations within the station complex, will consist of land based site Investigation (SI) works comprising of boreholes and trial pits across the site.

Environs

02-374 – Granted - Sean Browne - to construct a slatted shed with all ancillary services.

05-1320 – Granted - Fr. Patrick O'Neill - to erect dwelling house, garage, septic tank and foul sewer treatment plant.

06-1005 – Withdrawn - Sean McGowan - to demolish and replace existing dwellinghouse and to upgrade existing sanitary services.

06-1745 – Granted - Joseph Kelly - for a livestock slatted unit and livestock slatted unit with calving pens.

07-2365 – Granted - Kevin Burke - for the construction of a sun lounge to existing dwellinghouse.

16-337 – Granted - Michael Downes - to construct dwelling house garage, foul sewer treatment system and percolation area plus all ancillary site works.

16-1011 – Granted - EirGrid PLC - with the consent and approval of the Electricity Supply Board, for works associated with the refurbishment of the existing Moneypoint - Oldstreet 400 kV overhead line within the various townlands as set out in the newspaper and site notices that form part of this application. (Please refer to these notices for a full detailed description of the proposed development.)Please also note that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompanies this application.

20-668 – Granted - M. Gilligan - to erect extension to dwelling house include first floor living area.

21-1399 – Granted - Gerard & Assumpta Moloney - for a single storey extension to a single storey house and a priority wastewater treatment and ancillary site works.

23-99 – Refused - Lisa & Thomas Manning - for the construction of a new dwelling house, the demolition of existing structures, the installation of a wastewater treatment system and all other site and ancillary works.

5.0 Views of the authority on the effects of the proposed development on the environment and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the authority
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5.1 Planning Policy & Project Need

Moneypoint Power Generation Station has been operating, with the combined fuel sources of coal and heavy fuel oil for almost 40 years. The entirety of the works as proposed are located within the existing site (see red line boundary as per Figure 1 earlier in this report. As per the Clare County Development Plan (CCDP) 2023-2029, these lands are zoned for Marine Related Industry, and are designated as a Strategic Development Location in the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary.

Development Plan Objective CDP12.6 of the CCDP states that it is an objective of Clare County Council to safeguard the role and function of Moneypoint as a key strategic driver of economic growth in the country, and to facilitate its sustainable growth, operational expansion and diversification, in accordance with national and regional energy objectives. The proposed development is described as a *“stepping-stone in ESB’s transition to becoming a renewable energy generator at its Moneypoint site”*. In this regard, the development as proposed would provide for the transition away from coal in advance of the 2035 deadline for the cessation of energy generation from coal on the island of Ireland.

Based on the information received it is noted that the proposed transition from coal to heavy fuel oil (HFO), for the temporary period of five years until the 31 December 2029, would also result in a 29% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) during operational hours (which would be limited). It would allow for the use of Moneypoint as a “*backup generator*” of electricity to provide supply to the energy grid until such time that the appropriate renewable energy generation and storage infrastructure is in place, thereby ensuring continuity of supply during the transition period. The proposed development would assist in facilitating the continued operation of the station, in employment and economic generation for the area and nationally, whilst aiding the progress of the transition of the site towards a green energy hub in the area.

Therefore, from a planning policy perspective, the Planning Authority considers, that the proposed development would be in compliance with the onsite zoning, the site-specific objectives, and associated European, national and regional level policy objectives with respect to the decarbonisation of electricity generation.

5.2 Adjacent Amenities & Land Uses

The main sensitive receptors in the immediate environs of the site comprise of agricultural activities, maritime activities and rural dwellings. The majority of the works as proposed would be located centrally within the site. The only works that would be visible beyond the site would be the alterations to the levels of the ash storage area in the north west of the site and the dismantling and removal of the 2no. mobile stacker reclaimers and 1no. coal conveyor bridge.

The works within the ash storage area would result in a reduction to the overall permitted height of this area by 1.85 metres. The methods of deposition, storage and final landscaping would remain as permitted in 2014 (i.e. dust suppression measures etc).

The proposed development would generate noise, dust and vibration at both the construction and operational phases. It is stated that construction hours would for the most part take place during normal business hours, 07:00-19:00 Monday to Friday, and 08:00-14:00 on Saturday. Exceptions to these hours are outlined but same are relatively limited. With regard to the construction and dismantling phase, this would be of limited duration, and these works would be at a significant remove from the sensitive receptors in the environs of the Moneypoint site (e.g. 300 metres + from the closest dwellings).

The alterations proposed to the permitted levels within the ash storage area would reduce the level of activities in this area of the site. With regard to dust, it is noted that monitoring has taken place on the site since 1985 and the EIAR states that existing dust control measures are effective. The EIAR also states that “*no exceedances of the AIR Quality Standards (AQS) are predicted as a result of the operation of the proposed development, both when operating in isolation and cumulatively*”. On the basis of the available information, it is considered that, significant adverse impacts on adjacent amenities and land uses by reason of noise, dust, vibration and air quality would not be significant.

With regard to the traffic associated with the development at dismantling and construction it is noted that much of this would be required to travel on the road network through Kilrush and its environs. Consideration should be given by An Bord Pleanála to the potential impacts on the local communities and land uses along these routes, and to ensure that adequate measures would be in place to ensure the protection and ongoing operation of these communities and land uses.

5.3 Landscape & Visual Assessment

The area of the site to the south of the N67 national road is within the *"Shannon Estuary Working Landscape"* as per the CCDP. The area of the site to the north of this road is within a designated *"Settled Landscape"*. The site is also within the *"Lower Shannon Seascape Character Area"*, and the section of national road west of the site is a designated *"Scenic Route"*. There are 2 areas within the site which include wooded areas designated as *"Trees for Preservation"*.

The majority of the works as proposed are located centrally within the site, and views towards same from beyond the site are not readily available. With regard to the proposed dismantling and removal of the 2 mobile stacker reclaimers and the coal conveyor bridge, these are located in the south-east of the site and are partially visible from the estuary. These structures are utilitarian in design, are partially screened by existing buildings and structures, and when viewed from the estuary, are seen in the context of the overall development on the site. With the transition away from coal to HFO (and ultimately renewable energy generation), these onsite structures would become redundant. Having regard to the nature of these structures, whilst cognisant of objective CDP16.3 *"Industrial Heritage"*, it would not be feasible to repurpose these structures, and they are not considered to be of sufficient architectural merit to warrant their retention.

With regard to the proposed alterations to the ash storage area levels, there is an existing embankment of considerable height which screens this area from the adjacent road. The proposed works would result in an overall reduction in the permitted levels of ash storage in this area. Therefore, from longer range views, the overall visual impact of this element of the proposal would be similar or slightly less. Once completed, this area would be covered in soil and seeded/grassed and would appear as an undulating field.

Having regard to the available information, it is considered that the proposed development would not have adverse impacts on the existing views available in the area, the character of the receiving landscape, or the views available from the designated *"Scenic Route"* to the west.

5.4 Traffic & Transport

The site is served by the N68 and the N67 national roads which have significant carrying capacity. Construction works associated with the proposal are expected to take a total period of 21 months, and would, subject to the receipt of permission, commence in September 2024. There would be between 90 to 100 construction workers on the site at peak times and a temporary car park is to be provided to accommodate the private vehicles and vans/mini-buses associated with same. During this time period, whilst the intensity of traffic will vary, no road or lane closures are anticipated and therefore traffic diversions would not be required. Heavy goods vehicles (HGV's), originating outside of the area would be required to travel to/from the site via the N67 and the N68 national roads and the M18 motorway. HGV vehicles are estimated to peak at 17 daily during the construction phase. It is stated that whilst any movement of abnormal loads (1 per month over a total of 3 months) by road would be subject to appropriate authorisation, the preference will be to have same delivered by marine vessel directly to the site. A traffic management plan was received with the application (i.e. Appendix C of EIAR) and it is stated that a Community Liaison Officer is also to be appointed. It is further stated that a final Traffic Management Plan would be prepared prior to construction and the details of same are to be agreed with the Council. With regard to the specific haul routes to the site, and specifically through the town of Kilrush, these routes should seek to minimise impacts on existing traffic flows and adjacent land-uses. Also, these haul routes should seek to disperse HGV traffic in Kilrush and its environs to ensure that no one route would be required to accommodate all of the HGV traffic. Consideration is also required with regard to the potential impacts on the associated road networks in terms of condition of surface treatments etc, during the construction phase of the development.

For the operational phase of the development the available information indicates that the number of personnel working at the Moneypoint Generating Station will, post transition from coal to HFO, be generally similar. In addition, a workplace travel plan is to be prepared to enable more sustainable travel options during the operational phase. Therefore, at operational phase there would be no impact on the surrounding road network as a result of the development.

5.5 Surfacewater Management and Flood Risk

The auxiliary boiler house, batching plant and FGD ash injection containment building would require roof drainage which would connect into nearby existing surface water drainage. It is stated that this would not require any prior treatment nor flow control measures given the capacity of the downstream drainage network. The addition of the 2 new HFO tanks would require the refurbishment of the existing bunds and the reconfiguration of the surfacewater drainage in this area. This new drainage would connect to the existing drainage network and an upgraded oil/water separator with adequate capacity to accommodate the additional drainage. The surfacewater drainage proposals outlined are generally considered to be acceptable.

The northwest of the site (i.e. ASA) is partially within designated flood risk zones A and B. This area of the site relates to the existing/permitted ash storage area. The works proposed in this area relate to the lowering of the overall height of the permitted storage area due to the reduced requirement for ash storage within the site (i.e. arising from the transition for coal to HFO). This element of the proposed development would have no impact on what was previously permitted in terms of flood risk.

The flood risk assessment received with the application concludes that there is no significant fluvial, groundwater or pluvial flood risk at the site. In addition, it is stated that due to the existing topography of the site, there would be no construction areas impacted by a high-end future scenario coastal flood event.

With regard to the potential blockage of the culverted and diverted Molougha River to the east of the ASA, it is noted that if such an event was to occur, *"it would not pose a risk to any infrastructure inside or outside the site application boundary, due to local topography, as potential floodwaters would be restricted to low-lying fields. The culvert has no history of blockages and is subject to an inspection and maintenance regime."*

Having regard to the available information, and subject to the construction and operation of the development as proposed, the Planning Authority considers that flood risk issues would not arise in this instance.

5.6 Air & Climate

The proposed development is to facilitate the transition of the existing power station from a combined coal and HFO fired station, to a station solely powered by HFO for the period up to and including 2029. The proposed development would act as an out of market generator of last resort and would operate only when required by the Transmission System Operator (EirGrid) for security of supply reasons. Although the proposed development would still be based on the use of fossil fuels, replacing coal with HFO would reduce the CO₂ emissions by 29% when the plant is operating. The application states that no exceedances of the AIR Quality Standards (AQS) are predicted as a result of the operation of the proposed development, both when operating in isolation and cumulatively.

For 2030 onwards, it is proposed to redevelop the Moneypoint site, under the *"Green Atlantic @ Moneypoint"* project, into a hub for the offshore renewables sector. This would be subject to a separate planning application, and it is noted that there are no project interdependencies between the subject proposed development and *"Green Atlantic @ Moneypoint"* project. Said project would include a floating offshore wind farm, a wind turbine construction hub, and the development of green hydrogen production, storage and generation facility. This aligns with the ESB's Net Zero Strategy and would be a *"stepping-stone in ESB's transition to becoming a renewable energy generator at its Moneypoint site"*. Therefore, in terms of air quality, on the basis of the available information, the change of fuel therefore represents an improvement over the current operation of Moneypoint Generating Station.

5.7 Land, Soils & Hydrogeology

The Moneypoint site, which is set within a rural landscape, is a significant brownfield landbank associated with the generation of electricity and associated activities including fuel management, wind energy generation and electrical infrastructure. Current land use within the site and its immediate environs comprises of industrial or commercial units, broad-leaved forestry, dump sites and pastures. Prior to the operation of the electricity generation facility at the site, the historic maps indicate that there were a number of quarries (Kilrush flagstone) both on the site and within its environs. The EIAR states that in 2021 there was an accidental release of HFO within the site, and whilst remediation works has since been carried out, *“residual contamination within the soil is anticipated”*.

It is stated that most of the soil and sub-soil at the site will have been stripped during the construction of the powerplant and replaced with manmade materials. As a result of same, groundwater vulnerability underlying the site is predominantly high to extremely vulnerable. The general direction of groundwater flow within the site is southwards towards the River Shannon. Excavated materials on the site are to be tested before same would be reused (if uncontaminated). At the decommissioning stage (i.e. post 2029) the existing plant will be removed, and it is stated that there will be limited potential impacts arising from contamination sources.

The proposed development, subject to the receipt of a grant of permission by An Bord Pleanála, should be carried out in accordance with the mitigation measures as set out in sections 12.7 and 19.1 of the EIAR with regard to the protection of lands, soils and hydrogeology.

5.8 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity

The main potential for significant effects on European Sites arises for the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA). These designations are located to the immediate south and west of the proposal site.

The requirement for tankers arriving at Moneypoint would remain similar to the existing arrangements with up to 24 ships per year. However, the turnaround time for a coal ship is approximately 2-3 weeks, whereas an oil tanker turnaround is 2-4 days. This would therefore result in a shorter duration of stay for tankers in the estuary, lower levels of underwater noise etc. The transition from coal to HFO would also result in the removal of the potential for coal overspill from the tankers at the jetty into the estuary during the unloading process.

With regard to the potential for oil spill during unloading, the measures to prevent such an occurrence, and the measures to be implemented in the event of such a spill are outlined in section 4.7 of the NIS.

The application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS), and this concludes that subject to the implementation of the specified mitigation measures, that on the basis of the best scientific knowledge, that the proposed development, either individually, or in combination with other projects, would not affect the integrity of any European Site. The mitigation measures are set out in Section 6.4 of the NIS, and it is stated that the Contractor would incorporate said measures into a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the proposed development and agree the CEMP with the Developer and Clare County Council in advance of the commencement of onsite works. The mitigation measures relate to pre-construction confirmatory surveys (e.g. otter holts, breeding birds, wintering birds etc), construction and operational lighting, noise, works area delineation, stockpiling of materials, concrete works, the operational discharge of process water, hydrocarbon and oil spill management, and invasive species prevention. Subject to a grant of permission, it is considered that An Bord Pleanála should include conditions requiring full compliance and implementation of the mitigation measures as outlined. Therefore, having regard to all the available information, it is considered that the proposed development, either individually, or in combination with other projects, would not, subject to the adherence to the mitigation measures outlined, result in significant effects, or would not affect the integrity of the Lower River Shannon SAC, the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA, the wider European Site network in the area, or on the receiving environment generally. It is noted also that no works are proposed within the 2 areas within the overall site which accommodate “*Trees for Protection*” as per the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

5.9 Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

The following recorded monuments are located either within the proposal site or its immediate environs.

- CL067-033 – Ringfort Rath.
- CL067-034 – Ringfort Rath.
- CL067-035 – Earthwork.
- CL067-040 – Ringfort Rath.
- CL067-041 – Ringfort Rath.
- CL067-042 – Ringfort Rath.
- CL067-043 – Ringfort Rath.
- CL067-045 – Ringfort Rath.
- CL067-050 – Ringfort Rath.
- CL067-051 – Ringfort Rath.

The construction phase of the proposed development would not impact directly on any sites included in the Record of Monuments and Places. In addition, this is an already heavily industrialised site, and recent archaeological testing and monitoring did not uncover any heretofore unknown sub-surface archaeological remains. However, it is acknowledged in the EIAR that there is the possibility of undiscovered sub-surface archaeological features or finds within the site, and specific reference is made to the ash storage area in this regard. Archaeological protection mitigation measures are outlined with regard to any potential excavation works in the ASA (albeit currently none are proposed).

The Planning Authority considers that subject to the implementation of the appropriate archaeological mitigation measures during the construction and operational phases of the development, no residual cumulative impacts on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage are envisaged.

5.10 Major Accidents and/or Disasters

Moneypoint Generating Station is categorised as an '*Upper Tier establishment*' under the Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015. It operates, and would continue to operate, under the existing Industrial Emissions (IE) licence (Registration Number: P0605-04), regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is not proposed to change any of the existing emission limit values in the IE licence.

The HFO would be stored in two existing and two proposed tanks located in a bunded area. The existing bund would be upgraded to include a concrete floor across the entire bund. The site also contains two distillate (diesel) storage tanks, for the purposes of start-up combustion and these tanks are situated in a common bund.

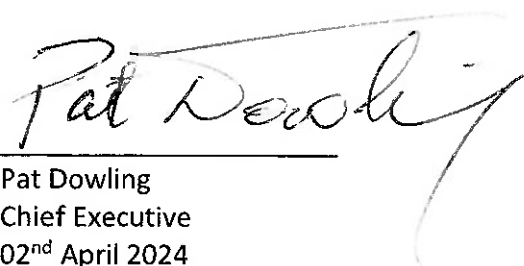
The information outlined in the EIAR pertaining to the potential for major accidents or disasters provides an examination of flooding, fire, extreme temperatures (e.g. heatwave, cold snap) high winds storm, electricity failure, exposure to high voltage, major road traffic accident, earthquake, biological hazard, malicious attacks/cyberattack, contaminated land/groundwater and spillage or seepage of pollutants into watercourse/ground. The EIAR states the proposed development would implement best practice mitigation measures (outlined in the CEMP), relevant to major accidents and disasters, to ensure minimal impacts relating to Major Accidents and/or emergencies. The EIAR also concludes that significant adverse effects as a result of the proposed development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the proposed development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters are not considered likely. The Planning Authority considers that, subject to the granting of permission by An Bord Pleanála, adherence to the mitigation measures as outlined in the application should be required by condition. This would also be a requirement of the relevant licence(s) issued with respect to the existing/proposed development.

6.0 Conclusion

The above report sets out the views of the Planning Authority in accordance with Section 37E (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. It is respectfully requested that the Board take the above issues into consideration in the assessment of this application.

Under CDP 12.6 of Development Plan it is an objective of Clare County Council to safeguard the role and function of Moneypoint as a key strategic driver of economic growth in the country, and to facilitate its sustainable growth, operational expansion and diversification, in accordance with national and regional energy objectives. In this regard it is noted that the proposed development would constitute a *“stepping-stone in ESB’s transition to becoming a renewable energy generator at its Moneypoint site”* and would provide electricity supply to the energy grid as a *“backup generator”* until such time that alternative renewable energy generation and storage infrastructure would be in place. For this transition period, whilst the proposed development would still be based on the use of fossil fuels of up to and including 2029, it would result in a 29% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions when the station would be operating. The Planning Authority considers that the proposed development would be in compliance with the onsite zoning, the site-specific objectives, and associated European, national and regional level policy objectives with respect to the decarbonisation of electricity generation. In summary the Planning Authority, is supportive of the proposed development.

In the event of a grant of permission it is recommended that appropriate conditions are attached to the proposed development to ensure the protection of the receiving environment, adjacent amenities and land uses, visual amenities, traffic safety and free-flow, and all other issues as set out in this report and the drawings, reports and particulars received with the application. In addition, the Planning Authority considers that compliance with the mitigation measures as set out in both the NIS and EIAR should be required by condition on any grant of permission issued by An Bord Pleanála.



Pat Dowling
Chief Executive
02nd April 2024



9th April, 2024.

COMHAIRLE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR

CLARE
COUNTY COUNCIL



Mr. Gareth Ruane
Senior Executive Planner, Planning and Economic Development.

Dear Gareth

Please find attached resolutions which were passed at the April meeting of Clare County Council held on the 8th April, 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Aoife Coote,
Assistant Staff Officer,
Corporate Services Department,
Finance and Support Services Directorate.



COMHAIRLE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR

CLARE
COUNTY COUNCIL



At the April meeting of Clare County Council held on

Monday, 8th April, 2024 it was:

Proposed by: I. Lynch

Seconded by: C. Murphy

and agreed

“To attach report, signed by Cllr. I. Lynch and submitted by the members under Section 37 E (6) of the Planning Act, to the Chief Executive report, to An Bord Pleanála, in respect of proposed Moneypoint Security of Supply Project”.

Signed:

Mary M'Mahon
Riarthóir Cruinnithe.

Signed:

Joe Cooney
Cathaoirleach.

Dated:

8/4/24

An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúrthóireacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhísí Tacaíochta
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Corporate Services Department
Finance and Support Services Directorate
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL



At the April meeting of Clare County Council held on

Monday, 8th April, 2024 it was:

Proposed by: J. Flynn

Seconded by: R. McInerney

and agreed

“To attach report, signed by Cllr. J. Flynn and submitted by the members under Section 37 E (6) of the Planning Act, to the Chief Executive report, to An Bord Pleanála, in respect of proposed Moneypoint Security of Supply Project”.

Signed: Mary M^cMahon
Riarthóir Cruinnithe.

Signed: JOE COONEY
Cathaoirleach.

Dated: 8/4/24

An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúrthóireacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhísí Tacaíochta
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Corporate Services Department
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Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2

Cllr. Ian LYNCH

2 Cappa Cove, Kilrush, Co. Clare | E: cllrlynch@gmail.com

 CllrIanLynch

 @ianvlynch



29/03/24

Re: Moneypoint Planning Application

Gareth,

Many thanks for your presentation yesterday

The planning application is certainly a positive I have 4 observations three key items.

- Traffic Management, Public Road Network upgrades, and community Benefit Fund
- Coal Yard Remediation,
- Capping the existing Ash landfill.
- Increased oils Storage Capacity

One major concern is the lack of detail regarding traffic management in the planning application. This is the first step in what we hope to be many developments at Moneypoint I think it is important considering the increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movements and the need for the application to complete comprehensive traffic management assessment and plan.

The project anticipates 18 hgv movements per day. Access to the station will be via the N68 turning on the R485 through Kilmurry-McMahon or alternatively the N68 to Kilrush then turning on to the R473 which passes through John Paul estate and the narrow streets of Moore St.

The National and regional routes in the area in desperate need of strength and condition upgrading. The movement of HGVs along these routes will have a serious impact not only on the road condition but also on the residents in the areas. There is significant work coming down the track at Moneypoint and it is crucial that the council engage with the ESB to identify the investment required to ensure the road network is suitable for the works over the coming years.

The investment in Moneypoint is a significant investment for the ESB and the state, it is imperative that as part of this investment an equal investment is made by the ESB to ensure the road network is once and for all upgraded.

Where communities are impacted by the proposed works a community benefit fund must be established as a compensation package to communities where they can receive a monetary return to assist positive developments in their area, similar to that of windfarm developments.

Remediation of the coal yard.

The current planning application proposes the removal of the coal loaders and conveyers which I feel these structures are critical to the remediation of the coal yard to allow extraction and loading on to bulk cargo vessels, however remediation of the coal yard is not included in this application and would appear to take place at a future date after the equipment is removed.

The reduction in height of the Ash Storage is a positive move brought on by the reduction in ash production as the station ceases burning coal. I am concerned that capping the ash storage area at this point might hinder the future industrial use of the site. The compacted ash over the years provides an excellent base for construction. Taking into consideration the size and location of the Ash Yard so close to a power source like Moneypoint I feel this is an ideal location for a data centre. There are many potential opportunities or industrial developments within the coal yard that could bring much needed jobs to the west Clare it is important that we don't do anything at this stage that might impact the future use.

Increased Oil Storage Capacity.

Understanding that the heavy oil is not volatile and explosion risk however in the event of an emergency an the storage facility does catch fire there will be significant smoke hazard from burning oil. Has this been considered as part of a compensation package similar to others where communities are within a blast zone.

I welcome the planning application, but it is important that the strategic nature of the entire Moneypoint site is realise and protected for future potential but equally the investment in Moneypoint must be matched will and equal investment in the supporting infrastructure such as roads from the onset.

Regards

Yours sincerely

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. Lynch', is written above a horizontal line.

Cllr Ian Lynch
Member of Clare County Council

Extract from the Minutes of the April 2024 Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council

Item 13: Report in accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, in respect of the proposed Moneypoint SID application.

Report dated 2nd April from Pat Dowling, Chief Executive was circulated with the agenda. The Chief Executive report is in accordance with the requirements of Section 37E (4) and 37E (5) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006, in relation to the Moneypoint Security of Supply Project.

The proposed development would comprise the transition and conversion of the existing coal fired power station's primary fuel to Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO), with limited run hours for a period of five years until the end of December 2029, when it is stated that the Moneypoint electricity generating station is to cease generation.

The main components of the proposed development are as follows:

1. Transition and conversion of the existing coal fired power station's primary fuel from coal to Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) for limited hours of operation and a temporary period of five years until the 31 December 2029.

2. Construction of 2no. HFO tanks each with a capacity of 25,000 tonnes (approx. 48.7m diameter x 15m H) and associated bund walls (approx. 5.0m high). These would be located centrally within the site and to the north of the existing HFO tanks.

3. Construction of a new boiler house (approx. 24m L x 18m W x 11m H) to house 2no. auxiliary boilers (1no. electric and 1no. distillate, each 22.7MW (thermal output), including:

- 1no. Blow down vessel (approx. 4.5m wide x 13m high)
- 1no. Exhaust Stack (approx. 1.0m diameter and 30m H)
- 1no. Annex structure (approx. 10.0m L x 5m W x 4m H)

The new boiler house would be located to the immediate west of the existing generator buildings and to the south of the westernmost onsite chimney.

4. Construction of an extension to each of the existing 3no. Flue Gas Desulphurisation Absorbers (FGD) - units 1, 2 and 3, to provide additional reclaimed ash unloading facilities (ash injection plant extension), comprising of 1no. conveyor enclosure (approx. 7.0m L x 2.5m W x 22m H) and 1no. hopper enclosure (approx. 6m L x 5m W x 6m H).

5. Construction of a reclaimed ash unloading facility at the existing landfill capping batching plant, comprising of a hopper enclosure adjoining the existing batching plant (approx. 14.0m L x 6.5m W x 6.0m H) and conveyor enclosure (approx. 3.5m L x 3.5m W x 11.5m H). This would be to the south of the existing HFO tanks.

6. Dismantling and removal of 2no. mobile stacker reclaimers and 1no. coal conveyor bridge. These are located in the southeast of the site, and are adjacent to the existing open-air coal storage area.

7. Changes to existing permitted Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) by-product and ash storage area (ASA) arrangements (Pl. Ref. 14/373) to utilise spare capacity in the existing ASA (capping layer thickness increase from 0.6m (minimum) up to a maximum of 1.6 meters) with an overall proposed reduction in height of the currently permitted ASA by approx. 1.85m. The proposed development will result in a reduction of ash volumes from the combustion process. Consequently, this reduction of ash volumes for deposition in the existing on-site Ash Storage Area will result in the proposed reduction in the final capped profile level. This is located in the northwest of the site and to the north of the N67 national road.

8. All associated ancillary site development works to facilitate the proposed development, including (a) a new lighting arrangement, (b) surface water drainage, (c) internal roads and, (d) temporary construction compounds and laydown areas.

9. There would be no change to the existing generating boilers, turbines, transformers or associated equipment.

Cllr. I. Lynch referred to the CE report submitted and noted that a number of items need to be strengthened:

- Traffic management, public road network upgrades and a community benefit fund. Volume of traffic needs to be addressed and it was noted that the routes through Kilrush are not suitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles. It was also noted there is a need for a traffic management assessment and plan to be undertaken.
- Coal yard remediation. It was noted that the removal of coal loaders and conveyors would critically affect the remediation of the coal yard, it was also acknowledged that the remediation of the coal yard is not included in the application.
- Capping the existing Ash landfill. It is felt that capping the ash storage area might hinder the future industrial use of the site.
- Increased oil storage capacity. In the event of an emergency there would be significant smoke hazard, this needs to be considered as part of a compensation package.

Ar moladh Cllr. I. Lynch
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Murphy agus glacadh leis

“To attach report, signed by Cllr I. Lynch, and submitted by the members under Section 37 E (6) of the Planning Act, to the Chief Executive report, to An Bord Pleanála, in respect of proposed Moneypoint Security of Supply Project”.

Cllr. J. Flynn noted that he would support the proposal if a condition was added regarding air quality, Cllr. Flynn wished to add the following condition:

“The elected members of Clare County Council are concerned that the existing air quality problems being recorded and experienced in Ennis will be exacerbated by the proposed extension of operation of Moneypoint power station using fossil fuels.

The members require Clare County Council, the relevant bodies and the ESB to put in place a strategy for Ennis to both improve air quality and provide time sensitive public warnings of poor air quality incidents.”

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. R. McInerney agus glacadh leis

“To attach report, signed by Cllr I. Lynch, and submitted by the members under Section 37 E (6) of the Planning Act, to the Chief Executive report, to An Bord Pleanála, in respect of proposed Moneypoint Security of Supply Project”.

L. Cleary, Deputy Chief Executive advised that Clare County Council will submit their report to An Bord Pleanála including the additional reports submitted by the members and a copy of the minutes from today’s meeting.