

Appendix to Chapter 3: The Scoping Consultations

Appendix 3.5: Replies from Statutory Bodies to EDL Consultation

The data and descriptions in this appendix have informed the cumulative evaluations in the EIA Main Report.



Ms. Julie Brett
Ecopower Developments Ltd.
Zetec House
Purcellsinnh IDA Business Park
Co. Kilkenny

Dáta | Date
26 March 2019

Ár dTag | Our Ref.
TII19-105075

Bhur dTag | Your Ref.

RE: EIAR Scoping Request for Upperchurch Windfarm Grid Connection, Co. Tipperary

Dear Ms. Brett,

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) acknowledges receipt of your pre-application and EIAR Scoping request in respect of the above proposed project.

National Strategic Outcome 2 of the National Planning Framework includes the objective to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the national road network. It is also an investment priority of the National Development Plan, 2018 – 2027, to ensure that the extensive transport networks which have been greatly enhanced over the last two decades, are maintained to a high level to ensure quality levels of service, accessibility and connectivity to transport users. The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals following the examination of any valid application referred.

The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidance as outlined in the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at www.tii.ie.

In this instance, the proposal appears to be for a 110kV cable undergrounded predominately along the public road corridor for a length of 29km in a form consented, but not constructed, Upperchurch Windfarm to a new 110kV substation to be constructed as part of the underground cabling proposal adjacent to the existing Killonan – Nenagh 110kV line in the townland of Mountphillips. It is stated that trenching works are proposed long 28km of public road, predominately the R503 Newport to Thurles regional road. This proposal results from a refusal of underground grid connection cabling under PL92.301959 along an alternative route.

With respect to EIAR Scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of EIAR, which may affect the national road network. The developer should have regard, *inter alia*, to the following:

1. As outlined in the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines, it is in the public interest that, in so far as is reasonably practicable, the national road network continues to serve its intended strategic purpose. The EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network in order to demonstrate that the development can proceed complementary to safeguarding the capacity, safety and operational efficiency of that network.
2. Consultations should be had with the relevant local authority/national roads design office with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes.

Próiseálann BIÉ sonraí pearsanta a sholáthraítear dó i gcomhréir lena Fhógra ar Chosaint Sonraí atá ar fáil ag www.tii.ie.
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3. In relation to cabling and potential connection routing, the scheme promoter should note locations of existing and future national road schemes and develop proposals to safeguard proposed road schemes. In the context of existing national roads, alternatives to the provision of cabling along the national road network, such as alternative routing or the laying of cabling in private lands adjoining the national road, should be considered in the interests of safeguarding the investment in and the potential for future upgrade works to the national road network. The cable routing should avoid all impacts to existing TII infrastructure such as traffic counters, weather stations, etc. and works required to such infrastructure shall only be undertaken in consultation with and subject to the agreement of TII, with any costs borne by the applicant/developer. The developer should also be aware that separate approvals may be required for works traversing the national road network.
4. Clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route and all structures on the haul route should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal load proposed.
5. Where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. TII's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of the TII TTA Guidelines which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA.
6. TII Standards should be consulted to determine the requirement for Road Safety Audit (RSA) and Road Safety Impact Assessment (RSIA).
7. Assessments and design and construction and maintenance standards and guidance are available at [TII Publications](#) that replaced the NRA Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) and the NRA Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works (MCDRW).
8. The developer, in conducting the Environmental Impact Assessment, should have regard to TII Environment Guidelines that deal with assessment and mitigation measures for varied environmental factors and occurrences. In particular;
 - a. TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the *Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes* (National Roads Authority, 2006),
 - b. The EIAR should consider the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see *Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes* (1st Rev., National Roads Authority, 2004)).

Notwithstanding any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practice.

I hope that the above comments are of use in your EIAR preparation.

Yours sincerely,

pp 
Michael McCormack
Senior Land Use Planner



Appendix 3.5 Replies from Statutory Bodies to EDL Consultations
Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dublin 2.

Oifig an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

8 March 2019

Ms. Julie Brett
Ecopower Developments Ltd.
Zetec House
Purcellsinch IDA Business Park
Co. Kilkenny

PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE.

Our Ref: 2019/61090N /AM KE

Dear Ms. Brett

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence addressed to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed, TD concerning Scoping for Upperchurch Windfarm (UWF) Grid Connection, County Tipperary.

I will undertake to bring your correspondence to the Minister's attention at the next practical juncture. In the interim I have forwarded your correspondence for the attention of relevant Department Officials.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Lennox
Private Secretary

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<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/dataprotection/>

Consultation with National Federation of Group Water Schemes

From: Adrian Smyth <adrian@nfgws.ie>
Sent: 15 July 2019 16:06
To: Jack Brett
Cc: 'Collins, Triona'
Subject: RE: Upperchurch Windfarm Underground Cable

Hi Jack,

Just spoke to Tipp CoCo, think you are OK as far as we can see.

Kind regards,

Adrian.

**Adrian Smyth – Development Officer,
National Federation of Group Water Schemes,
12 Henry Street,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly.
R35 POA2
057 9328068
087 2126344
www.nfgws.ie**

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From: Adrian Smyth <adrian@nfgws.ie>
Sent: Monday 15 July 2019 12:47
To: 'Jack Brett' <jackb@ecopower.ie>
Subject: RE: Upperchurch Windfarm Underground Cable

Hi Jack,

Thanks for the email. There may be one GWS affected (Drombane Upperchurch) but I think you may just avoid it.

I'm copying Oliver (Engineer) and Triona (Rural Water Liaison Officer) on this email, as they will have the maps of the GWS and may be able to tell you if any GWS are affected.

Kind regards,

Adrian.

**Adrian Smyth – Development Officer,
National Federation of Group Water Schemes,
12 Henry Street,
Tullamore,**

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From: Jack Brett <jackb@ecopower.ie>
Sent: Monday 8 July 2019 11:46
To: adrian@nfgws.ie
Subject: Upperchurch Windfarm Underground Cable

Dear Adrian,

I called your mobile and I note you are on annual leave until 15th July, can you please have a look at the below email upon your return to work.

Ecopower Developments is developing an underground electrical cable from a consented electrical substation (Upperchurch Windfarm Substation) west of Upperchurch Village to a proposed electrical substation (Mountphilips Substation) north of Newport, routed along and under the public road network. The underground cable will be taken in charge by ESB networks once constructed, please see attached map showing the route in blue. Can you please confirm if there are any group water scheme along this route?

The route will use the following public roads: in the L2166-0 local road; in the Local Road L6013-0 for 1.18km; in the L2156-0 for 0.34km; in the L2157-0 for 0.8km and in the L6009-0 for 1.76km, joining the R503 at Newport GAA Club, then routed under the R503 for 22.1km eastwards until the turn off at Knockmaroe townland, onto the L2264-50 for 1.9km; then in the L6188-0 for 0.3km as far as the junction with a private paved forestry road at Knockcurraghbola Commons.

It passes through the following townlands: Mountphilips, Coole, Freagh, Foildarrig, Oakhampton, Rockvale, Mackney (O'Brien), Mackney (Bourke), Ahane, Newross, Castlewaller, Carrowkeale, Tullow, Cooldrisla, Derryleigh, Kilnacappagh, Scraggeen, Derrygareen, Inchadrinagh, Knockancullenagh, Fanit, Lackamore, Tooreenbrien Upper, Tooreenbrien Lower, Reardnogy Beg, Reardnogy More, Shanballyedmond, Bournadomeeny, Coonmore, Foildarragh, Kilcommon, Loughbrack, Knocknabansha, Knockmaroe, Knockcurraghbola Crownlands and Knockcurraghbola Commons.

Regards
Jack Brett

Jack Brett - Ecopower Developments Limited
Zetec House - Purcellsinch IDA Business Park - Dublin Road - Kilkenny - R95 WKK6
T: 056-7750140 (Ext 203) - M: 086-3575310





Julie Brett
Ecopower Developments
Zetec House
Purcellsinch IDA Business Park
Kilkenny
06/08/2019

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24-26 Sráid Thalbóid
Baile Átha Cliath 1
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Éire

Irish Water
Colvill House
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Dublin
Ireland

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www.water.ie

**Re: Preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment [EIA] for Upperchurch Windfarm (UWF)
Grid Connection**

Dear Ms Brett,

Irish Water (IW) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 23rd July 2019 regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) scoping for the above development.

In accordance with the 'Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements' (EPA, 2002) and 'Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements' (EPA, 2003), Irish Water suggests a site investigation be carried out prior to the beginning of construction and proposals outlined for dealing with situations where works would interfere with existing water services infrastructure (watermains, service connections, rising mains, foul and surface water sewers, culverts, etc.).

Please also see attached our suggested scope in relation to water services.

Yours Sincerely,

Matthew Collins

Spatial Planning Specialist

Response to EIAR Scoping Report Requests

IW currently does not have the capacity to advise on scoping of individual projects. However, in general we would like the following aspects of Water Services to be considered in the scope of an EIAR where relevant;

- a) Impacts of the development on the capacity of water services (do existing water services have the capacity to cater for the new development if required).
- b) Any up-grading of water services infrastructure that would be required to accommodate the development.
- c) In relation to a development that would discharge trade effluent – any upstream treatment or attenuation of discharges required prior to discharging to an IW collection network
- d) In relation to the management of surface water; the potential impact of surface water discharges to combined sewer networks & potential measures to minimise/stop surface waters from combined sewers
- e) Any physical impact on IW assets – reservoir, treatment works, pipes, pumping stations, discharges outfalls etc. including any relocation of assets
- f) Any potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to IW discharge outfalls including changes in dispersion /circulation characterises
- g) Any potential impact on the contributing catchment of water sources either in terms of water abstraction for the development (and resultant potential impact on the capacity of the source) or the potential of the development to influence/ present a risk to the quality of the water abstracted by IW for public supply.
- h) Where a development proposes to connect to an IW network and that network either abstracts water from or discharges waste water to a “protected”/sensitive area, consideration as to whether the integrity of the site/conservation objectives of the site would be compromised.
- i) Mitigation measures in relation to any of the above

This is not an exhaustive list.

Please note

- If a development will require a connection to either a public water supply or sewage collection system the developer is advised to contact Irish Water’s Connections and Developer Services Team prior to applying for planning permission at connections@water.ie
- For Information on Irish Water assets please send a query to DataRequests@water.ie

Irish Water will not normally accept new surface water discharges to combined sewer networks.