

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1  
D01V902

## Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

08 April 2020

**Our Reference**  
229100346-A

Dear Sir/Madam,

### 1 Introduction

Mott MacDonald Ireland Limited, acting on behalf of our client Lightsource Renewable Energy Ireland Ltd is preparing a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application for approval to An Bord Pleanála in relation to the following proposed development in the townlands of Harristown, Castlejordan and Clongall, Co. Meath.

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### 2 Background

Following consultation with An Bord Pleanála (ABP), a direction was received which confirmed that the proposed substation, by virtue of the transmission voltage and the design of the connection to the national grid would be considered SID development. Therefore, this SID application is being submitted with the following supporting information:

- A complete planning drawing package, prepared by Malachy Walsh and Partners;
- A full Environment Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), prepared by NEO Environmental;
- Letter of Landowner Consent, David & Caitriona O' Connor - 17th Feb 2020;
- Receipt for Application Fee; and
- Copies of the site and newspaper notices.

We request that the Bord also consider this correspondence as forming part of the planning application package for statutory approval.

### 3 Proposed Development

The proposed development will consist of a 10-year permission for: a 110kV substation with associated electrical plant, control buildings, welfare facilities, security fencing, additional internal access tracks, 110kV overhead line grid connection to the existing transmission line on site with associated angle lattice masts (maximum height: approx. 20m) and all ancillary works required to enable the construction and operation of the facility which is associated with the Solar Farm development (Meath County Council Ref: TA/181225) on land at Harristown, Castlejordan and Clongall, Co. Meath which received final grant 22 January 2020.

### 4 Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

The accompanying EIAR was produced at the request of Meath County Council during the consent process for the Solar Development. The EIAR assess the potential effects on the environment from three elements of the overall development namely:

- 1) The Solar development including battery energy storage system. (planning granted by Meath County council)
- 2) The 110kV substation and associated line modifications to the transmission grid to facilitate the export of power from the Solar Farm. (this application)
- 3) The fibre optic connection from the proposed substation to the existing ESB substation near Kinnegad Co. Westmeath. (ESB will be responsible for the consent and installation of this development element at a later date).

The EIAR for the proposed development at Harristown, Castlejordan and Clongall concludes that with the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, the potential impacts on the receiving environment will be of low to no significance. Overall, the proposed development is anticipated to have slight negative or Inert effects on the surrounding environment and receptors during the construction period, but this is temporary in nature due to the short build out phase. The long-term positive effects of increased air quality, biodiversity and renewable energy generation far outweigh the temporary negative effects.

There are significant positive long-term effects anticipated for local biodiversity and the development will increase Ireland's sustainable, locally generated energy supply, by providing enough clean energy to power circa 10,833 homes per year. This will in turn grow our renewable energy generation capacity which will both reduce our carbon emissions and enhance security of energy supply by lowering our reliance on volatile international fossil fuel markets.

## 5 Consultation

A robust consultation prior to the submission of the proposed application has been undertaken with An Bord Pleanála and other key stakeholders prior to the submission of the application, please see details of these consultations in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 Consultation and Responses**

Consultee	Date	Summary of Discussion
An Bord Pleanála (Meeting)	9 Aug 2018	Outline of the project and request of The Boards opinion as to whether the development fall within the scope of section 182A of the planning and development Act 2000 as amended. In subsequent correspondence The Board confirm that in the boards opinion the Substation development falls with scope of Section 182A.
An Bord Pleanála (Meeting)	27 Aug 2019	Update on the progress on the project, including the fact that Meath County Council had now requested an Environmental Impact Assessment of the Solar Farm associated with the Substation development and the intent of Lightsource BP to submit same in support of the substation planning application.
An Bord Pleanála (Meeting)	23 Jan 2020	Further update to enquire as to whether in the opinion of The Board a fibre optic link from the new substation along the existing ESB transmission line from the proposed substation to the existing ESB Kinnegad 110kV substation, should be included in the EIA assessment. The discussion concluded that it should be included
National Monuments Service (Email)	25 Jan 2020	Email sent outlining the details of the project and requesting feedback, no response received to date.
Developments Application Unit (Email)	25 Jan 2020	Email sent outlining the details of the project and requesting feedback, no response received to date.
EirGrid/ESB Networks	Various	EirGrid and ESB Networks have been consulted throughout the design phase of the project. They have confirmed that the design meets the required specifications for connection to the national grid and conforms to the connection agreement between EirGrid and Lightsource BP for the supply of electricity to the grid.

On closing the pre-application consultation, An Bord Pleanála identified the following prescribed bodies to receive copies of the application in advance of lodging the application, these are detailed below in Table 2.

**Table 2 Prescribed Bodies**

<b>Prescribed Body</b>	<b>Date Copies sent</b>	<b>Number of copies agreed</b>
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	07/04/2020	Electronic Copy x 1, by post and Email
Fáilte Ireland	07/04/2020	Electronic Copy x 1, by post and Email
The Heritage Council	07/04/2020	Electronic Copy x 1, by post and Email
Commission for Regulation Utilities	07/04/2020	Electronic Copy x 1, by post and Email
Meath County Council	07/04/2020	Hard Copy x 2, Electronic Copy x 5 by post and email
Irish Water	07/04/2020	Electronic Copy x 1, by post and Email
Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment	07/04/2020	Electronic Copy x 1, by post and Email
TII	07/04/2020	Electronic Copy x 1, by post and Email
Health Services Executive	07/04/2020	Electronic Copy x 1 by post and email & Hard Copy x 1
The Office of Public Works	07/04/2020	Electronic Copy x 1, by post and Email
An Comhairle Ealaíon	07/04/2020	Electronic Copy x 1, by post and Email
An Taisce	07/04/2020	Electronic Copy x 1, by post and Email

A copy of the planning application documentation is also available on the following dedicated website - [www.Harristown110kvsubstation.ie](http://www.Harristown110kvsubstation.ie)

## **6 Drawing Register**

Please see below Table 3 which lists the submitted drawings which support the proposed application. For ease of reference there is also a schedule of drawings submitted within the application package.

**Table 3 Submitted Drawings**

<b>Drawing Title</b>	<b>Drawing Number</b>
Site Location Plan	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5020-C
Proposed Substation Layout	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5021-C
Proposed Substation Site Layout	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5022-C
Substation Compound Site Sections	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5023-C
Compound Elevations	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5024-C
Eirgrid Building Plan and Elevations	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5025-C
IPP Control Building Plan and Elevations.	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5026-A
Palisade Fence Details	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5027-A
Concrete Post and Rail Fence Detail	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5028-A
Typical Foul Holding Tank Details	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5029-A
Compound Entrance Gate Details	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5030-A
AO Site Map	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5031-D

Drawing Title	Drawing Number
A3 Site Map	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5032-D
Access Road Auto track (Sheet 1 of 3)	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5033-B
Access Road Auto track (Sheet 2 of 3)	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5034-B
Access Road Auto track (Sheet 3 of 3)	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5035-B
Flood Zone Map (Aerial)	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5036-C
110Kv Overhead line Tower	20205-MWP-SS-00-DR-C-5037-A

## 7 Planning Fee

Payment of the requisite fee of 100,000 made to An Bord Pleanála has been confirmed received on the 20/02/2020.

## 8 Summary

The proposed application is made under S182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (As amended). The proposed development has been deemed to be Strategic Infrastructure Development following consultation with An Bord Pleanála and has been prepared in line with the guidance set out by An Bord Pleanála.

The proposed development is in line with previously granted energy infrastructure at the site, under Meath County Council Planning Reference TA/181225. A full and thorough assessment has been undertaken within the attached Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which is submitted as part of the application package. The proposed development is also supported by a full range of planning drawings which complete the application package.

Therefore, we ask that the application be consented without delay in line with statutory procedures. If there are any queries with regard to the application, please contact the undersigned who will be happy to assist.

Yours Sincerely



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