Appendix 6A

Pre-Application Submission Response

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11 April 2023

The Secretary An Bord Pleanála 64 Marlborough Street Dublin 1

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Pre-Application Request for SID Determination Proposed 350MW Low Carbon OCGT Development at Tarbert Power Station, Tarbert, Co. Kerry

We act on behalf of SSE Generation (Ireland) Limited¹, who intend to seek planning permission for a Low Carbon Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) fuelled by hydrotreated vegetable oil, administration building and workshop, and ancillary plant and infrastructure at Tarbert Power Station, Tarbert, Co. Kerry. An overview of the proposed development is contained in the enclosed Planning Statement.

The proposed development's power output will be 350MW and it will connect to electricity infrastructure that serves the existing Tarbert Power Station. As the energy output of the proposed development will be in excess of 300MW it constitutes 'Seventh Schedule' development under the Planning and Development Act (the 'Act')². We consider the proposal to be 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' (SID) under the terms of Section 37A of the Act as it is of *strategic economic importance* to the State and the region in which it is situate. We note, in this regard, the Departmental Circular letter issued to An Bord Pleanála in December 2021³, in light of the ongoing and severe risk to the security of electricity supply for the State identified by the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU), which emphasises that *"the development of new conventional generation is a national priority"* and that the determination of applications for such infrastructure *"should be prioritised as much as possible"*.

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¹ Red Oak South, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Dublin, D18 W688

 $^{^{\}rm 2}$ i.e. Infrastructure development for the purposes of Sections 37A and 37B of the Act

³ Circular Letter PL 12/2001

Furthermore, with reference to Section 37A of the Act, the proposed development - by helping to maintain security of supply and facilitating the integration of more renewable generation into the electricity network - would contribute significantly to the fulfilment of national and regional objectives to deliver a *"secure and reliable electricity network"* and will have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority (Notwithstanding that the site is located entirely within the administrative area of Kerry County Council).

We hereby submit a Pre-Application Request for a Determination from An Bord Pleanála as to the status of the proposed development as Strategic Infrastructure Development. The following drawings and documents are enclosed (2 no. copies):

- Planning Statement
- Site Location Map
- Proposed Site Plan

We look forward to receiving a determination from An Bord Pleanála at its earliest convenience and, should a consultation meeting be required, we respectfully request confirmation of same as soon as possible.

The required fee of €4,500 (Fee Category SP1) will be paid to An Bord Pleanála by the prospective applicant, SSE Generation (Ireland) Limited, by EFT.

We trust that the enclosed drawings and summary statement are clear, however please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned directly in the event of any queries.

Kind Regards,

Ed Barrett Gravis Planning ebarrett@gravisplanning.com 086 775 9355

Proposed Low-Carbon OCGT Development

Planning Statement

Pre-Application Consultation Request to An Bord Pleanála

April 2023

Prepared By:

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A. Circular Letter PL 12/2001



1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Statement is submitted to An Bord Pleanála by Gravis Planning¹ on behalf of SSE Generation (Ireland) Limited², who intend to apply for planning permission for a 350MWe Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) power plant fuelled by Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), administration building and workshop, and ancillary plant and infrastructure at Tarbert Power Station, Tarbert, in the townland of Tarbert Island, Co. Kerry.

The Prospective Applicant

1.2 The Applicant, SSE Generation (Ireland) Limited, part of the FTSE-listed SSE plc, is a leading developer, owner and operator of flexible generation, energy-from-waste, and energy storage assets, with over six hundred direct employees across the UK and Ireland. SSE's vision is to become the leading provider of low-carbon flexible thermal energy in a net-zero world.

Need for Development

- 1.3 The National Development Plan (2021-2030) (NDP)³ is clear that maintaining security of energy supply is a key national priority for the coming decade and beyond. This has been further underlined by the Government's 'Policy Statement on Security of Electricity Supply'⁴, published in November 2021, and Eirgrid's latest 'Ireland Capacity Outlook' (2022-2031)⁵.
- 1.4 The NDP identifies an *urgent requirement* to deliver circa 2 GW of new conventional generation capacity by 2030, alongside c. 15.5 GW of new renewable capacity within the next ten years just to keep pace with increased demand for electricity, with Eirgrid's latest Capacity Statement forecasting generation shortfalls in 2024 and from 2026 2030. The position is stark, and has been exacerbated by:
 - Lower than expected availability of some existing power stations;
 - Anticipated new power stations not being developed as planned;
 - Exceptional growth in demand for electricity due to increased economic activity, including the growth of large energy users such as data centres; and
 - The expected closure over the coming years of existing power stations

(Refer to the Eirgrid 'Ireland Capacity Outlook' for detail)

¹ Gravis Planning, Denshaw House, 121 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 FD45.

² Red Oak South, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Dublin, D18 W688

³ https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/774e2-national-development-plan-2021-2030/

⁴ https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a4757-policy-statement-on-security-of-electricity-supply/#

⁵ https://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/EirGrid_SONI_Ireland_Capacity_Outlook_2022-

^{2031.}pdf

- 1.5 Significant generation capacity is scheduled to be retired on the island of Ireland over the coming years, compounding a situation where over 600MW of awarded new capacity has been withdrawn (As Eirgrid notes in its latest capacity statement, *"most new predictable capacity that was expected to come online over the coming years has now withdrawn"*⁶). Risks around extended periods of low renewable generation output and delays in the delivery of planned offshore capacity must also be countered.
- 1.6 New conventional generation capacity, in particular low-carbon 'open cycle' technology such as that proposed, which can respond quickly to shortfalls in power generation at times of high demand, is therefore essential and its delivery must be prioritised.
- 1.7 This has been explicitly stated in the Government's 'Policy Statement on Security of Electricity Supply' and the accompanying Circular Letter (12/2021) issued to An Bord Pleanála and the Directors of Planning of each local authority in December 2021⁷. The Departmental Circular states that *"the development of new conventional generation is <u>a national priority</u>" and that the determination of applications for such infrastructure <u>"should be prioritised as much as possible"</u>. The proposal which is the subject of this request is for exactly this type of infrastructure it will perform a critical role for the State as a responsive power generator in helping to maintain security of supply through low-carbon (HVO) generation and facilitating the integration of more renewable generation into the electricity network.*
- 1.8 In light of the existing and forecast generation pressures facing the country, it is our client's intention to proceed with a planning application without delay. They have been awarded a contract to deliver the project in the latest 'T-4' capacity auction operated by Eirgrid.

Seventh Schedule

- 1.9 As the energy output of the proposed development will be 350MW it constitutes 'Seventh Schedule' development under the Planning and Development Act ('A thermal power station or other combustion installation with a total energy output of 300 megawatts or more').
- 1.10 We consider that it constitutes 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' (SID) under the terms of Section 37A of the Act as it is clearly of strategic economic importance to the State and the region. Furthermore, it will contribute significantly to the realisation of national and regional planning objectives and will, in delivering a nationally significant quantum of flexible, fast start-up, low-carbon generation capacity to the grid, have effects far beyond the local planning authority area in which it is situated. As such, we



⁶ https://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/EirGrid_SONI_Ireland_Capacity_Outlook_2022-2031.pdf - P. 5

⁷ Copy attached at Appendix A. The Circular Letter was also issued to local authority Chief Executives, Senior Planners, the Office of the Planning Regulator and the Directors of the Regional Assemblies.

consider that the forthcoming application must be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála.

Structure of Statement

- 1.11 This Planning Statement is intended to assist the Board's consideration as to the 'SID' status of the proposed development and is set out as follows:
 - Introduction
 - Site Details
 - Overview of Proposed Development
 - Environmental Impact
 - Opinion on SID



2.0 Site Details

2.1 Location and Description

- 2.1.1 The Site of the proposed development comprises a previously developed area of the existing Tarbert Power Station complex, which is positioned on Tarbert Island, approximately 1.8km north of the town of Tarbert in Co. Kerry. Tarbert Power Station is accessed via the N67, a National Secondary Road which connects the Site to the N69 Tralee / Limerick Road, located approximately 1.8km to the south.
- 2.1.2 The existing Power Station complex comprises an area of c. 42 hectares. The area of the proposed development is c. 3.99 hectares. The main features of the existing complex include the generation plant itself, a reservoir, 2 no. tank farm areas (one of which, to the south-west, is leased by the National Oil Reserves Agency), 2 no. substations (1 no. 110KV and 1 no. 220KV) and a range of supporting infrastructure including a cooling water intake, sewage treatment plant, workshop and administration buildings, a pumphouse and a jetty.
- 2.1.3 The proposed development Site is positioned to the immediate west of the existing Power Station and is brownfield in nature, surrounded by electricity generation, transmission and fuel storage infrastructure. It was previously used as a contractor's compound, and contains a number of existing structures which will be demolished as part of the proposed development.
- 2.1.4 The Site is bound to the west by fuel storage tanks associated with the existing Power Station; to the east by the Power Station itself; and to the south by existing 110kV and 220kV electricity substations and an access road from the N67 National Secondary Road. To the north of the Site lies the Shannon Estuary.
- 2.1.5 The Site's position within the existing industrial context of the Tarbert Power Station complex, adjoining existing transmission and supply infrastructure, makes it ideally suited for the type of development proposed.
- 2.1.6 Within the vicinity of the complex there are a number of residential dwellings and a public house (currently closed) located close to the existing entrance off the N67. Agricultural lands lie further to the south.
- 2.1.7 The Site is located adjacent to the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA). Tarbert Bay is also a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA).

2.2 Site History and Planning History

2.2.1 The electricity generating station at Tarbert Power Station was developed in the 1960s. It is a 626MWe Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) fired power plant, which has been



operational since 1969. It is located on the southern shore of the Shannon Estuary, on Tarbert Island, which is a man-made island connected to the mainland via a causeway.

- 2.2.2 There are four generating units at the station, two with a capacity of 57MWe each and two with a capacity of 256MWe each. It was constructed in two stages, with units one and two commissioned in 1969 and units three and four commissioned in 1976 and 1977. Units three and four were refurbished in 2003 and 2004 and are fuelled by HFO with Gas Oil and propane used as a start-up fuel. Each of the units is independent and consists of a boiler, steam turbine and auxiliary plant.
- 2.2.3 There is a Tank Farm to the west of the proposed development Site, which is connected to the existing Power Station and comprises four HFO tanks, each with a capacity of 25,000 tonnes. The tanks located to the south-west of the Site are not related to the Power Station and are leased by the National Oil Reserves Agency (NORA).
- 2.2.4 The existing plant has thirty-eight employees and is available for operation 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Unit start-up and shutdown are based on instructions from the grid operator. The existing Power Station is required to close by the end of 2023 in line with its environmental licence.
- 2.2.5 The site and local area has a long history of power generation and local expertise in the industry, making it an ideal location for a new low-carbon generation plant.
- 2.2.6 The Board will be aware that an application (Ref: 315838) relating to Tarbert was submitted in February of this year under Section 4 of the Development (Emergency Electricity Generation) Act 2022. The proposed development in that case includes 'the installation of three OCGT units' which will collectively have the capacity to generate 150MWe of temporary emergency electricity. That plant will operate as an emergency plant, with a maximum running time of 500 hours per annum, spending the majority of time on standby, and will be run to meet emergency security of supply needs while complementing renewable power generation sources. On 29/03/23, having undertaken environmental assessment and appropriate assessment of the proposal, the Board recommended a number of conditions to be attached to any approval for the development to be issued by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communication.
- 2.2.7 There is partial overlap in site area between the temporary emergency generation ('TEG') site and the application site, however this relates to the construction compound/laydown areas for the TEG and, as such, does not create any conflict. The construction period associated with the TEG development is expected to end in Summer 2024. This will not conflict with the construction of the proposed development. If approved, the construction of this project is not anticipated to commence until Autumn 2024.



2.2.8 The table below provides a list of historic planning approvals on the Tarbert Power Station Site.

Planning	Date	Summary Details	Applicant	Status
Application	Submitted			
315838	17/02/2023	Installation of three OCGT units which will collectively have the capacity to generate 150MWe of temporary emergency electricity, site development and associated ancillary works required for the operation of the plant. The plant will operate as an emergency plant, with a maximum running time of 500 hours per annum.	SSE Generation (Ireland) Limited	29/03/2023 Recommendation/ Conclusion
18392	27/04/2018	Tarbert Island Tarbert Co Kerry construct a battery storage facility within a total Site area of up to 2.278ha, to include 50 no. self- contained battery container units with associated HVAC cooling units, 13 converter and 13 step up transformer container units, associated compound cabling and ducting, a grid transformer, a single storey	SSE Renewables (Ireland) Limited	Granted Conditional 15/01/2019



1		autotation (1
		substation /		
		control building		
		with welfare		
		facilities, a cable		
		route grid		
		connection to the		
		existing ESB		
		substation		
		building,		
		maintenance		
		lighting, security		
		fencing, a CCTV		
		monitoring		
		system, and all		
		associated		
		ancillary		
		infrastructure on		
		lands within the		
		Tarbert generating		
		facility. A ten-year		
		planning		
		permission is		
		being sought to		
		construct the		
		development		
		actelophiene		
13477	31/07/2013	Alter existing	FirGrid Plc	Granted
13477	31/07/2013	Alter existing	EirGrid Plc	Granted
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new	EirGrid Plc	
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building,	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building,	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building,	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings,	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings, 6.no gantry	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings, 6.no gantry support structures	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings, 6.no gantry support structures 8 no. control and	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings, 6.no gantry support structures 8 no. control and protection kiosks,	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings, 6.no gantry support structures 8 no. control and protection kiosks, 6 no. surge	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings, 6.no gantry support structures 8 no. control and protection kiosks, 6 no. surge arrestors, 6 no.	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings, 6.no gantry support structures 8 no. control and protection kiosks, 6 no. surge arrestors, 6 no. cable sealing ends,	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings, 6.no gantry support structures 8 no. control and protection kiosks, 6 no. surge arrestors, 6 no. cable sealing ends, existing compound	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings, 6.no gantry support structures 8 no. control and protection kiosks, 6 no. surge arrestors, 6 no. cable sealing ends, existing compound chain link fence	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings, 6.no gantry support structures 8 no. control and protection kiosks, 6 no. surge arrestors, 6 no. cable sealing ends, existing compound	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings, 6.no gantry support structures 8 no. control and protection kiosks, 6 no. surge arrestors, 6 no. cable sealing ends, existing compound chain link fence	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings, 6.no gantry support structures 8 no. control and protection kiosks, 6 no. surge arrestors, 6 no. cable sealing ends, existing compound chain link fence and gates to be	EirGrid Plc	Conditional
13477	31/07/2013	220kV station consisting of new single storey control building, new diesel generator building, 3.no single storey modular buildings, 6.no gantry support structures 8 no. control and protection kiosks, 6 no. surge arrestors, 6 no. cable sealing ends, existing compound chain link fence and gates to be replaced with new	EirGrid Plc	Conditional



		tank and associated drainage and Site works		
PA0017	17/12/2009	Construction Of A 450 MW Natural Gas-Fired Combined Cycle Gas Turbine	Endesa Ireland Limited	Confirm CPO with modifications 06/12/2010
972500	04/12/1997	Erection of a sewage effluent treatment plant	Electricity Supply Board (ESB)	Granted Conditional 03/03/1998
921738	26/11/1992	Erect office extension	ESB	Granted Conditional 15/01/1993



3.0 Overview of Proposed Development

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The proposed generation plant comprises a 350MW Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) to be run on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) biofuel, which is produced by processing waste oils to create a fossil-free alternative to diesel in accordance with EU sustainability standards.
- 3.1.2 The plant will operate as a 'peaking plant', spending most of its time on standby, only being run for relatively short periods of time when there is insufficient electricity being generated from renewable technologies to meet the country's needs.
- 3.1.3 An OCGT has been selected as the most appropriate technology as it is able to respond to changes in electricity demand by starting up very quickly and can achieve full output within short periods of time. An OCGT also provides a very high power density, minimising its required footprint and visual impact, and produces the least NOx emissions of the power generating technologies available.
- 3.1.4 A new administration and workshop building is also proposed, with associated car parking. Two tanks are proposed to the north of the OCGT which will be used for HVO storage (operational and back-up). It is intended that pipework will also be replaced on the existing jetty to facilitate HVO re-fuelling⁸.
- 3.1.5 Electricity transmission will be entirely ancillary to the plant, carrying electricity a short distance from the main transformer to the existing electrical substation to the south. For the avoidance of any doubt, there are no alterations proposed to the electricity network outside of the Site as part of this development.
- 3.1.6 The key elements of the project are the OCGT unit; Connection to the existing electricity infrastructure; Administration and workshop building, balance of plant and equipment; Site infrastructure.
- 3.1.7 A high-level overview of the different elements is set out below:

3.2 Open Cycle Gas Turbine Unit

• OCGT unit comprising a single gas turbine and a single alternating current (AC) generator fuelled by hydrotreated vegetable oil. The OCGT unit may be external or, alternatively, housed within an acoustic enclosure with appropriate ventilation.



⁸ Note: Development on the foreshore to be subject to separate consent as required

- Exhaust stack, the height of which will be determined from air quality modelling. The stack will be fitted with a continuous emissions monitoring system (CEMS) to monitor flue gas composition.
- A containerised control module will house the turbine controls and a containerised electrical module will supply power to the turbine and its associated auxiliary systems.
- Step-up transformer to increase the voltage of the generated power to a level suitable for export to the existing substation to the south.
- Skid adjacent to the turbine. The skid provides the final conditioning of the fuel before it enters the gas turbine.
- Forced air cooling radiators will be used to manage waste heat from the lubrication oil and other essential systems when operational.
- Ancillary systems in containers and enclosures adjacent to the turbine.

3.3 Electricity Substation connection

• The proposed plant will connect to the existing 220kV substation to the immediate south.

3.4 Balance of Plant & Equipment

- 3.4.1 To support the proposed OCGT (fuelled by HVO), the balance of plant & equipment will comprise:
 - 2no. HVO storage tanks, to provide up to 84 hours of storage capacity (Volume: Up to 8820m³);
 - Emissions stack (stack height determination modelling to be undertaken);
 - Air intake;
 - Fin fan coolers;
 - Main and auxiliary transformers;
 - Fire suppression skid;
 - Ignition propane gas tank compound;
 - Fire water tank;
 - Fuel storage and unloading facility;
 - Water Storage Tanks;
 - HVO pipework
- 3.4.2 An administration and workshop building will also be provided, with associated car parking.

3.5 Site Infrastructure

3.5.1 In addition to the above, the following site infrastructure will be included:



- Internal roads;
- External lighting;
- Security fencing and gates; and
- Utilities, connection to existing surface water drainage systems, oil-water separators, channelling, culverting, crossings and works to existing drainage systems.

3.6 Construction Phase

- 3.6.1 The construction phase of the Proposed Development will comprise:
 - Temporary construction and laydown areas comprising hardstanding, laydown, and open storage areas;
 - Temporary facilities and stores;
 - Materials and plant storage;
 - Contractor compounds and construction staff office and welfare facilities;
 - Temporary vehicle parking facilities;
 - Security fencing and gates;
 - External lighting;
 - Signage



4.0 Environmental Impact

- 4.1 As set out within Annex I of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, a thermal power station or other combustion installation with a heat output of 300MW or more requires mandatory EIA.
- 4.2 A comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is being prepared at present by AECOM and will form part of the planning application. It will assess the cumulative impact of the proposed development alongside both the existing plant and the proposed emergency generation plants.
- 4.3 The EIAR will include the following chapters:
 - Introduction
 - Planning Policy
 - Need and Alternatives
 - Existing Site and Conditions
 - The Proposed Development
 - Consultations
 - Air Quality
 - Cultural Heritage
 - Biodiversity
 - Landscape and Visual
 - Noise and Vibration
 - Water Environment
 - Soils and Geology
 - Traffic
 - Land Use
 - Population and Human Health
 - Materials Assets
 - Waste
 - Climate
 - Major Accidents and Disasters
 - Cumulative Effects and Interactions
 - Conclusions
- 4.4 In addition, the application will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA). The first stage of this, an Appropriate Assessment Screening Opinion, is being prepared at present⁹.



⁹ Given proximity to a number of protected sites it is anticipated that a Natura Impact Statement will be required for inclusion with the application.

5.0 Opinion on SID

5.1 The proposed development is of a class listed under the 'Energy Infrastructure' section of the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act, i.e.

'A thermal power station or other combustion installation with a total energy output of 300 megawatts or more'

- 5.2 It therefore falls to be considered under Section 37A and 37B of the Act.
- 5.3 Section 37A of the Act states that any development which is listed under the Seventh Schedule shall be made directly to An Bord Pleanála provided that, following consultations under Section 37B of the Act, the Board is of the opinion that – if carried out – it would fall within one or more of the following criteria:
 - a) the development would be of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be situate,
 - b) the development would contribute substantially to the fulfilment of any of the objectives in the National Planning Framework or in any regional spatial and economic strategy in force in respect of the area or areas in which it would be situate,
 - *c)* the development would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.
- 5.4 We consider that the proposed development meets all of the above criteria.
- 5.5 It is of *strategic economic importance* to the State, *will contribute significantly to the realisation of national and regional planning objectives* and will, in delivering a nationally significant quantum of generation capacity to the grid, *have effects beyond the local planning authority area in which it is situated*.
- 5.6 As such, we consider the proposed development to constitute Strategic Infrastructure Development, requiring an application to be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála.
- 5.7 We look forward to the Board's determination on this matter in due course, and request that the processing of this case is afforded due priority in accordance with Departmental Circular Letter 12/2021.



Appendix A





To: Directors of Planning in each local authority

CC: Chief Executives Senior Planners An Bord Pleanála Office of the Planning Regulator Directors of Regional Assemblies

Circular Letter PL 12/2021

10 December 2021

Re: Government Policy Statement on Security of Electricity Supply

I have been asked by Mr Peter Burke, T.D, Minister of State for Planning and Local Government to advise planning authorities of the recent adoption and publication by the Government of a new Policy Statement on Security of Electricity Supply, as prepared by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. A copy of the Policy Statement is attached for information.

The background to the Policy Statement is the short to medium term risk to electricity security of supply as identified by the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) due to a number of factors:

- lower than expected availability of some existing power stations;
- anticipated new power stations not being developed as planned;
- expected growth in demand for electricity, due to increased activity by high energy consuming industries including the growth of data centres,
- the expected closure of power stations which make up approximately 25% of conventional electricity generating capacity over the coming years.

In this regard, it should be specifically noted - as can be seen from page 5 of the Policy Statement - that the Government has approved that:

- 1. the development of new conventional generation (including gas-fired and gasoil distillate-fired generation) is a national priority and should be permitted and supported in order to ensure security of electricity supply and support the growth of renewable electricity generation;
- it is appropriate that existing conventional electricity generation capacity should be retained until the new conventional electricity generation capacity is developed in order to ensure security of electricity supply;

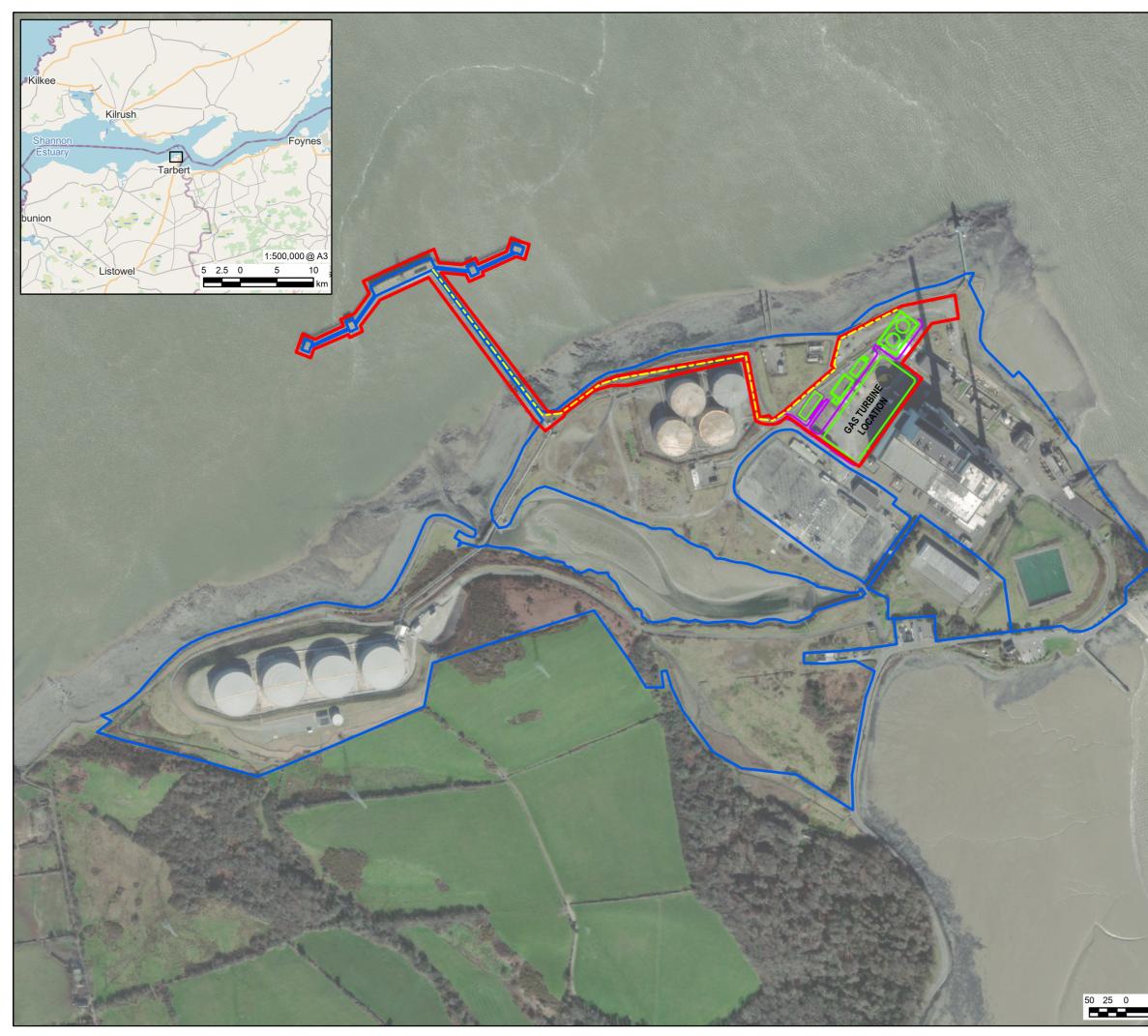


- 3. the connection of large energy users to the electricity grid should take into account the potential impact on security of electricity supply and on the need to decarbonise the electricity grid;
- 4. it is appropriate for additional electricity transmission and distribution grid infrastructure, electricity interconnection and electricity storage to be permitted and developed in order to support the growth of renewable energy and to support security of electricity supply; and
- 5. it is appropriate for additional natural gas transmission and distribution grid infrastructure to be permitted and developed in order to support security of electricity supply.

In essence, the Policy Statement recognises the need in the current circumstances for a continued mixture of electricity generation and supporting infrastructure to maintain security of electricity supply. In this connection, planning authorities are advised that where planning applications are submitted for electricity infrastructure or infrastructure that may impact on electricity supply – including for existing conventional electricity generation – that they should, until further notice, be considered having regard to the Policy Statement. Furthermore, it is requested that the determination of all such planning applications should be prioritised as much as possible in light of the current circumstances relating to electricity supply.

eny flaid-u

Terry Sheridan Principal Planning Policy and Legislation







ROJECT

Tarbert OCGT

CLIENT

SSE Generation Ireland Limited

CONSULTANT

AECOM Limited 4th Floor, Adelphi Plaza, George's Street Upper Dun Laoghaire Co. Dublin, A96 T927 +353 (1) 238 3100 www.aecom.com

LEGEND



Site Boundary

Indicative Property Boundary

- New Road
- New Building
- New HVO Pipeline

NOTES

*Boundaries are indicative and subject to finalisation

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ISSUE PURPOSE

FINAL

PROJECT NUMBER

60687175

FIGURE TITLE

Site Location Plan

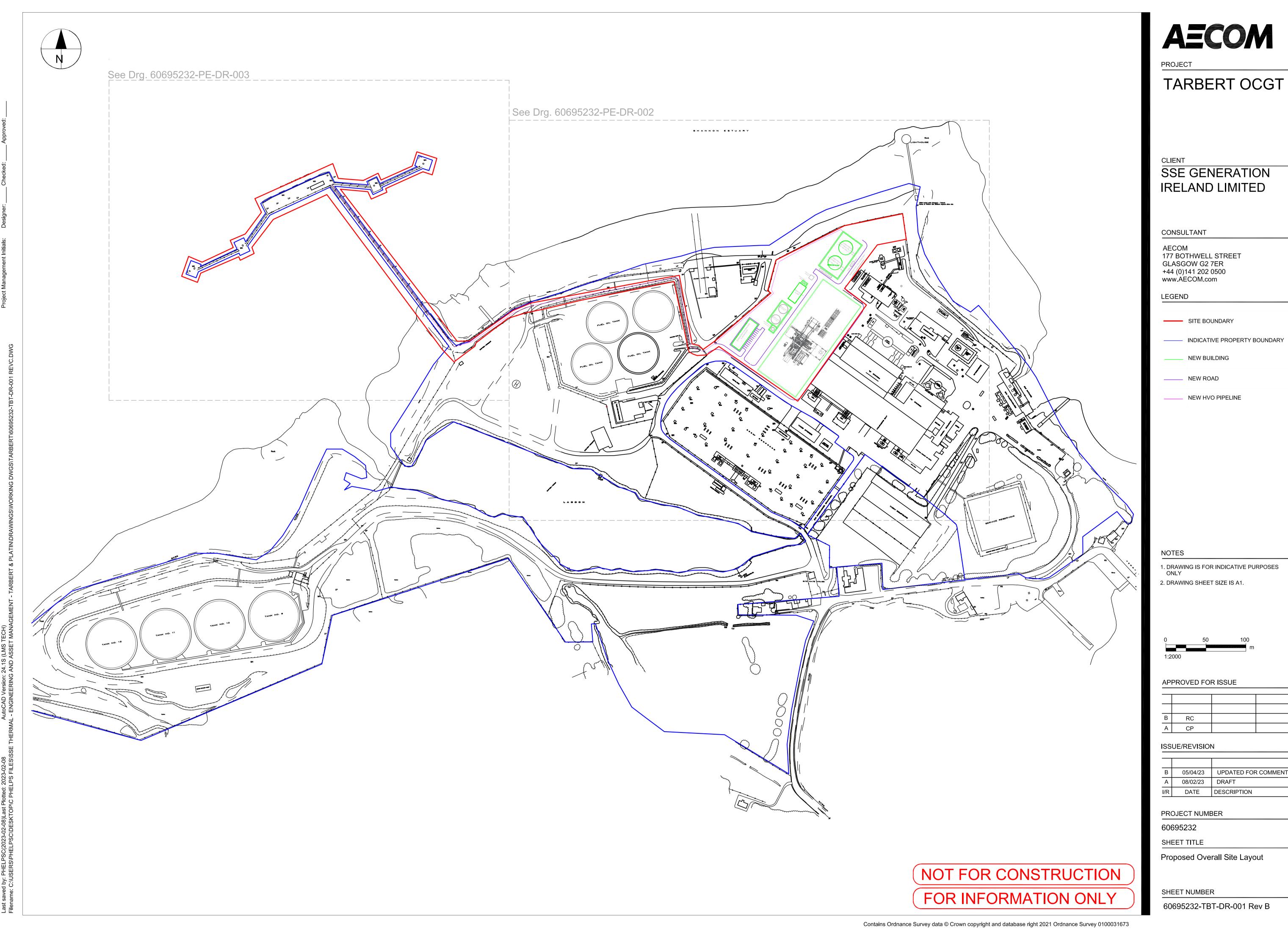
FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 1

1:5,000 @ A3

150

50 100



В	05/04/23	UPDATED FOR COMMENTS
А	08/02/23	DRAFT
I/R	DATE	DESCRIPTION

 SITE BOUNDARY
 INDICATIVE PROPERTY BOUNDARY
 NEW BUILDING
 NEW ROAD
 NEW HVO PIPELINE

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1:20	00				

В	RC	
А	CP	

В	05/04/23	UPDATED FOR COMMENTS
А	08/02/23	DRAFT
I/R	DATE	DESCRIPTION