

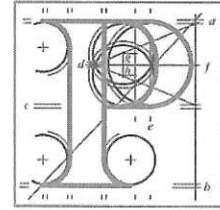
Appendix 6B

An Bord Pleanála Pre-Application Response

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Our Case Number: ABP-315213-22

Your Reference: EP Energy Developments Limited



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Gravis Planning
121 Baggot Street Lower
Dublin 2

Date: 11 May 2023

Re: Open Cycle Gas Turbine power plant and ancillary buildings.
Derryfrench, Tynagh, Loughrea, Co. Galway

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please be advised that following consultations under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Board hereby serves notice under section 37B(4)(a) that it is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of paragraphs 37A(2)(a) and (b) of the Act. Accordingly, the Board has decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 37A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Any application for permission for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under section 37E 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.

Attached is a list of prescribed bodies to be notified of the application for the proposed development.

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.

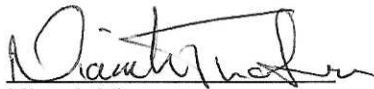
If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

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

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Yours faithfully,



Niamh Thornton
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737247

PC09

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Prescribed Bodies

- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Development Applications Unit)
- Minister for Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- National Parks & Wildlife Service
- Minister for Transport
- Irish Water
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Environmental Protection Agency
- The Heritage Council
- An Taisce
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- Fáilte Ireland
- Office of Public Works
- Health Service Executive
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- Galway County Council

Further notifications should also be made, where deemed appropriate.

Note 1: The prospective applicant should be advised to submit a standalone document (which may form part of the EIAR) with the planning application, which outlines the mitigation measures, in the interest of convenience and ease of reference.

S.37A Application Procedures

- An application can only be lodged after formal notice has been received by the prospective applicant under section 37A(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended.
- The application must be made by way of full completion of an application form to An Bord Pleanála.
- The sequencing of the application process and the content of the public notice is as set out at section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.
- The Board requires as a minimum that the public notice of the application would be in two newspapers circulating in the area to which the proposed development relates, one of which should be a national newspaper (A sample public notice is attached). A site notice in accordance with the protocols set out in the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001-2019 must also be erected. The date of the erection of the site notice is to be inserted; otherwise it should contain the same information as the newspaper notices and should remain in place for the duration of the period during which the public can make submissions to the Board.
- The documentation relating to the application is to be available for public inspection at the offices of the relevant planning authority and the offices of An Bord Pleanála. In this regard the requirements in terms of the number of copies of the documentation to be lodged with the relevant planning authority and the Board is as follows:
 - Planning Authority – 5 hard copies and 2 electronic copies.
 - An Bord Pleanála – 2 hard copies and 8 electronic copies.
- The Board also requires the prospective applicant to provide a stand-alone website containing all of the application documentation. The address of this website is to be included in the public notice.
- The public notice of the application is to indicate that the application documentation will be available for public inspection after a period of at least 5 working days has elapsed from the date of the publication of the notice so as to ensure that the documentation is in place for such inspection.
- The time period for the making of submissions by the public is to be at least seven weeks from the date the documents become available for inspection (not from the date of publication of the public notices). The Board requires that the public notice must indicate the deadline time and date for the making of submissions to the Board. The prospective applicant should advise the Board's administrative personnel in advance, of the details of its proposed public notice and further definitive advice on the notice including confirmation of dates/times can be communicated at that stage.
- The service of notice of the application on any prescribed bodies must include a clear statement that the person served can make a submission to the Board by the same deadline as specified in the public notice (Sample letter to prescribed bodies attached).
- The letter serving notice on the planning authority with the necessary copies of the documents should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer and should also alert the authority to the Board's requirement that the application documentation be made available for public inspection/purchase by the planning authority in accordance with the terms of the public notice (copies of any newspaper/site notices should be provided to the planning authority). It is the Board's intention that all of the

application documentation will remain available for public inspection during the currency of the application.

- The deposition of the application documentation and the making of the application to the Board should take place immediately after the publication of the notice and the completion of the service requirements. It should not await the conclusion of the period for the public to make submissions. The application documentation should include a copy of all letters serving notice of the application on prescribed bodies and the local authority, copies of the actual newspaper notices as published and the site notice.
- **The fee for lodging an application is €100,000.** The fee for making a submission in respect of an application is €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies which are exempt from this fee). There is an existing provision enabling the Board to recover its costs for processing any application from the applicant. In addition, the legislation also enables the Board to direct payment of costs or a contribution towards costs incurred by the planning authority and third parties.

The sequencing of the making of the application is summarised as follows:

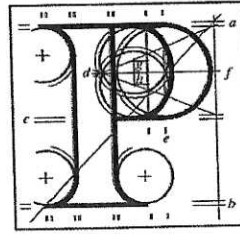
1. Publish newspaper notices.
2. Serve copy of relevant documents on bodies/persons required to be notified of the application. Deposit required number of copies with relevant planning authority.
3. Deposit required number of copies of application documentation with An Bord Pleanála and make an application to it.

Guidelines for Electronic Copies of Applications

(Standalone Website & CD Copies)

- Each document/drawing should be clearly labelled
- EIA and NIS chapters saved individually should be named with the number and title of the chapter e.g. Chapter 2: Ecology, Chapter 3: Human Beings etc., and not just the chapter number.
- Document names cannot begin or end with a dot, cannot contain consecutive dots and cannot contain any of the following characters: ~ " # % & * : < > ? / \ { | }.
- Drawings should be saved with the drawing title and/or number, not just the drawing number.
- Large documents to have 'contents' page e.g. EIA and to be paginated appropriately to allow ease of access to its various sections.
- Documents/drawings should not be compressed e.g. not Winzipped, and should open directly.
- Each document/drawing when opened should be clearly legible and any scaling of the drawing clearly and accurately indicated.
- Each document/drawing when opened should be oriented in the appropriate way (portrait/landscape). It should also be possible to rotate the document/drawing.
- The documents/drawings should be presented in the same sequence as they appear in the hard copy of the application, in order to make the electronic copy as accessible as possible.

- All photographs/photomontages shall be in colour, not blurred and clearly legible.
- All drawings/maps which rely on any colour interpretation e.g. red/blue edging, zoning etc. must be provided in colour.



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Judicial Review Notice

Judicial review of An Bord Pleanála decisions under the provisions of the Planning and Development Acts (as amended).

A person wishing to challenge the validity of a Board decision may do so by way of judicial review only. Sections 50, 50A and 50B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, contain provisions in relation to challenges to the validity of a decision of the Board.

The validity of a decision taken by the Board may only be questioned by making an application for judicial review under Order 84 of The Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986). Sub-section 50(6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 requires that any application for leave to apply for judicial review must be made within 8 weeks of the date of the decision of the Board, save for decisions made pursuant to a function transferred to the Board under Part XIV of the Planning and Development Act 2000, where any application for leave to apply for judicial review must, as set out in sub-section 50(7), be made within 8 weeks beginning on the date on which notice of the decision of the Board was first sent (or as may be the requirement under the relevant enactment, functions under which are transferred to the Board, was first published). These time periods are subject to any extension which may be allowed by the High Court in accordance with sub-section 50(8).

Section 50A(3) states that leave for judicial review shall not be granted unless the Court is satisfied that (a) there are substantial grounds for contending that the decision is invalid or ought to be quashed and (b) the applicant has a sufficient interest in the matter which is the subject of the application or in cases involving environmental impact assessment is a body complying with specified criteria.

Section 50B contains provisions in relation to the costs of certain judicial review proceedings in the High Court; pursuant to Section 50B(1), Section 50B applies to the following proceedings:

- (a) proceedings in the High Court by way of judicial review, or of seeking leave to apply for judicial review, of—
 - (i) any decision or purported decision made or purportedly made,
 - (ii) any action taken or purportedly taken,

(iii) any failure to take any action, pursuant to a statutory provision that gives effect to

- (I) a provision of the EIA Directive 85/337/EEC as amended to which Article 10a (as inserted by Directive 2003/35/EC) of that Directive applies,
- (II) the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, or
- (III) a provision of the IPPC Directive 2008/1/EC to which Article 16 of that Directive applies, or
- (IV) Article 6(3) or 6(4) of the Habitats Directive; or

(b) an appeal (including an appeal by way of case stated) to the Supreme Court from a decision of the High Court in a proceeding referred to in paragraph (a);

(c) proceedings in the High Court or the Supreme Court for interim or interlocutory relief in relation to a proceeding referred to in paragraph (a) or (b).

The general provision contained in section 50B(2) is that in proceedings to which the section applies each party shall bear its own costs. The Court however may award costs against any party in specified circumstances. There is also provision for the Court to award the costs of proceedings or a portion of such costs to an applicant, to the extent that the applicant succeeds in obtaining relief, against a respondent or notice party, or both, to the extent that the action or omission of the respondent or notice party contributed to the relief being obtained.

General information on judicial review procedures is contained on the following website, www.citizensinformation.ie.

Disclaimer: The above is intended for information purposes. It does not purport to be a legally binding interpretation of the relevant provisions and it would be advisable for persons contemplating legal action to seek legal advice.