

Date: 12 June 2024

Our Ref. SEP-0398/Project_1

Planning Department
Galway County Council
Áras an Chontae
Prospect Hill
Galway

Dear Sir /Madam,

Re. Strategic infrastructure Development (SID): Application by Coolpowra Flexgen Limited for Planning Permission for a Proposed Reserve Gas-Fired Generator at Coolpowra, Cooldorragha, Coolnageeragh, Ballynaheskeragh, Gortlusky and Sheeaunrush, County Galway.

On behalf of the applicant, Coolpowra Flexgen Limited, we hereby submit a planning application for a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) for a Reserve Gas-Fire Generator on c. 42.3 hectare (ha) site located in the townlands of Coolpowra, Cooldorragha, Coolnageeragh, Ballynaheskeragh, Gortlusky and Sheeaunrush, County Galway.

This planning application is further to a determination received from An Bord Pleanála (Appendix A) confirming that the Proposed Development constitutes SID within the meaning of Section 37A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

The Proposed Development for which permission is being sought constitutes a Reserve Gas-Fired Generator comprising three Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) units positioned within a building. It is designed to provide flexible, dispatchable electricity generation capacity, which will help to maintain security of electricity supply, while supporting Ireland in its transition to a low carbon economy in line with National Development Plan 2021-2030 and Climate Action Plan 2024 objectives. It will assist with replacement of generation capacity that will be lost through the planned retirement of older, more carbon-intensive power stations in the coming years.

The location of the development is adjacent to a proposed Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) electricity substation and proposed Energy Storage System (ESS) Project which are subject to separate concurrent planning applications with An Bord Pleanála and Galway County Council respectively. The Reserve Gas-Fired Generator will electrically connect to the adjoining 400kV High Voltage (HV) electricity network at the Oldstreet node in Co. Galway.

The Proposed Development will include: (i) demolition of an existing farmhouse, outbuildings and agricultural sheds; (ii) construction of a Reserve Gas-Fired Generator building which will house 3no. 385MW OCGT units, 3no. 45m high stacks with Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEMS), 3no. recessed and roof mounted air intake filter houses and ducts, fire suppression skid and distribution system, power control centre and balance of plant (BoP), administration control /building containing a control room, offices administration and welfare facilities; (iii) secondary fuel storage tanks and unloading area (3no. fuel storage tanks, fuel pumping plant, fuel polishing plant, air compressor and fuel forwarding building);(iv) 3no. banded HV transformers and auxiliary transformers; (v) Air insulated switchgear (AIS) compound containing HV electrical lines /cables, circuit breakers and associated electrical plant; (vi) fin fan coolers with a 7m high noise barrier;(vii) 3no. containerised emergency diesel generators with integrated stacks; (viii) Above Ground Installation (AGI) compound containing above ground pipework, a regulator house enclosure, instrument kiosk, boiler house enclosure and analyser kiosk; gas heater compound; (ix) firewater pump building and firewater storage tank; (x) workshop and stores; (xi) security building;(xii) temporary construction compound); (xiii) a main entrance connecting to the L8763 public road; (xiv) improvement works to the junction of the N65/L8763 public roads; and (xv) all ancillary development including new internal roads, fencing and gates, car parking, lighting, utilities, lightning protection masts, underground services, landscaping and associated engineering works to provide for the connection of site services and foul and surface water management and drainage.

This application is seeking a ten-year permission and an unlimited operational period. The application relates to development for the purpose of an activity requiring an Industrial Emissions Licence from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Industrial Emissions Directive. It also relates to a Lower Tier COMAH establishment and therefore falls under the requirements of the Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) Regulations, 2015. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared and accompanies this planning application.

The planning application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála under the provision of Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

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

One hard copy and one electronic copy of the complete planning application including EIAR and NIS are submitted herewith to Galway County Council as requested.

In accordance with the SID application process, Galway County Council are required to make these application documents available to the public so that they may be inspected free of charge, or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the cost of making a copy) during the public opening house of Galway County Council offices, for a period of seven weeks commencing on 20 June 2024.

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála ('the Board'), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks relating to:

- (i) the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development,
- (ii) the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
- (iii) the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions or 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 the 09 August 2024. Such submissions or observations must also include the following information:

- 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,
- The subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- The reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full. (Article 217 of the Planning & 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 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
- (iv) grant permission in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind),

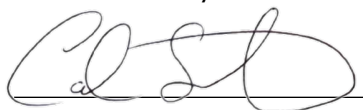
and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or

- (b) refuse to grant the permission.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of a Bord Pleanála (Tel. 01- 8588100). A person may question the validity of any such decision by 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), 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.

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