

Preface

Drumlins Park Limited (DPL) is applying for planning permission for the construction of a 110kV electricity substation and associated site development works in the townlands of Drumanan and Cornawall, Newbliss, County Monaghan.

Following consultations pursuant to Section 182E of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), An Bord Pleanála determined that the proposed development is Strategic Infrastructure Development within the meaning of Section 182A of the Act which necessitates a planning application being made directly to the Board.

The proposed development will facilitate connection of the permitted Drumlins Park Wind Farm to the national grid by way of the existing Lisdrum-Shankill 110kV electricity transmission line which passes adjacent to the subject site. Planning legislation requires that planning applications for such projects be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). This is a statement of the likely effects, if any, which the proposed development, if carried out, would have on the environment. The EIAR provides information which An Bord Pleanála can use in undertaking its formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and in informing their decision-making. The EIAR can also be used by third parties as part of the public participation process to evaluate the proposed development and its likely effects.

The content of this EIAR has been prepared by Galetech Energy Services on behalf of DPL and is arranged into fourteen separate chapters which describe the proposed development and address each component of the environment likely to be affected and their likely interactions. Individual specialist and technical consultants were also appointed in order to undertake particular assessments and prepare specific chapters, where necessary. The scope of the project also assesses the likely effects of relevant 'off-site' developments which will occur as an indirect result of the proposed development including, for example, the importation and use of construction materials, and likely cumulative effects, including with the permitted Drumlins Park Wind Farm.

The EIAR should be read in conjunction with all plans and particulars submitted with the planning application, including technical drawings. A separate Non-Technical Summary and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have also been prepared.

Overall, it is concluded that the effects of the proposed development on the receiving environment is not likely to be significant. Negative impacts from the proposal vary in significance but are generally in the minor to negligible range. A number of positive impacts have also been identified such as facilitating the export of renewable energy to the national grid thus making a significant contribution towards satisfying binding national targets for energy production from renewable sources. On balance, the combined impacts which have been identified within this EIAR demonstrate that the proposed development will not result in any likely significant effect on the environment.

