

Date: 12 June 2024

Our Ref. SEP- 0398

The Secretary
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

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.

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

- 1 no. copies of the Planning Application Form with attachments contained in Appendices A-G:
 - Appendix A -Schedule of Drawings
 - Appendix B -Letters of Consent
 - Appendix C -Newspaper Notices
 - Appendix D -Site Notice
 - Appendix E -Letters to Prescribed Bodies
 - Appendix F- EIA Portal Conformation
 - Appendix G- SID Pre-Application Letters

- 5no. copies of the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement
- 5no. copies of Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR Non-Technical Summary), Volume 1,
- 5no. copies of Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Volume 2,
- 5no. copies of Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Volume 3,
- 5no. electronic copies (USB) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Volumes 1-3,
- 5no. copies of Engineering Drawings and Specifications, including drainage reports and site layout plan showing location of site notices,
- 5no. copies of Photomontages Booklet, and Landscape and Biodiversity Mitigation Plans,
- 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.
- The offices of Galway County Council, Planning Department, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX.

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

The public notices were published and erected on the 12 June 2024 which advise that the application will be available for viewing for a period of seven weeks commencing on 20 June 2024 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 09 August 2024.

One (1no.) hard copies and 1no. electronic copies have been lodged on the 12 June 2024 with the relevant planning authority, Galway 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 12 June 2024.

- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Galway County Council
- Gas Networks Ireland
- Uisce Eireann
- Irish Aviation Authority
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Health Service Executive
- Eirgrid
- ESB
- An Taisce
- Heritage Council
- Office of Public Works
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- Irish Aviation Authority

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 F to the Planning Application Form.

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