

Submission No.		82		
Organisation Name or Name of Submitter		EirGrid plc.		
Item No.	Section Ref.	Page No.	Observation Statement	TII Response
Re: Application by the National Roads Authority (operating as Transport Infrastructure Ireland) for the Railway (MetroLink-Estuary to Charlemont via Dublin Airport) Order [2022] Ref ABP-302010-18				
1	Interaction with Planned and Proposed Transmission Projects	4	It is inevitable that there will be a degree of impact on the transmission grid as a result of the construction and operation on the MetroLink Project. EirGrid seeks to ensure that such impacts are addressed and mitigated to the greatest extent feasible in order to ensure that Government national and regional transportation objectives for the transmission grid can be met.	<p>TII confirm they are committed to minimising the impact on EirGrid services so far as possible, and continuing to engage and consult with EirGrid throughout the detailed design, construction and operation phases of the project.</p> <p>As noted by EIAR Chapter 22, Infrastructure and Utilities, where there is interaction between MetroLink and existing infrastructure, the locations of the interactions have been identified and planned for, and therefore the potential for any service disruption is limited. All utilities that cross the alignment will also have appropriate protection measures installed and spare capacity for future maintenance or expansion provided where necessary.</p> <p>Where in some cases planned service disruptions are unavoidable to facilitate the connection of existing services to the newly diverted services, then cognisance of the requirements of those premises served by EirGrid will be taken account of in determining the type, duration and phasing of the planned disruption. All of which will be agreed with EirGrid, in accordance with EirGrid's level/business interruption requirements. It is expected that in most cases the duration of disruption will be no more than a few hours. All impacted utilities will be reinstated in accordance with the current standards and specifications for electricity transmission (as specified by EirGrid). Further information on Utility Diversions can be found in section 22.6.1 of Chapter 22 (Infrastructure and Utilities).</p>
2	Interaction with Planned and Proposed Transmission Projects	4	There may be substantial construction and operational impacts on the existing and planned transmission grid which need to be addressed and mitigated. Therefore, it is imperative to ensure that the provisions of Government policy and objectives as they relate to the existing and planned transmission grid are upheld and protected, to ensure continuing high standards of safety, security and reliability for electricity users and to protect the investment being made in the development of the transmission grid.	<p>TII confirm that the provisions of Government policy and objectives as noted by this observation will be upheld by TII for the reasons stated. EIAR Chapter 22, Infrastructure and Utilities confirms that all impacted utilities will be reinstated in accordance with the current standards and specifications for electricity transmission (as specified by EirGrid). In the case of older utilities, this means that the replacement section will be constructed with modern materials, such as the replacement of underground oil or fluid filled electricity cables with plastic insulated cables. The intention being that these measures will safeguard the future operation of the transmission grid and will allow for planning for future national improvements to the grid.</p> <p>As noted by response (1) above, it is the intention of TII to minimise the impact on EirGrid so far as possible and TII are committed to working closely with EirGrid to achieve this objective.</p>
3	Interaction with Planned and Proposed Transmission Projects	4	EirGrid acknowledges that many of the issues that are of concern to EirGrid, as Transmission System Operator, are of a technical or engineering nature that are most appropriately addressed and resolved ahead of the detailed design process. Therefore, EirGrid would welcome consideration by the Board of the application of appropriate, robust conditions, where such an approach is considered acceptable to the Board, in the event that the Board authorise the Railway Order.	It is the intention of TII to continue to work with EirGrid to ensure any issues of concern to EirGrid are resolved to EirGrid's satisfaction. TII have procured an Advanced Works Designer who will be further developing the utilities design and who will be consulting with EirGrid to ensure any issues that are of concern have a plan in place to be resolved.
4	Conclusion	4	EirGrid therefore requests An Bord Pleanála to ensure that the proposed development can proceed complementary to safeguarding the strategic function, safety and continued efficient operation of the transmission grid, including planning for future national improvements in accordance with separate but interconnected Government objectives.	TII confirm, reflected by the intent of responses (1), (2) and (3) above, their commitment to safeguarding the strategic function, safety and continued efficient operation of the transmission grid, including planning for future national improvements in accordance with separate but interconnected Government objectives.
5	Conclusion	5	EirGrid considers that the issues identified can be best addressed and resolved through adequate and appropriate engagement between EirGrid and TII, and agreement of detailed design and methodologies in the post-consent phase. It is of imperative importance, however, that such engagement occurs, prior to the commencement of any development. EirGrid therefore requests that this is ensured by way of the provision of adequate and robust Condition(s) of Approval by An Bord Pleanála, should it be minded to approve the proposal.	TII agrees with the approach set out by EirGrid and considers this aligns with the commitment reflected by the EIAR Chapter 22, Infrastructure and Utilities that notes it is very important that the (MetroLink/TII) Project Team liaises closely and early with EirGrid to arrange the necessary outages of these key electricity transmission circuits. Careful coordination of design and planning will be maintained with EirGrid to avoid any deration of electricity capacity. Prior to implementation, all utilities plans will finalised and confirmed by the appointed contractor(s), and TII will maintain engagement with EirGrid and all relevant bodies throughout this phase to minimise disruption.