



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Record of 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting ABP-321495-24

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	ABP-321495-24 - 11 no. Turbine Wind Farm and Associated Infrastructure, located within the townlands of Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonnaglasha, Corillaun, Derrymore, Shancloon, Toberroe and Tonacooleen, County Galway.		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application Consultation		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>		
<b>Date</b>	12/03/2025	<b>Start Time</b>	11:50 hrs
<b>Location</b>	Virtual	<b>End Time</b>	12:00 hrs

<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>
<b>Staff Members</b>
Una Crosse, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Una O'Neill, Senior Planning Inspector
Emmet Smyth, Senior Scientist
Raymond Muwaniri, Executive Officer

<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>
Rita Mansfield, Fehily Timoney
Robyn Nicholl, Fehily Timoney
Matt Geraghty, RWE Renewable Ireland Ltd
Michael James, RWE Renewable Ireland Ltd
Cliona O'Sullivan, RWE Renewable Ireland Ltd

## Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2024 requesting pre-application consultations under Section 37CC of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and advised the prospective applicant that the first meeting constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board. It also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters that it wished to receive advice on from the Board. The Board's representatives mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Board will serve notice at the conclusion of the process as to the strategic infrastructure status of the proposed development. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process on the matter.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or in any legal proceedings.

### **Presentation made by the prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant outlined the unconfirmed details of the proposed development for which they are seeking design flexibility under Section 37CC of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

- The prospective applicant has sought flexibility on the turbine dimensions - tip height 179.25m / 180m / 180m), the rotor diameter (149.1m / 150m / 155m) and the hub height (104.7m / 105m / 102.5m)

### **Discussion:**

- The Board's representatives requested that the prospective applicant outline the rationale for seeking a design flexibility opinion on unconfirmed details.
- The prospective applicant outlined the following:
  - Exact make and model of turbines will not be known until the outcome of the tender process at time of procurement.
  - Future proofing and flexibility for turbine make and model is required to ensure most up to date technology is employed and avoid market dominance by any one particular brand/manufacturer.
  - Lengthy lead in times from planning to construction and operation, therefore flexibility in turbine design is necessary.
- It was also noted by the Board's representatives that it was their preliminary view that the maximum export capacity was not a matter subject to the flexibility provisions.
- It was noted by the Board's representatives that the design flexibility file and details therein remain confidential until an application is made.

**Conclusion:**

The Board's representatives advised that the record of this meeting will be issued following the meeting, and any comments can be forwarded in writing to the Board. Following circulation of the meeting record, the prospective applicant is requested to respond to the Board to acknowledge receipt of same such that the consultation process can be closed and the matter forwarded to the Board for determination of the request.



**Una Crosse**

**Assistant Director of Planning**