

Planning Section, Westmeath County Council, Áras an Chontae, Mount Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

**Our Ref:** 200445 **Your Ref:** 

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

## Re: Planning Application for a Wind Farm Development (and all associated works) at Coole (and other townlands) County Westmeath.

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client, Coole Wind Farm Limited., please find enclosed a planning application for the proposed construction of a wind energy development (and all associated infrastructure) in the townlands of Camagh, Carlanstown, Coole, Clonrobert, Clonsura, Doon, Monktown, Mullagh, Newcastle, Boherquill, Corralanna, Culvin, Joanstown, Mayne, Fearmore (Fore by), Newtown (Fore by), Simonstown (fore by), Ballinealoe, Shrubbywood, Clonava, Lackan (Corkaree by), Soho, Ballynaclonagh, Abbeyland, Rathganny, Ballindurrow, Cullendarragh, Culleenabohoge, Ballynafid, Knightswood, Portnashangan, Culleen More, Farranistick, and Irishtown (Moyashel by) Co. Westmeath.

This application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála as 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' (SID) under the provisions of Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. This position was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála to the applicant in correspondence dated the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 following pre-application consultations with the Board (ABP-307620-20), a copy of the noted correspondence is enclosed with this letter for completeness.

The development description as per the public notices is as follows:

- *i.* Up to 15 No. wind turbines with a tip height of up to 175 metres and all associated foundations and hardstanding areas;
- *ii.* 1 no. onsite electrical substation including a control building, associated electrical plant and equipment, welfare facilities and a wastewater holding tank;
- *iii.* 1 no. temporary construction compound;
- *iv.* Provision of new site access roads, upgrading of existing access roads and hardstand areas;
- v. Excavation of 1 no. borrow pit;
- *vi.* All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the turbines to the proposed onsite substation;
- *vii.* Laying of approximately 26km of underground electricity cabling to facilitate the connection to the national grid from the proposed onsite substation located in the



townland of Camagh to the existing 110kV Mullingar substation located in the townland of Irishtown;

- *viii.* Upgrade works to the existing 110kV Mullingar substation consisting of the construction of an additional dedicated bay to facilitate connection of the cable;
- *ix.* Construction of a link road between the R395 and R396 Regional Roads in the townland of Coole to facilitate turbine delivery;
- x. Junction improvement works to facilitate turbine delivery, at the N4 junction with the L1927 in the townland of Joanstown, on lands along the L1927 in the townland of Culvin, the L1927 and L5828 junction in the townland of Boherquill and the L5828 and R395 junction in the townland of Corralanna;
- xi. Site Drainage;
- xii. Forestry Felling;
- xiii. Signage, and;
- xiv. All associated site development works.
- *xv.* This application is seeking a ten-year planning permission and 30-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm.

The proposed underground electricity cable route works are located within the public road corridor with the following Protected Structures located within 5 metres of the road; RPS No. 019-239 (Levington Railway Crossing Gates), RPS No. 019-237 (Gate lodges, Levington Park), RPS No. 019-236 (Gateway, Levington Park).

This application is seeking a ten-year planning permission and 30-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in relation to the project and accompany this planning application.

As the project requires an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) the application documentation includes a copy of the EIAR Portal Notice. The correspondence issued confirms the EIA portal ID number for the project (2021047) and that that the details have been uploaded onto the Department's portal.

The following documents are included in the application pack:

- Planning Application Documentation
  - Planning Application Form
  - o Site Notice
  - o Newspaper Notice
  - o EIAR Portal Conformation (2021002)
  - o Planning Cover Letters (Westmeath County Council and An Bord Pleanála)
  - Letter of Consent from Relevant Landowners
  - o Copy of Notification Letters Sent to Prescribed Bodies
  - o SID Planning Application Fee of €100,000.00 (Paid by EFT)
- Planning Application Drawings (See schedule of application form)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)
  - o Volume 1a- Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and Main Report Chapters 1-8
    - Volume 1b- Main Report Chapters 9-16
    - o Volume 2- Photomontages
    - o Volume 3a- EIAR Appendices 2.1 6.4

- Volume 3b- EIAR Appendices 7-1 14-3
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

Please find 5 hard copies and 5 electronic copies of the planning application pack enclosed with this letter. An Bord Pleanála have received 3 hard copies and 7 electronic copies of the application documentation also. All prescribed bodies as identified are being provided with application documentation in the format which they have requested. All documentation can also be found at <a href="http://www.coolewindfarmsid.com">www.coolewindfarmsid.com</a>.

Please note that the planning drawings are being provided at scales which have been previously agreed with An Bord Pleanála.

I trust that you have all the information you require to progress the application. If, however, you have any queries or require to discuss any matter in detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jimmy Green B.A, M.R.U.P., M.I.P.I,

Senior Planner, MKO.