

Planning Ref: ACP-323874-25
Uisce Éireann's Ref: PN26000039497
Planning Authority: An Bord Pleanála
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Uisce Éireann
Bosca OP 6000
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 WA07
Éire

Uisce Éireann
PO Box 6000
Dublin 1
D01 WA07
Ireland

T: +353 1 89 25000
F: +353 1 89 25001
www.water.ie

Development Location

Rathmorrissey, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castlelambert, Knocknacreeva,
Caraunduff, Co. Galway

Development Description

220kV Electrical Substation on lands at Rathmorrissey (Townland), Athenry, Co. Galway and the construction of an underground grid connection route from the proposed Electrical Substation to the existing Cashla 220kV Substation. The grid connection route traverses approximately 8.1km along the L7109, L71093, L7108 and L3103 roads and across the townlands of Rathmorrissey, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castlelambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark, Cashla, Athenry, Co. Galway. The site area is 12.11 hectares.

A Chara,

As the National Water Utility Uisce Éireann delivers water services pursuant to the Water Services Act (and other legislation) and in accordance with our statutory functions and ancillary responsibilities and in a manner which is consistent with public policy.

Uisce Éireann is responsible for the delivery of all public water and wastewater services in Ireland. We are committed to continuously upgrading and developing critical infrastructure to support growth in our economy, while protecting the environment and safeguarding water supplies. Our primary function is to provide clean drinking water to customers and to treat and return wastewater safely to the environment. In providing these services we play a central role in enabling economic growth, protecting both the environment and the health and safety of our customers and the wider public.

Please accept this submission in respect of the above-referenced Strategic Infrastructure Development application.

Provision of Water & Wastewater services

The proposed 220KV substation that comprises part of this proposal will be equipped with human welfare facilities. The water connection to facilitate this proposal was deemed viable under a pre-connection enquiry (CDS2500094), which assessed both the primary facility lodged under a separate SID Application and this facility for a connection to UEs water network. This pre-connection enquiry resulted in a Confirmation of feasibility of connection without the need for upgrades. Wastewater service requirements are envisioned to be met by an onsite private treatment system.

Public infrastructure

In respect to proposals under ACP-323874-25, Uisce Éireann notes the presence of significant in-situ network infrastructure assets along the proposed grid connection route to Cashla Substation, with the potential for adverse interaction at several points. The applicant has engaged with Uisce Éireann's diversions team to resolve this potential impact, which has resulted in a Diversions agreement (DIV25311) between the applicant and Uisce Éireann, the terms of which resolves potential impacts to Uisce Éireann's satisfaction.

Public Water Supply

It is Uisce Éireann's policy to maintain safe and secure drinking water supplies and ensure that development will not give rise to any deterioration in water quality. Development proposals shall not impact public drinking water sources and/or abstraction point(s). It is a requirement of the Water Framework Directive that waters used for the abstraction of drinking water are protected to avoid deterioration in quality. Protection of drinking water source(s) from potentially adverse impacts is a priority for Uisce Éireann.

While the proposed development is located within the abstraction catchment for the Tuam Regional Water Supply, Uisce acknowledges, the applicants Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which has concluded that there are no surface water features were identified within the study area and there will be no hydrological connection from the development to any Uisce Éireann water sources. Uisce Éireann further notes the mitigation measures outlined in The EIAR and the CEMP for the protection of surface water and groundwater.

Uisce Eireann recommendations

To ensure adequate provision and protection of water and wastewater facilities, Uisce Éireann recommends that permission be granted on the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall ensure there is no deterioration in ground water quality because of any pre-construction works and/or the operation of and/or the decommissioning of the development as proposed.
2. The applicant shall ensure compliance with the proposed mitigation measures outlined in the EIAR, to ensure protection of any Uisce Éireann abstraction sources and ensure that these measures be fully complied with as a condition of grant during the pre-construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the development to ensure that there will be no negative impact to any of UÉ's Assets and / or infrastructure which may be in proximity to the development.
3. That the applicant shall adhere to the terms of any agreements with Uisce Eireann.

Reason: To protect existing public infrastructure and public water sources.

Queries relating to the terms and observations above should be directed to planning@water.ie

Signed on behalf of Dermot Phelan
Connections Delivery Manger