

Section 37E Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Notice of Direct Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála in Respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development County Mayo & County Sligo

In accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, we, Mercury Renewables (Carrowleagh) Limited, give notice of our intention to make an application to An Bord Pleanála for permission for a period of 10 years, for development comprising the construction of a wind farm and hydrogen plant and related works in the townlands of Carrowleagh, Carha, Carrownaglogh, Drumsheen, Rathreed-aun, Ballyglass East, Bunnyconnellan West, Cloonmeen West and Lavy More County Mayo and Carraun, Knockbrack, Ballymoghany, Muingwore and Cloonkeelaun County Sligo.

The proposed development will consist of the following:

- Construction of 13 No. wind turbines with an overall ground to blade tip height of between 177 m and 185 m inclusive. The wind turbines will have a rotor diameter of between 149 m and 155 m inclusive and a hub height of between 102.5 m and 110.5 m inclusive.
- Construction of permanent crane hardstand areas, turbine foundations and temporary laydown/storage areas.
- Construction of new permanent internal wind farm site access roads and the upgrade of existing internal bog tracks to include passing bays and all associated drainage infrastructure.
- Development of a site drainage network for the wind farm site including sediment control systems.
- All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the wind farm substation.
- Construction of a permanent on-site 110 kV wind farm electrical substation including two no. control buildings with welfare facilities, all associated electrical plant and equipment, security fencing and gates, all associated underground cabling, wastewater holding tank, and all ancillary structures and works.
- All works associated with the permanent connection of the wind farm to the national electricity grid, which will be via a loop-in 110 kV underground cable, in permanent cable ducts from the proposed permanent wind farm substation in the townland of Carrowleagh, and through the townlands of Carha, Carrownaglogh, Rathreed-aun, Drumsheen and Bunnyconnellan West County Mayo into the existing 110 kV overhead line in the townland of Rathreed-aun County Mayo, with two new 16 m high steel lattice loop-in/out masts at the connection point.
- Construction of a wind farm site temporary construction compound with associated temporary site offices, parking areas, welfare facilities and security fencing.
- Construction of a temporary construction materials storage area for use during the construction of the wind farm.
- Forestry felling to facilitate the construction and operation of the wind farm substation and any onsite forestry replanting.
- Upgrade works on the turbine delivery route to include the following to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads and turbine component deliveries:
 - o Improvement of the N59 and L-2604-0 junction in the townland of Ballymoghany County Sligo to include for the temporary widening of it. The associated accommodation works will include the installation of new drainage pipes, the construction of a 1.2 m high concrete retaining wall and the erection of timber stock proof fencing and two agricultural gates.
 - o Localised widening of the L-2604-0 road in the townland of Cloonkeelaun County Sligo. The associated accommodation works will include the construction of a 1.2 m high concrete retaining wall and the erection of concrete post and timber rail stock proof fencing and two agricultural gates.
 - o Localised widening of the L-2604-0, L-5137-0 and L-5137-9 roads in the townlands of Ballymoghany, Muingwore and Cloonkeelaun County Sligo, and Carrowleagh County Mayo to achieve a surfaced road width of 4.5 m.
 - o Localised widening of the L-5137-9, L-5136-0 and L-6612 roads in the townlands of Carraun and Knockbrack County Sligo, and Carha and Carrowleagh County Mayo to establish passing bays.
 - o Localised road widening at the N17/N5 roundabout in the townland of Ballyglass East County Mayo.
 - o Localised road widening at the road junction with the N5 in the townland of Ballyglass East County Mayo.
 - o Alterations to the embankments at the N5 junction with the L-5339 and L-1331 roads in the townland of Cloonmeen West County Mayo.
 - o Localised road widening at the junction of the L-5339 and L-1331 in the townland of Lavy More County Mayo.
- Construction of a new wind farm site entrance off the L-5137-9 local road in the townland of Carrowleagh County Mayo with the creation of a splayed entrance to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads and turbine component deliveries.
- Construction of a hydrogen plant and an access road to it along with upgrades to the L-6612-1 and the construction of a roundabout. The hydrogen plant includes the electrolyser building measuring 130 m by 110 m and 16 m in height, and equipment, underground water storage tanks, drainage system, constructed wetlands, hydrogen dispensing station, tube trailer parking, water treatment building, fin fan coolers, fire water tanks, compressors, offices and welfare facilities and all ancillary equipment.
- Construction of a permanent on-site 110 kV hydrogen plant substation including two control buildings with welfare facilities, all associated electrical plant and equipment, security fencing and gates, all associated underground cabling, wastewater holding tank, and all ancillary structures and works.
- Abstraction of groundwater from 2 no. boreholes in the townland of Carraun County Sligo and pumping to the proposed hydrogen plant site and all associated ancillary works.
- Construction of a hydrogen plant site temporary construction compound with associated temporary site offices, parking areas, materials storage and security fencing for use during the construction of the hydrogen plant site.
- All works associated with the permanent connection of the wind farm to the hydrogen plant comprising a 110 kV underground cable in permanent cable ducts from the proposed, permanent, wind farm substation, in the townland of Carrowleagh County Mayo and onto the townlands of Carha County Mayo, Knockbrack County Sligo and terminating in the hydrogen plant substation in the townland of Carraun County Sligo.
- Demolition of one agricultural shed and partial demolition of one agricultural shed in the townland of Carraun County Sligo to facilitate the construction of the upgraded L-6612-1 local road and roundabout.

This application is seeking a 10-year permission and, in respect of the wind farm, a 40-year operational period from the date of overall commissioning of the entire wind farm.

A permanent planning permission is being sought for the grid connection, interconnector, hydrogen plant and hydrogen plant substation as these are to remain in place upon decommissioning of the wind farm. The wind farm substation will become an asset of the national grid under the management of EirGrid.

The proposed development includes activities which are subject to an Industrial Emissions License from the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, the proposed development relates to an establishment which falls within the requirements of Directive 2012/18/EU on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances and which will be subject to regulation from the Health and Safety Authority.

This application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

The planning application, EIAR and NIS may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such a copy) during public opening hours for a period of seven weeks commencing on **14th July 2023** at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902.
- The Offices of Mayo County Council, Áras an Chontae, The Mall, Castlebar, County Mayo, F23 WF90.
- The Offices of Sligo County Council, County Hall, Riverside, Sligo, F91 PP44.

The application may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website: www.firloughwindfarmplanning.com.

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála ("the Board") 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 in writing or online on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks relating to: (i) the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development of the area concerned; (ii) the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, if carried out, and (iii) the likely effects or adverse effects on the integrity of a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Board **not later than 5.30 p.m. on 1st of September 2023**. Such submissions/observations must also include the following information: (i) the name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent; (ii) the subject matter of the submission or observation, and (iii) the reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, refers).

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board.

The Board may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application. (For further details please see 'A Guide to Public participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development' on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie).

The Board may in respect of an application for permission decide to: (a) (i) grant the permission, or (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or (iii) grant permission in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or (b) refuse to grant the permission.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel. 01-8588100). A person may question the validity of any such decision of the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading "Information on cases / Weekly lists" – Judicial Review of planning decisions, on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie.