



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Health Centre  
Arden Road  
Tullamore  
Co. Offaly  
R35 HP73

Malachy Walsh and Partners  
Engineering & Environmental Consultants  
The Elm Suite  
Loughore Centre  
Raheen Business Park  
Limerick

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Re: Consultation on Proposed Knockumber Bridge 110kv Substation, Knockumber, Co. Offaly.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed the HSE consultation report in relation to the scoping of the above proposal. The following HSE departments were notified of the consultation request for this development on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

- Emergency Planning – Brendan Lawlor
- Estates – Helen Maher
- Assistant National Director for Health Protection – Kevin Kelleher / Laura Murphy
- CHO – Pat Bennett

This report only comments on Environmental Health impacts of the scoping request. If you have any queries regarding this report the contact is Terri Mullee, P.E.H.O

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terri Mullee".

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Principal Environmental Health Officer



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## HSE EIS SCOPING REPORT

### Environmental Health Service Consultation Report

(as a Statutory Consultee (Planning and Development Acts 2000,  
& Regs made thereunder).

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Type of consultation:** Scoping

**Planning Authority:** An Bord Pleanála

**EHIS Reference:** 1480

**Applicant:** Statkraft Ireland Ltd

**Proposed Development:** Proposal to develop a 110kv substation at that will form a new node on the Eirgrid transmission network in Co Offaly. The proposed development will have a looped in/out 110kv grid connection to the existing Cushaling – Mount Lucas overhead 110kv line. Proposed facilities at the site will include:

- 450m<sup>2</sup> substation control building
- 2ha substation compound area
- A 300m underground/overhead 110kv grid connection
- Site entrance on the R401 regional road

At Kilcumber Bridge, Kilcumber, Co. Offaly.

This report only comments on Environmental Health impacts of the proposed development. We have made observations on the following specific areas:

**Description of the Project:**

The EIAR must fully describe the characteristics and construction of the project and the reasons for proposing same. It should also describe the existing physical environment and detail any potential impacts on the existing environment both during the construction and operational phase of the project.

**Later Consents Required:**

Information on possible future monitoring requirements for the operation of the substation should be included in the EIAR.

**Consideration of Alternatives:**

The EIAR should fully describe and consider any alternatives to this project. The applicant should outline a rationale for site selection and the proposed substation and 300m grid connection design.

**Public Consultation:**

The scoping document should describe measures the applicant shall take to inform the public about the project. Details of feedback from the public regarding the proposal should be included within the EIAR. Public consultation should be a two way process between the applicant and the public. The EIAR should clearly demonstrate how the legitimate concerns of the public have been assessed and evaluated and how the outcome of consultation with the public influenced decision making within the EIA.

**Noise:**

A full and thorough noise survey must be carried out to assess the impact of noise from both the construction and operation of the proposed substation on the residents living in the vicinity.

Up to date baseline monitoring should be carried out to establish the existing noise environment. All noise sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the turbines shall be identified. The selection of noise monitoring locations for background noise is of critical importance in the noise survey, therefore the rationale for choosing the number and the positioning of these should be provided by the applicant.

Once the existing noise environment has been established, the predicted increase in noise from both the construction and operation of the proposed substation should then be quantified and assessed. The potential cumulative effects of other windfarms,

industry, quarrying etc in the vicinity of the development should be assessed as part of the noise survey. All mitigation measures for the control of noise shall be described.

### **Geological Impacts/Land Stability**

An assessment of the current ground stability of the site for the substation should be included in the EIAR. The assessment should include the impact construction work will have on the future stability of ground conditions taking into account extreme weather events, site drainage, and the possibility for soil erosion.

### **Water:**

All drinking water sources, both surface and groundwater (including individual private wells) in the vicinity of the site shall be identified. Any potential impacts to these drinking water sources shall be assessed. Details of bedrock, overburden, vulnerability, groundwater flows and gradients, inner and outer zones of protection and catchment areas should all be considered when assessing potential impacts and possible mitigation measures. The EHS would recommend that all information is gathered by means of a site survey as desktop studies do not always accurately reflect the current use of water resources.

### **Dust:**

The impact of dust generation from construction should be assessed and a dust minimisation plan or similar mitigation measure that meets current national standards for construction sites should be outlined.

### **Construction:**

A construction management plan should be provided with the EIAR. This should comprehensively outline working procedures and any necessary mitigation measures that will be provided. The impact of construction work along with the impact of increased construction traffic on residents in the vicinity should be assessed in the EIAR. Mitigation and traffic management measures should be outlined.

### **Complaints procedure:**

The EIAR should include proposals for dealing with issues of nuisance from members of the public should they arise.

### **Ancillary Facilities**

The EIAR should provide location details of any sanitary accommodation, canteen, disposal of waste water and the provision of potable drinking water supply.

### **Cumulative Impacts:**

In line with the EPA Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (2002) and their Advice Notes on Current Practice in the preparation

of Environmental Impact Statements (2003) the EIA should include the assessment of cumulative impacts of any other industrial or energy developments in the area e.g. quarrying, heavy industry, composting facilities etc.

*Dympna O'Grady*

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Dympna O'Grady  
Environmental Health Officer

*Lisa Maguire*

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Lisa Maguire  
Environmental Health Officer