

The Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

22nd January 2021

Dear Sir / Madam,

RE: PLANNING APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED 110KV GAS INSULATED SWITCHGEAR (GIS) SUBSTATION, AND ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT AT AVOCA RIVER PARK, ARKLOW, CO. WICKLOW.

- 1.1 On behalf the applicant, Crag Digital Avoca Ltd, (Unit 22, The Cubes, Beacon South Quarter, Sandyford, Dublin 18) and further to a determination received from An Bord Pleanála (see Appendix 1) confirming the proposed development constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) pursuant to Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), we hereby submit this planning application in respect of the provision of a 110kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation compound along with associated development and ancillary works on a site at Avoca River Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.
- 1.2 The proposed development is to be located on a site within the existing Avoca River Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. The proposed development is to be located within the townland of Shelton Abbey, within an existing area of development comprising an industrial estate, and comprises an application site area of c. 1.69 hectares. The application site is located to the west of the site of a permitted data storage development (permitted under Reg. Ref.: 18940 and An Bord Pleanála Ref.: 303938-19), which is subject to a further current application for an alternate data storage facility development (under Reg. Ref.: 201285).
- 1.3 The proposed 110kV Gas Insulated Switchgear substation will be known as the Pollahoney Substation.
- 1.4 The following documentation accompanies this SID planning application:
- 3 no. copies of the planning application form;
 - 3 no. copies of the site notice;
 - 3 no. original copies of the newspaper notices (The Star and The Daily Mail);
 - 3 no. copies of this cover letter;

Managing Director: John P. Spain BBS MRUP MRICS ASCS MRTPI MIPI

Executive Directors: Paul Turley BA MRUP Dip Environmental & Planning Law MIPI Rory Kunz BA (MOD) MScERM MAT&CP Dip EIA Mgmt. MIPI
Stephen Blair BA (Mod) MRUP MIPI MRTPI Mary Mac Mahon MSc TCP Pg Dip MSP Pg Dip Env Eng Dip Env Plg Law Dip Mgmt Dip EIA & SEA B Soc Sc MIPI

Senior Associate Directors: Stephanie Byrne BA MRUP MIPI Blaine Cregan B Eng BSc MSc

Luke Wymer BA MRUP Dip Plg & Env Law Dip PM Prof Cert Env Mgmt MIPI

Associate Directors: Meadhbh Nolan BA MRUP MRTPI Kate Kerrigan BA MSc MRTPI

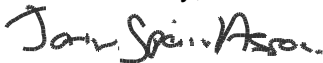
John Spain Associates Ltd. trading as John Spain Associates. Directors: J. Spain, S. Spain.
Registered in Ireland No. 396306. Registered Office: 39, Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. VAT No. IE 6416306U

- 7 no. electronic copies provided on CD ROM (including .dwg of the red line application site boundary);
 - Application fee of €100,000;
 - 3 no. copies of Planning Report prepared by John Spain Associates;
 - 3 no. copies of Engineering Drawings and Drawing Schedule prepared by Malachy Walsh Consulting Engineers in association with H&MV Consulting Engineers;
 - 3 no. copies of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan prepared by Malachy Walsh Consulting Engineers;
 - 3 no. copies of an Engineering Services Report prepared by Malachy Walsh Consulting Engineers;
- 1.5 The application is also accompanied by 3 no. copies of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Non-Technical Summary prepared by AWN. The EIAR includes a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment prepared by Moore Group as Appendix 7.1. The EIAR comprises of the following chapters:
- Chapter 1: Introduction
 - Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development
 - Chapter 3: Planning and Alternatives
 - Chapter 4: Human Health and Population
 - Chapter 5: Land, Soils, Geology, and Hydrogeology
 - Chapter 6: Hydrology
 - Chapter 7: Biodiversity Flora and Fauna
 - Chapter 8: Air Quality
 - Chapter 9: Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
 - Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration
 - Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual Impact
 - Chapter 12: Material Assets
 - Chapter 13: Traffic and Transportation
 - Chapter 14: Waste Management
 - Chapter 15: Interactions – Interrelationship between the Aspects
 - Non-Technical Summary
- 1.6 The planning application, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, has been made available for inspection at the following locations:
- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.
 - Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow.
- 1.7 The application may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website: **www.pollahoneysid.com**.
- 1.8 The site notices were erected on the **21st of January 2021** and newspaper notices were published in the Irish Daily Mail and The Star on the **21st and 22nd of January 2021** respectively. These advise that the application will be available for viewing for a period of seven weeks commencing on the **29th of January 2021** and that submissions / observations must be made in writing directly to An Bord Pleanála

(at An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1) not later than 5:30 pm on the **19th of March 2021**.

- 1.9 5 no hard copies and 2 no. electronic copies have been lodged on the **22nd of January 2021** with the relevant planning authority, Wicklow County Council, who were also named in the list of prescribed bodies provided by the Board.
- 1.10 In accordance with the Board's determination on the pre-application consultations in respect of the proposed development, copies of the application and notification have been sent to the prescribed bodies listed below on the **22nd of January 2021**. Prescribed bodies have requested the receipt of soft copies on CD only, having regard to different working practices due to the Covid 19 public health restrictions.
- Wicklow County Council (Planning Authority)
 - Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Now Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage)
 - Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (Now Minister for the Environment, Climate, and Communications)
 - Transport Infrastructure Ireland
 - An Taisce
 - Heritage Council
 - Inland Fisheries Ireland
 - Commission for Regulation of Utilities, Water and Energy
 - Iarnród Eireann
 - The Railway Safety Commission (The Commission for Railway Regulation)
- 1.11 As an EIAR is submitted as part of this application, the application has been registered on the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage's EIA Portal. A copy of the EIA Portal confirmation is attached as Appendix 2 of this cover letter. The EIA Portal ID number for this application is **2021014**.
- 1.12 In accordance with the requirements of the SID application form, a .dwg file with the application site boundary georeferenced using the ITM system is provided within the soft copies of the application herewith.
- 1.13 If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,



John Spain Associates

APPENDIX 1: AN BORD PLEANALA DETERMINATION

Our Case Number: ABP-307256-20

Your Reference: Crag Digital Avoca Ltd



John Spain Associates
39 Fitzwilliam Place
Dublin 2
D02 ND61



Date: 06 November 2020

Re: Provision of a 110kV gas insulated switchgear (GIS) substation, double circuit 110kV underground transmission line and associated site works
Avoca River Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please be advised that following consultations under section 182E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, the Board hereby serves notice that it is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Accordingly, the Board has decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Any application for approval for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under section 182A(1) of the Act.

Please also be informed that the Board considers that the pre-application consultation process in respect of this proposed development is now closed.

In accordance with section 146(5) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, the Board will make available for inspection and purchase at its offices the documents relating to the decision within 3 working days following its decision. This information is normally made available on the list of decided cases on the website on the Wednesday following the week in which the decision is made.

The attachment contains information in relation to challenges to the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Tel (01) 858 8100
Glaeo Áitiúil 1890 275 175
Facs (01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sraid Macilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1
D01 V902 D01 V902

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Jennifer Sherry

Jennifer Sherry
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737266

VC11



Tell
Glao Áitiúil
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bord@pleanala.ie

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Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1
D01 V902 D01 V902

List of Prescribed Bodies for ABP-307256-20

The following list identifies the prescribed bodies which are considered relevant in this instance for the purposes of Section 182A(4)(b) of the Act.

- Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources
- Wicklow County Council
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- An Taisce
- Heritage Council
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities, Water and Energy
- Iarnród Éireann
- The Railway Safety Commission

APPENDIX 2: CONFIRMATION FROM EIA PORTAL

EIA Portal Confirmation Notice Portal ID 2021014



Housing Eiaportal <EIAportal@housing.gov.ie>
To Luke Wymer

Reply Reply All Forward

Tue 19/01/2021 15:46

A Chara,

An EIA Portal notification was received on 19/01/2021 in respect of this proposed application. The information provided has been uploaded to the EIA Portal on 19/01/2021 under EIA Portal ID number **2021014** and is available to view at <http://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d5a3d48f104ecbb206e7e5f84b71f1>.

Portal ID: 2021013

Competent Authority: An Bord Pleanála

Applicant Name: Crag Digital Avoca Ltd

Location: Avoca River Park, Arklow, Co Wicklow. The site is located within the townland of Shelton Abbey.

Description: Provision of a new 110kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation compound and all associated and ancillary development.

Linear Development: No

Date Uploaded to Portal: 19/01/2021

Regards

Nicole Coughlan

EIA Portal team

An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 W6X0
Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0

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