

Date: 04 July 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 Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) Electricity Substation at Coolpowra, Cooldorragha, 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 400kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) electricity substation and High Voltage (HV) transmission lines /cables and electric plant, and which will connect to the existing 400kV electricity grid, on a c. 42.3 hectare (ha) site located in the townlands of Coolpowra, Cooldorragha, 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 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

The proposed GIS electricity substation location is adjacent to a proposed Reserve Gas-Fired Generator Project and an Energy Storage System (ESS) Project, which are subject to separate concurrent planning applications with An Bord Pleanála and Galway County Council respectively, and this application includes the associated HV transmission Lines /cables and electric plant which connect these projects to the proposed GIS electricity substation.

The Proposed Development will include: (i) demolition and removal of an existing dwelling, outhouses and agricultural sheds; (ii) a two-storey GIS substation building containing battery room, WC, messroom, workshop, generator room, stair cores, cable pits, storeroom, and switchgear rooms within a fenced compound; (iii) HV circuits which will connect the proposed 400kV GIS substation to the existing 400kV network and a 220kV circuit via an overhead lattice steel gantry; (iv) HV circuits which will run from the proposed 400kV GIS substation and connect to a proposed Reserve Gas-Fired Generator Project and an Energy Storage System (ESS) Project (these projects are under separate concurrent planning applications); (v) a 36.0m high communications tower; (vi) a palisade fence to GIS compound perimeter; (vii) a temporary construction compound; (viii) a main entrance connecting to the L8763 public road, (ix) improvement works to the junction of the N65/L8763 public roads, (x) 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, as part of the national electricity transmission system operated by Eirgrid from commissioning. 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:

- 2no. 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 Confirmation
 - Appendix G- SID Pre-Application Letters
- 2no. copies of the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement
- 2no. copies of Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR Non-Technical Summary), Volume 1,

- 2no. copies of Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Volume 2,
- 2no. copies of Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Volume 3,
- 2no. copies of Engineering Drawings and Specifications, including drainage reports, and site layout plan showing location of site notices,
- 2no. copies of Photomontages Booklet, and Landscape and Biodiversity Mitigation Plans,
- 8no. electronic copies (USB) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Volumes 1-3,
- Application fee of €100,000

The planning application, including the EIAR and NIS, 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.coolpowragis.com

The public notices were published and erected on the 04 July 2024 which advise that the application will be available for viewing for a period of seven weeks commencing on 12 July 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 30 August 2024.

One (1no.) hard copies and 1no. electronic copies have been lodged on the 04 July 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 04 July 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
- Failte Ireland

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