

Date: 15th February 2022

The Secretary

An Bord Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

Dear Sir /Madam,

Re. Application by Lumcloon Energy Limited for Planning Permission for a Proposed GIS Substation and Associated Transmission Line Connections at Kiltotan and Collinstown and Oldtown, Rochfortbridge, County Westmeath

Lumcloon Energy Limited are applying for planning permission for development on a c. 7.58 ha site located in the townlands of Kiltotan and Collinstown and Oldtown, Rochfortbridge, County Westmeath.

This planning application is further to a determination received from An Bord Pleanála (Appendix A) confirming that the proposed development constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) pursuant to Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 200 (as amended).

The proposed development for which permission is being sought constitutes a 220kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) Electrical Substation and two 220kV underground transmission cables, interface compounds and pylons, which will connect the substation to the existing overhead lines within the development boundary. The proposed substation is located adjacent to a proposed reserve gas-fired generator development and energy storage system development which are subject to separate concurrent applications under Westmeath County Council (Ref 21/515 and 21/532).

The proposed 220kV GIS Substation development is described as follows:

• Installation of a two-storey GIS substation building of 17.0m high with a gross floor area of c. 2034 sq. m (containing battery room, WC, messroom, workshop, generator room, stair cores, cable pits, storeroom, and switchgear rooms) within a 2.65m high fenced compound,

- Installation of 2no. 220kV underground circuits which will run from the proposed 220kV GIS substation and connect to existing overhead 220kV transmission lines located north-east and west of the proposed GIS substation and within the development boundary,
- Each of the two circuits will terminate in a cable within 2no. separate proposed fenced (2.65m high) mini-interface electrical compounds (each with an area of c.604.5 sq. m), which will provide the interface between the proposed underground transmission circuits and overhead transmission lines. Both mini compounds will contain air insulated electrical equipment including a 17.0m high overhead gantry with line traps, surge arrestors and cable sealing ends. The mini-interface electrical compounds will connect the transmission lines to 2no. proposed single circuit 24m high pylons (located to the west and northeast of the GIS substation building) set on top of concrete foundations,
- Removal of 2no. existing electricity pylons (numbered 151 and 152) within the development boundary and along with associated overhead transmission lines transecting the site,
- a 36.0m high communications tower,
- Construction of a main entrance, access roadways, foul and surface water management systems and all ancillary site development works.

This application is seeking a ten-year permission and an unlimited operational period, as part of the national electricity transmission system operated by Eirgrid from commissioning. This application is supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Please find enclosed the following documents in support of this application:

- 2 no. copies of the Planning Application Form,
- · 2no. copies of Letters of Consent from Landowners,
- 2no. copies of the Site Notice,
- 2no. copies of the Newspaper Notice,
- 2no. copies of the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report,
- 2no. copies of Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR Non-Technical Summary), Volume1,
- 2no. copies of Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Volume 2,
- 2no. copies of Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Volume 3,

- 8no. electronic copies (USB) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Volumes 1-3,
- 2no. copies of the Planning Statement,
- 2no. copies of Engineering Drawings Register,
- 2no. copies of Engineering Drawings and Specifications, including site layout plan showing location of site notices,
- 2no. copies of Drainage Report,
- · 2 no. copies of Lighting Report,
- 2no. copies of Photomontages Booklet, Updated Photomontages Booklet and Landscape Mitigation Plans,
- · 2no. copies of Geophysical Survey Report,
- 2no. copies of Construction & Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
- Application fee of €100,000

The planning application, including the EIAR, has been made available for inspection at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.
- Westmeath County Council, Planning Department, Áras an Chontae, Mount Street, Mullingar, N91 FH4N.

The application may also be viewed/downloaded on the following stand-alone website: www.castlelostplanning.com

The public notices were published and erected on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022, which advise that the application will be available for viewing for a period of seven weeks commencing on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 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 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Three (3no.) hard copies and 2no. electronic copies have been lodged on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 with the relevant planning authority, Westmeath County Council, who were also named in the list of prescribed bodies provided by the Board.

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 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2022.

- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Westmeath County Council
- Irish Water
- Irish Aviation Authority
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities

As an EIAR is submitted as part of this application, the application has been registered on the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government's EIA Portal. A copy of the EIA Portal confirmation is attached as Appendix B of this cover letter. The EIA Portal ID number for this application is 2022012.

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.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mr Colm Staunton

Director

Halston Environmental & Planning Limited

APPENDIX A

AN BORD PLEANÁLA SID PREAPPLICATION DECISION



Board Direction BD-009512-21 ABP-311276-21

At a meeting held on 24/11/2021, the Board considered the report of the Inspector, and the documents and submissions on file generally in relation to the proposed development, consisting of a 220kV GIS substation and associated infrastructure in the townlands of Kiltotan, Collinstown and Rochfortbridge, County Westmeath,

The Board decided that the proposed development, as set out in the plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanála on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2021, falls within the scope of section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and that a planning application should be made directly to the Board.

**Board Member:** 

ave Walsh

Date: 24/11/2021

ABP-311276-21

**Board Direction** 

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APPENDIX B

EIA PORTAL CONFIRMATION NOTICE

From: Housing Eiaportal <EIAportal@housing.gov.ie>

Sent: Thursday 10 February 2022 16:04

To: Colm Staunton

Subject: EIA Portal Confirmation Notice Portal ID 2022012

Dear Colm,

An EIA Portal notification was received on 10/02/2022 in respect of this proposed application. The information provided has been uploaded to the EIA Portal on 10/02/2022 under EIA Portal ID number 2022012 and is available to view at

http://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d5a3d48f104ecbb206e7e5f84b71f1.

Portal ID: 2022012

Competent Authority: An Bord Pleanála

Applicant Name: LUMCLOON ENERGY LIMITED

Location: The proposed development is in the townlands of Kiltotan and Collinstown, and Oldtown, Rochfortbridge,

Co. Westmeath

Description: Provision of a 220kV GIS substation and associated underground transmission cables

Linear Development: No

Date Uploaded to Portal: 10/02/2022

Regards

Hugh Wogan,

EIA Portal team

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 W6X0 Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W8X0

T+353 (0) 1 888 2000

www.gov.ie/housing



An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage