



Galetech Energy Services
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An Taisce
Tailors' Hall
Back Lane
Dublin 8
D08 X2A3

16 October 2020
Our Ref: PIN001SS
Your Ref: --/--

Dear Sir/Madam,

Location: Knockardagur, Ballinakill, County Laois.

Re: 1 no. 110kV 'loop in-loop out' air-insulated switchroom (AIS) substation including control buildings, transformers and all associated electrical equipment, security fencing and lighting; (ii) 2 no. lattice-type strain towers with a maximum height of up to 21m; (iii) c. 70m of 110kV overhead electricity lines to facilitate connection of the proposed substation to the permitted Laois-Kilkenny Grid Reinforcement Project; (iv) c. 0.65km of on-site access track with associated site entrance from local public road; and (v) All associated site development, landscaping and reinstatement works including provision of drainage infrastructure.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this planning application.

1.0 Introduction

On behalf of our client, Pinewood Wind Limited ('the Applicant'), please find enclosed a copy of all planning application documentation for the abovementioned proposed development. A planning application for this proposed development is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála in accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) ('the Act').

2.0 Background to this Planning Application

Planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála for the development of an 11 no. turbine wind energy development and associated infrastructure (known hereafter as the 'Pinewoods Wind Farm') pursuant to References PL11.248518 and PL10.248392 in September 2019. In granting planning permission for the Pinewoods Wind Farm, An Bord Pleanála stated the following, at Condition No. 4 (PL11.248518):-

"The proposed 110kV substation at Knockardagur, County Laois is not authorised by this permission.

Reason: The provision of the proposed substation at Knockardagur would represent strategic infrastructure development under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and accordingly is subject to a separate planning application process."

Accordingly, this Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) planning application is now being made for the development of a 110kV substation to facilitate the export of electricity generated at the Pinewoods Wind Farm to the national electricity network.

3.0 Description of the Proposed Development

The planning application seeks permission for a 10-year planning permission for a proposed development generally described as follows:-

- (i) A 110 kilovolt (kV) 'loop-in/loop-out' Air-Insulated Switchgear (AIS) electrical substation with a 'split level' design, including 2 no. single-storey control buildings (with a Gross Floor Area of 589 square metres), 1 no. transformer bay, 2 no. line bays and all associated electrical equipment, services and lighting within an up to 2.95 metre high fenced compound (with a total footprint of 13,100 square metres);
- (ii) 2 no. lattice-type strain towers with a maximum height of up to 21m and approximately 70m of 110kV overhead electricity lines to facilitate connection of the proposed substation to the permitted 110kV Laois-Kilkenny Grid Reinforcement Project electricity transmission line (An Bord Pleanála Reference PL11.VA0015);
- (iii) Approximately 0.65km of on-site access track with associated site entrance from local public road (L77951); and
- (iv) All associated and ancillary site development, excavation, construction, landscaping and reinstatement works, including provision of site drainage infrastructure and surface water protection measures.

4.0 Environmental Impact Assessment

A full Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been submitted with this planning application to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out by An Bord Pleanála.

The EIAR is presented as 3 no. volumes, which should be read in conjunction with each other, as follows:-

- **Volume I** comprises the main EIAR text and follows a 'grouped format' structure where each environmental factor is assessed and presented as a separate chapter. The EIA Directive prescribes the range of environmental factors which should be used to organise descriptions of the environment and likely environmental effects. These have been supplemented with additional environmental factors owing to the characteristics of the project under assessments, as follows:-
 - Chapter 1: Introduction;
 - Chapter 2: Assessment of Project Alternatives;
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 - Chapter 4: Population & Human Health;
 - Chapter 5: Biodiversity;
 - Chapter 6: Land & Soils;
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- Chapter 8: Air Quality & Climate;
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- **Volume II** comprises a range of annexes, including technical data and reports, which informed the impact assessment provided in **Volume I** so as to ensure the EIAR is transparently supported by evidence.
- **Volume III** comprises the Environmental Impact Assessment Report/Environmental Impact Statement¹ (EIAR/EIS) prepared in respect of the permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm. This EIAR/EIS has been provided to ensure that An Bord Pleanála has before it all necessary and relevant environmental assessments related to the entire project to allow for a complete and comprehensive cumulative assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment.

A Non-Technical Summary of the EIAR is provided as a separate standalone volume in order to facilitate the wider public concerned in their involvement in the statutory consultation during the planning application determination stage.

5.0 Appropriate Assessment

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared by SLR Consulting and submitted with this planning application. The NIS is presented as a separate document and submitted to inform a Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment to be carried out by the Planning Authority (Council Directive 92/43/EC & Council Directive 2009/147/EC). Again, the NIS addresses the entirety of the project, including relevant off-site and secondary developments, including the Pinewoods Wind Farm.

The NIS concludes that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European (Natura 2000) sites.

6.0 Planning Application Documentation

This planning application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of Section 182A the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). An Bord Pleanála has instructed the Applicant to notify An Taisce, as a prescribed body, of the lodgement of the planning application and to furnish you with a copy (or copies) of the planning application documentation.

All planning application and associated documentation is available to view at the dedicated project website www.pinewoodswindfarmsubstationsid.ie, which

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includes:-

- 1 no. copy of the completed planning application form;
- 1 no. copy of the site notice;
- 1 no. copy of each newspaper notice (2 no.);
- 1 no. copy of a letter of consent from the relevant landowner;
- 1 no. copy of EIA Portal Confirmation Notice;
- 1 no. copy of Planning Application Notification Letter to Laois County Council;
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7.0 Planning Application Procedure

You are advised that An Bord Pleanála may, in respect of an application for permission, decide to:-

- (a) (i) grant the permission/approval; or
(ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission/approval in respect of the proposed development as so modified; or
(iii) grant permission/approval in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions; or
- (b) Refuse to grant the permission/approval.

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 relating to:-

- (i) The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development;
- (ii) The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development; and
- (iii) The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions or observations from An Taisce must be received by An Bord Pleanála no later than 5.30p.m. on 11 December 2020.

8.0 Conclusion

This planning application is being lodged with An Bord Pleanála following a determination that the proposed development constitutes SID. The proposed development will facilitate the connection of an extant permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm to the national electricity grid. Government policy recognises that onshore wind energy, as a proven and cost effective technology in the context of Ireland's



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abundant wind resource, will continue to be the major contributor to Ireland's renewable electricity generation to 2030 and the generation of electricity by the Pinewoods Wind Farm will make a substantial contribution to the reduction of fossil fuel generated electricity and the abatement of greenhouse gas emissions.

The EIAR and NIS submitted provide a comprehensive assessment of the likelihood for significant adverse environmental effects to arise as a result of the proposed development individually and in combination with the permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm. Overall, the EIAR and NIS have demonstrated that any likely adverse environmental effects resulting from the proposed development can be managed and mitigated and that there are lasting social and environmental benefits as a result of the proposed development.

We trust that the documentation provided is in order and is sufficient for your consideration of this proposed development. Should you have any queries in relation to any of the information enclosed, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

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Commission for Regulation of Utilities
The Grain House
The Exchange
Belgard Square North
Dublin 24
D24 PXW0

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Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht
(formerly Minister of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)
c/o Development Applications Unit
Newtown Road
Wexford
County Wexford
Y35 AP90

Issued via email to Manager.DAU@chg.gov.ie

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Our Ref: PIN001SS
Your Ref: --/--

Dear Sir/Madam,

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"The proposed 110kV substation at Knockardugar, County Laois is not authorised by this permission.

Reason: The provision of the proposed substation at Knockardugar would represent strategic infrastructure development under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and accordingly is subject to a separate planning application process."

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An Bord Pleanála has instructed the Applicant to notify the Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht (formerly Minister of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht), as a prescribed body, and to furnish you with a copy (or copies) of the planning application documentation.

As agreed with Ms. Sinead O'Brien in correspondence dated 9 July 2020, the provision of hard or electronic copies to the Development Applications Unit is not required. The planning application and associated documentation relating to the proposed development will be examined by the Development Applications Unit at the dedicated project website www.pinewoodswindfarmsubstationsid.ie, which includes:-

- A copy of the completed planning application form;
- A copy of the site notice;
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w: www.galetechenergy.com

Failte Ireland
Aras Failte
88/95 Amiens Street
Dublin 1

Issued via email to planning.applications@failteireland.ie

16 October 2020
Our Ref: PIN001SS
Your Ref: --/--

Dear Sir/Madam,

Location: Knockardagur, Ballinakill, County Laois.

Re: 1 no. 110kV 'loop in-loop out' air-insulated switchroom (AIS) substation including control buildings, transformers and all associated electrical equipment, security fencing and lighting; (ii) 2 no. lattice-type strain towers with a maximum height of up to 21m; (iii) c. 70m of 110kV overhead electricity lines to facilitate connection of the proposed substation to the permitted Laois-Kilkenny Grid Reinforcement Project; (iv) c. 0.65km of on-site access track with associated site entrance from local public road; and (v) All associated site development, landscaping and reinstatement works including provision of drainage infrastructure.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this planning application.

1.0 Introduction

On behalf of our client, Pinewood Wind Limited ('the Applicant'), please find enclosed a copy of all planning application documentation for the abovementioned proposed development. A planning application for this proposed development is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála in accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) ('the Act').

2.0 Background to this Planning Application

Planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála for the development of an 11 no. turbine wind energy development and associated infrastructure (known hereafter as the 'Pinewoods Wind Farm') pursuant to References PL11.248518 and PL10.248392 in September 2019. In granting planning permission for the Pinewoods Wind Farm, An Bord Pleanála stated the following, at Condition No. 4 (PL11.248518):-

"The proposed 110kV substation at Knockardagur, County Laois is not authorised by this permission.

Reason: The provision of the proposed substation at Knockardagur would represent strategic infrastructure development under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and accordingly is subject to a separate planning application process."

Accordingly, this Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) planning application is now being made for the development of a 110kV substation to facilitate the export of electricity generated at the Pinewoods Wind Farm to the national electricity network.

3.0 Description of the Proposed Development

The planning application seeks permission for a 10-year planning permission for a proposed development generally described as follows:-

- (i) A 110 kilovolt (kV) 'loop-in/loop-out' Air-Insulated Switchgear (AIS) electrical substation with a 'split level' design, including 2 no. single-storey control buildings (with a Gross Floor Area of 589 square metres), 1 no. transformer bay, 2 no. line bays and all associated electrical equipment, services and lighting within an up to 2.95 metre high fenced compound (with a total footprint of 13,100 square metres);
- (ii) 2 no. lattice-type strain towers with a maximum height of up to 21m and approximately 70m of 110kV overhead electricity lines to facilitate connection of the proposed substation to the permitted 110kV Laois-Kilkenny Grid Reinforcement Project electricity transmission line (An Bord Pleanála Reference PL11.VA0015);
- (iii) Approximately 0.65km of on-site access track with associated site entrance from local public road (L77951); and
- (iv) All associated and ancillary site development, excavation, construction, landscaping and reinstatement works, including provision of site drainage infrastructure and surface water protection measures.

4.0 Environmental Impact Assessment

A full Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been submitted with this planning application to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out by An Bord Pleanála.

The EIAR is presented as 3 no. volumes, which should be read in conjunction with each other, as follows:-

- **Volume I** comprises the main EIAR text and follows a 'grouped format' structure where each environmental factor is assessed and presented as a separate chapter. The EIA Directive prescribes the range of environmental factors which should be used to organise descriptions of the environment and likely environmental effects. These have been supplemented with additional environmental factors owing to the characteristics of the project under assessments, as follows:-
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- **Volume III** comprises the Environmental Impact Assessment Report/Environmental Impact Statement¹ (EIAR/EIS) prepared in respect of the permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm. This EIAR/EIS has been provided to ensure that An Bord Pleanála has before it all necessary and relevant environmental assessments related to the entire project to allow for a complete and comprehensive cumulative assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment.

A Non-Technical Summary of the EIAR is provided as a separate standalone volume in order to facilitate the wider public concerned in their involvement in the statutory consultation during the planning application determination stage.

5.0 Appropriate Assessment

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared by SLR Consulting and submitted with this planning application. The NIS is presented as a separate document and submitted to inform a Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment to be carried out by the Planning Authority (Council Directive 92/43/EC & Council Directive 2009/147/EC). Again, the NIS addresses the entirety of the project, including relevant off-site and secondary developments, including the Pinewoods Wind Farm.

The NIS concludes that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European (Natura 2000) sites.

6.0 Planning Application Documentation

This planning application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of Section 182A the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). An Bord Pleanála has instructed the Applicant to notify Fáilte Ireland, as a prescribed body, and to furnish you with a copy (or copies) of the planning application documentation.

As agreed with Ms. Yvonne Jackson in correspondence dated 9 July 2020, the provision of hard or electronic copies to Fáilte Ireland is not required. The planning

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application and associated documentation relating to the proposed development will be examined by Fáilte Ireland at the dedicated project website www.pinewoodswindfarmsubstationsid.ie which includes:-

- A copy of the completed planning application form;
- A copy of the site notice;
- A copy of each newspaper notice (2 no.);
- A copy of a letter of consent from the relevant landowner;
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7.0 Planning Application Procedure

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- (iii) grant permission/approval in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions; or
- (b) Refuse to grant the permission/approval.

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 relating to:-

- (i) The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development;
- (ii) The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development; and
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Any submissions or observations from Fáilte Ireland must be received by An Bord Pleanála no later than 5.30p.m. on 11 December 2020.

8.0 Conclusion

This planning application is being lodged with An Bord Pleanála following a determination that the proposed development constitutes SID. The proposed development will facilitate the connection of an extant permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm to the national electricity grid. Government policy recognises that onshore



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wind energy, as a proven and cost effective technology in the context of Ireland's abundant wind resource, will continue to be the major contributor to Ireland's renewable electricity generation to 2030 and the generation of electricity by the Pinewoods Wind Farm will make a substantial contribution to the reduction of fossil fuel generated electricity and the abatement of greenhouse gas emissions.

The EIAR and NIS submitted provide a comprehensive assessment of the likelihood for significant adverse environmental effects to arise as a result of the proposed development individually and in combination with the permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm. Overall, the EIAR and NIS have demonstrated that any likely adverse environmental effects resulting from the proposed development can be managed and mitigated and that there are lasting social and environmental benefits as a result of the proposed development.

We trust that the documentation provided is in order and is sufficient for your consideration of this proposed development. Should you have any queries in relation to any of the information enclosed, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

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The Heritage Council
Áras na hOidhreacht
Church Lane
Kilkenny
R95 X264

16 October 2020
Our Ref: PIN001SS
Your Ref: --/--

Dear Sir/Madam,

Location: Knockardagur, Ballinakill, County Laois.

Re: 1 no. 110kV 'loop in-loop out' air-insulated switchroom (AIS) substation including control buildings, transformers and all associated electrical equipment, security fencing and lighting; (ii) 2 no. lattice-type strain towers with a maximum height of up to 21m; (iii) c. 70m of 110kV overhead electricity lines to facilitate connection of the proposed substation to the permitted Laois-Kilkenny Grid Reinforcement Project; (iv) c. 0.65km of on-site access track with associated site entrance from local public road; and (v) All associated site development, landscaping and reinstatement works including provision of drainage infrastructure.

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Reason: The provision of the proposed substation at Knockardagur would represent strategic infrastructure development under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and accordingly is subject to a separate planning application process."

Accordingly, this Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) planning application is now being made for the development of a 110kV substation to facilitate the export of electricity generated at the Pinewoods Wind Farm to the national electricity network.

3.0 Description of the Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises a 10-year planning permission for the following elements:-

- (i) A 110 kilovolt (kV) 'loop-in/loop-out' Air-Insulated Switchgear (AIS) electrical substation with a 'split level' design, including 2 no. single-storey control buildings (with a Gross Floor Area of 589 square metres), 1 no. transformer bay, 2 no. line bays and all associated electrical equipment, services and lighting within an up to 2.95 metre high fenced compound (with a total footprint of 13,100 square metres);
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The NIS concludes that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European (Natura 2000) sites.

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All planning application and associated documentation is available to view at the dedicated project website www.pinewoodswindfarmsubstationsid.ie, which

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Health Service Executive
Environmental Health Service
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Portlaoise
Co. Laois

16 October 2020
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Inland Fisheries Ireland
3044 Lake Drive
Citywest Business Campus
Dublin
D24 Y265

16 October 2020
Our Ref: PIN001SS
Your Ref: --/--

Dear Sir/Madam,

Location: Knockardagur, Ballinakill, County Laois.

Re: 1 no. 110kV 'loop in-loop out' air-insulated switchroom (AIS) substation including control buildings, transformers and all associated electrical equipment, security fencing and lighting; (ii) 2 no. lattice-type strain towers with a maximum height of up to 21m; (iii) c. 70m of 110kV overhead electricity lines to facilitate connection of the proposed substation to the permitted Laois-Kilkenny Grid Reinforcement Project; (iv) c. 0.65km of on-site access track with associated site entrance from local public road; and (v) All associated site development, landscaping and reinstatement works including provision of drainage infrastructure.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this planning application.

1.0 Introduction

On behalf of our client, Pinewood Wind Limited ('the Applicant'), please find enclosed a copy of all planning application documentation for the abovementioned proposed development. A planning application for this proposed development is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála in accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) ('the Act').

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"The proposed 110kV substation at Knockardagur, County Laois is not authorised by this permission.

Reason: The provision of the proposed substation at Knockardagur would represent strategic infrastructure development under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and accordingly is subject to a separate planning application process."

Accordingly, this Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) planning application is now being made for the development of a 110kV substation to facilitate the export of electricity generated at the Pinewoods Wind Farm to the national electricity network.

3.0 Description of the Proposed Development

The planning application seeks permission for a 10-year planning permission for a proposed development generally described as follows:-

- (i) A 110 kilovolt (kV) 'loop-in/loop-out' Air-Insulated Switchgear (AIS) electrical substation with a 'split level' design, including 2 no. single-storey control buildings (with a Gross Floor Area of 589 square metres), 1 no. transformer bay, 2 no. line bays and all associated electrical equipment, services and lighting within an up to 2.95 metre high fenced compound (with a total footprint of 13,100 square metres);
- (ii) 2 no. lattice-type strain towers with a maximum height of up to 21m and approximately 70m of 110kV overhead electricity lines to facilitate connection of the proposed substation to the permitted 110kV Laois-Kilkenny Grid Reinforcement Project electricity transmission line (An Bord Pleanála Reference PL11.VA0015);
- (iii) Approximately 0.65km of on-site access track with associated site entrance from local public road (L77951); and
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A full Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been submitted with this planning application to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out by An Bord Pleanála.

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A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared by SLR Consulting and submitted with this planning application. The NIS is presented as a separate document and submitted to inform a Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment to be carried out by the Planning Authority (Council Directive 92/43/EC & Council Directive 2009/147/EC). Again, the NIS addresses the entirety of the project, including relevant off-site and secondary developments, including the Pinewoods Wind Farm.

The NIS concludes that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European (Natura 2000) sites.

6.0 Planning Application Documentation

This planning application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of Section 182A the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). An Bord Pleanála has instructed the Applicant to notify Inland Fisheries Ireland, as a prescribed body, and to furnish you with a copy (or copies) of the planning application documentation.

All planning application and associated documentation is available to view at the dedicated project website www.pinewoodswindfarmsubstationsid.ie, which

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This planning application is being lodged with An Bord Pleanála following a determination that the proposed development constitutes SID. The proposed development will facilitate the connection of an extant permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm to the national electricity grid. Government policy recognises that onshore wind energy, as a proven and cost effective technology in the context of Ireland's



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abundant wind resource, will continue to be the major contributor to Ireland's renewable electricity generation to 2030 and the generation of electricity by the Pinewoods Wind Farm will make a substantial contribution to the reduction of fossil fuel generated electricity and the abatement of greenhouse gas emissions.

The EIAR and NIS submitted provide a comprehensive assessment of the likelihood for significant adverse environmental effects to arise as a result of the proposed development individually and in combination with the permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm. Overall, the EIAR and NIS have demonstrated that any likely adverse environmental effects resulting from the proposed development can be managed and mitigated and that there are lasting social and environmental benefits as a result of the proposed development.

We trust that the documentation provided is in order and is sufficient for your consideration of this proposed development. Should you have any queries in relation to any of the information enclosed, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

Galetech Energy Services

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Irish Water
Colvill House,
24-26 Talbot St,
Mountjoy,
Dublin

Issued via email to planning@water.ie

16 October 2020
Our Ref: PIN001SS
Your Ref: --/--

Dear Sir/Madam,

Location: Knockardagur, Ballinakill, County Laois.

Re: 1 no. 110kV 'loop in-loop out' air-insulated switchroom (AIS) substation including control buildings, transformers and all associated electrical equipment, security fencing and lighting; (ii) 2 no. lattice-type strain towers with a maximum height of up to 21m; (iii) c. 70m of 110kV overhead electricity lines to facilitate connection of the proposed substation to the permitted Laois-Kilkenny Grid Reinforcement Project; (iv) c. 0.65km of on-site access track with associated site entrance from local public road; and (v) All associated site development, landscaping and reinstatement works including provision of drainage infrastructure.

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Planning Department
Kilkenny County Council
County Hall
John Street
Kilkenny
R95 A39T

16 October 2020
Our Ref: PIN001SS
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Location: Knockardagur, Ballinakill, County Laois.

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An Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this planning application.

1.0 Introduction

On behalf of our client, Pinewood Wind Limited ('the Applicant'), please find enclosed a copy of all planning application documentation for the abovementioned proposed development. A planning application for this proposed development is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála in accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) ('the Act').

2.0 Background to this Planning Application

Planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála for the development of an 11 no. turbine wind energy development and associated infrastructure (known hereafter as the 'Pinewoods Wind Farm') pursuant to References PL11.248518 and PL10.248392 in September 2019. In granting planning permission for the Pinewoods Wind Farm, An Bord Pleanála stated the following, at Condition No. 4 (PL11.248518):-

"The proposed 110kV substation at Knockardagur, County Laois is not authorised by this permission.

Reason: The provision of the proposed substation at Knockardagur would represent strategic infrastructure development under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and accordingly is subject to a separate planning application process."

Accordingly, this Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) planning application is now being made for the development of a 110kV substation to facilitate the export of electricity generated at the Pinewoods Wind Farm to the national electricity network.

3.0 Description of the Proposed Development

The planning application seeks permission for a 10-year planning permission for a proposed development generally described as follows:-

- (i) A 110 kilovolt (kV) 'loop-in/loop-out' Air-Insulated Switchgear (AIS) electrical substation with a 'split level' design, including 2 no. single-storey control buildings (with a Gross Floor Area of 589 square metres), 1 no. transformer bay, 2 no. line bays and all associated electrical equipment, services and lighting within an up to 2.95 metre high fenced compound (with a total footprint of 13,100 square metres);
- (ii) 2 no. lattice-type strain towers with a maximum height of up to 21m and approximately 70m of 110kV overhead electricity lines to facilitate connection of the proposed substation to the permitted 110kV Laois-Kilkenny Grid Reinforcement Project electricity transmission line (An Bord Pleanála Reference PL11.VA0015);
- (iii) Approximately 0.65km of on-site access track with associated site entrance from local public road (L77951); and
- (iv) All associated and ancillary site development, excavation, construction, landscaping and reinstatement works, including provision of site drainage infrastructure and surface water protection measures.

4.0 Environmental Impact Assessment

A full Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been submitted with this planning application to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out by An Bord Pleanála.

The EIAR is presented as 3 no. volumes, which should be read in conjunction with each other, as follows:-

- **Volume I** comprises the main EIAR text and follows a 'grouped format' structure where each environmental factor is assessed and presented as a separate chapter. The EIA Directive prescribes the range of environmental factors which should be used to organise descriptions of the environment and likely environmental effects. These have been supplemented with additional environmental factors owing to the characteristics of the project under assessments, as follows:-
 - Chapter 1: Introduction;
 - Chapter 2: Assessment of Project Alternatives;
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 - Chapter 4: Population & Human Health;
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 - Chapter 6: Land & Soils;
 - Chapter 7: Water;

- Chapter 8: Air Quality & Climate;
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- Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage;
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- Chapter 12: Shadow Flicker;
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- **Volume II** comprises a range of annexes, including technical data and reports, which informed the impact assessment provided in **Volume I** so as to ensure the EIAR is transparently supported by evidence.
- **Volume III** comprises the Environmental Impact Assessment Report/Environmental Impact Statement¹ (EIAR/EIS) prepared in respect of the permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm. This EIAR/EIS has been provided to ensure that An Bord Pleanála has before it all necessary and relevant environmental assessments related to the entire project to allow for a complete and comprehensive cumulative assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment.

A Non-Technical Summary of the EIAR is provided as a separate standalone volume in order to facilitate the wider public concerned in their involvement in the statutory consultation during the planning application determination stage.

5.0 Appropriate Assessment

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared by SLR Consulting and submitted with this planning application. The NIS is presented as a separate document and submitted to inform a Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment to be carried out by the Planning Authority (Council Directive 92/43/EC & Council Directive 2009/147/EC). Again, the NIS addresses the entirety of the project, including relevant off-site and secondary developments, including the Pinewoods Wind Farm.

The NIS concludes that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European (Natura 2000) sites.

6.0 Planning Application Documentation

This planning application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of Section 182A the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). An Bord Pleanála has instructed the Applicant to notify the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, as a prescribed body, and to furnish you with a copy (or copies) of the planning application documentation.

All planning application and associated documentation is available to view at the dedicated project website www.pinewoodswindfarmsubstationsid.ie, which

¹ The Pinewoods Wind Farm was subject to Environmental Impact Assessment prior to the coming into force of Directive 2014/52/EU which provides that, henceforth, an EIS shall be termed an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Accordingly, the acronym 'EIAR/EIS' is used throughout the EIAR to refer to the Pinewoods Wind Farm EIS.

includes:-

- 1 no. copy of the completed planning application form;
- 1 no. copy of the site notice;
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- 1 no. copy of Planning Application Notification Letter to Laois County Council;
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Furthermore, all planning application and associated documentation is available to view at the dedicated project website www.pinewoodswindfarmsubstationsid.ie.

7.0 Planning Application Procedure

You are advised that An Bord Pleanála may, in respect of an application for permission, decide to:-

- (a) (i) grant the permission/approval; or
 - (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission/approval in respect of the proposed development as so modified; or
 - (iii) grant permission/approval in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions; or
- (b) Refuse to grant the permission/approval.

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 relating to:-

- (i) The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development;
- (ii) The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development; and
- (iii) The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions or observations from the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment must be received by An Bord Pleanála no later than 5.30p.m. on 11 December 2020.

8.0 Conclusion

This planning application is being lodged with An Bord Pleanála following a



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Cork: Unit 2 Airport East Business Park, Farmers Cross,
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determination that the proposed development constitutes SID. The proposed development will facilitate the connection of an extant permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm to the national electricity grid. Government policy recognises that onshore wind energy, as a proven and cost effective technology in the context of Ireland's abundant wind resource, will continue to be the major contributor to Ireland's renewable electricity generation to 2030 and the generation of electricity by the Pinewoods Wind Farm will make a substantial contribution to the reduction of fossil fuel generated electricity and the abatement of greenhouse gas emissions.

The EIAR and NIS submitted provide a comprehensive assessment of the likelihood for significant adverse environmental effects to arise as a result of the proposed development individually and in combination with the permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm. Overall, the EIAR and NIS have demonstrated that any likely adverse environmental effects resulting from the proposed development can be managed and mitigated and that there are lasting social and environmental benefits as a result of the proposed development.

We trust that the documentation provided is in order and is sufficient for your consideration of this proposed development. Should you have any queries in relation to any of the information enclosed, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

Galetech Energy Services

Galetech Energy Services Ltd





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w: www.galetechenergy.com

Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Parkgate Business Centre
Parkgate Street
Dublin 8
D08 DK10

Issued via email to landuseplanning@tii.ie

16 October 2020
Our Ref: PIN001SS
Your Ref: --/--

Dear Sir/Madam,

Location: Knockardagur, Ballinakill, County Laois.

Re: 1 no. 110kV 'loop in-loop out' air-insulated switchroom (AIS) substation including control buildings, transformers and all associated electrical equipment, security fencing and lighting; (ii) 2 no. lattice-type strain towers with a maximum height of up to 21m; (iii) c. 70m of 110kV overhead electricity lines to facilitate connection of the proposed substation to the permitted Laois-Kilkenny Grid Reinforcement Project; (iv) c. 0.65km of on-site access track with associated site entrance from local public road; and (v) All associated site development, landscaping and reinstatement works including provision of drainage infrastructure.

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As agreed with Mr. Andrew Moore in correspondence dated 22 July 2020, the provision of hard or electronic copies to Transport Infrastructure Ireland is not

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Galetech Energy Services

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