
North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development

An Bord Pleanála Reference: PCI001

Proposed Scope of Application



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

EirGrid plc (EirGrid) and System Operator Northern Ireland Ltd¹ are jointly planning a major cross-border electricity transmission development between the existing high-voltage transmission networks of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The overall interconnection project (which is termed the 'proposed interconnector' for the purposes of this report), is a 400 kV overhead line (OHL) circuit linking the existing 400 kV substation in Woodland, County Meath with a planned substation in Turleenan, County Tyrone. The North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development (the 'proposed development') comprises that portion of the proposed interconnector located within Ireland in counties Meath, Cavan and Monaghan. The proposed development, has been designated a Project of Common Interest (PCI) under Regulation (EU) No. 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (*Guidelines for Trans-European Energy Infrastructure*).

An Bord Pleanála ('the Board') has been appointed the competent authority for "*facilitating and coordinating the permit granting process*" for PCI in Ireland and EirGrid, in its role as the project promoter, submitted a notification under Article 10.1(a) of Regulation 347/2013 to the Board on 3rd June 2014 in respect of the North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development. An acknowledgement of the notification was received by EirGrid from the Board, on 2nd July 2014 which confirmed that the Board consider the project as being "*mature enough to enter the permit granting process*".

On 29th September 2014 the Board wrote to EirGrid, via email, citing Article 10.4(a) of the Regulation which states:

"Upon the acknowledgement of the notification pursuant to paragraph 1(a), the competent authority shall identify, in close cooperation with the other authorities concerned, and where appropriate on the basis of a proposal by the project promoter, the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted by the project promoter, as part of the application file, to apply for the comprehensive decision."

The email of 29th September 2014 then went on to state that "*An Bord Pleanála, in its role as competent authority, considers it appropriate to invite Eirgrid to submit a proposal for the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted as part of the application file*".

¹ The planning of that portion of the proposed interconnector within Northern Ireland was originally undertaken by Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE). However, NIE was obligated by the European Commission to transfer its investment planning function (the "Planning Function") to SONI. The SONI transmission system operator licence (the "Licence") was amended on 28th March 2014 to take account of the transfer of the Planning Function following a consultation process by the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (NIAUR). The Licence amendments took effect on 30th April 2014. Accordingly, responsibility for the pursuance of the planning application in respect of the proposed interconnector within Northern Ireland has been transferred from NIE to SONI.

This document has been prepared in response to this invitation of the competent authority and sets out a proposal of the scope and level of detail of information to be submitted by EirGrid, as the project promoter, in respect of the proposed application file for the North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development. In addition, it has been prepared with reference to the requirements of Article 10.4(a) of Regulation 347/2013, the measures set out in the Board's *Manual of Procedure for the Permit Granting Process* (May 2014), and in accordance with Annex VI of Regulation 347/2013 (which sets out the *Guidelines for Transparency and Public Participation* in respect of projects designated as Projects of Common Interest).

1.2 AN BORD PLEANÁLA'S MANUAL OF PROCEDURE FOR THE PERMIT GRANTING PROCESS (MAY 2014)

The Board as competent authority for PCI in Ireland became responsible under Article 9.1 of Regulation 347/2013, in collaboration with other authorities concerned, to "*publish a manual of procedures for the permit granting process applicable to projects of common interest*". Article 9.1 states that the competent authorities' manual "*shall be updated as necessary and made available to the public. The manual shall at least include the information specified in Annex VI.1. The manual shall not be legally binding, but it may refer to or quote relevant legal provisions*". Annex VI.1 states that the manual of procedures referred to in Article 9(1) shall at least specify:

"(e) information about the scope, structure and level of detail of documents to be submitted with the application for decisions, including a checklist;"

The manual was required to be published by 16th May 2014 and a *Manual of Procedures* was published by the Board on that date. Section 4.2 of the Manual states that following acknowledgement by the Board of the notification of the start of the permit granting process under Article 10.1(a) of the Regulation, the Board will identify the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted. This will be done in close co-operation with the other authorities concerned and, where appropriate, on the basis of a proposal of the project promoter

Section 8 of the Manual is entitled *Detail of Documents for Applications*. It states that the details required to make an application for a proposed development which has been deemed Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) are provided with reference to *Application 7th Schedule SID Guidelines for Applicant* on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie². The Manual further states that "*a detailed checklist is not available in this version of the Manual*". However, it notes "*An Bord Pleanála, as Competent Authority, will identify the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted to itself in relation to a planning application and (following close co-operation with other*

² This does not specifically address applications under section 182A of the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, as amended

authorities concerned, and where appropriate, on the basis of a proposal by the project promoter) the scope and level of detail to be provided to the other authorities”.

Consent is required for the North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development as a strategic infrastructure development and an application pursuant to section 182A of the *Planning and Development Act 2000* as amended, will be lodged with the Strategic Infrastructure Division of An Bord Pleanála. This follows from the decision of the Strategic Infrastructure Division of the Board, published on the 6th February 2014, finding that:

- the proposed development constitutes strategic infrastructure development;
- that an EIS is required to accompany the application; and
- that significant effects are likely on the environment in a trans-boundary state (Northern Ireland).

It is not envisaged that the North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development requires consents under any other consenting regime in the Irish jurisdiction.

Figure 1.1 sets out the PCI process in respect of the scope of material and level of detail required by the Board for SID applications.

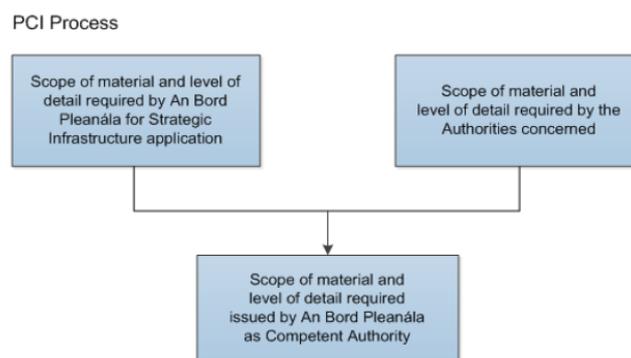


Figure 1.1 : PCI Process and Scope of Material and Level of Detail required by An Bord Pleanála

(Source: Projects of Common Interest – *Manual of Permit Granting Process Procedures* (May 2014))

1.2.1 Regulation No. 347/2013 - Article 9.4

This document has also been prepared with reference to the requirements of Article 9.4 of Regulation No. 347/2013 which sets out:

“The project promoter shall prepare a report summarising the results of activities related to the participation of the public prior to the submission of the application file, including those activities that took place before the start of the permit granting process. The project promoter shall submit that report together with the application file to the competent authority. Due account shall be taken of these results in a comprehensive decision”.

EirGrid is currently preparing a report in accordance with Article 9.4 of Regulation 347/2013 (the draft title of which is ‘Article 9.4 Report’). This report will specifically focus on *“the results of activities related to the participation of the public”* in respect of the project since 2007 and as described in the modified Concept for Public Participation³ for the proposed development.

It is EirGrid’s understanding that this report is to be submitted to the Board *“together with the application file”*, however, the report does not form part of the application file per se. Accordingly, it is not addressed within this proposal for the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted as part of the application file. For the avoidance of doubt, this report is not therefore contained within the application file but will be submitted together with the application file.

However, it is acknowledged that there will be a degree of overlap between the contents of the *Concept for Public Participation Report* and *Article 9.4 Report* (as required by Regulation No. 347/2013) and the content of Volume 2B of the proposed planning application file to support consideration of the proposal under section 182A of the *Planning and Development Act, 2000*, as amended (refer to **section 5.2** of this report).

³ On 31st July 2014 EirGrid submitted a Concept for Public Participation for the North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development. This Concept was submitted to the Board in accordance with Article 9.3 of Regulation 347/2013 following the process outlined in the Board’s *Manual of Procedure for the Permit Granting Process* (May 2014) and in accordance with *Annex VI of Regulation 347/2013* which sets out the *Guidelines for Transparency and Public Participation* in respect of projects designated as Projects of Common Interest. On 10th September 2014 the Board modified the Concept for Public Participation submitted by EirGrid on 31st July 2014, under Article 9.3 of Regulation No. 347/2013.

2 CONTEXT FOR EIRGRID'S PROPOSAL

In preparing this proposal consideration has been given to the following:

- A considerable body of work was undertaken in respect of the previous application for development consent which was lodged with the Board in December 2009, and which was subsequently withdrawn in June 2010 (An Bord Pleanála Ref. VA0006). This included the preparation and submission of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and associated technical, environmental and planning documents. In order to ensure that the previous EIS addressed the issues that were likely to be of significance, an associated consultation and informal scoping exercise was carried out. Consultation consisted of interactions with the public concerned (including landowners), interested parties and prescribed bodies, as well as pre-planning consultations with the Board.

The EIS (2009) and associated technical, environmental, planning and other documents were also publically available during the period of the previous application for approval and the Board invited submissions from prescribed bodies, other stakeholders, the general public and other parties. In May 2010, the Board convened an oral hearing in respect of the proposed development. A number of prescribed bodies and a number of members of the public made further oral and written submissions at the oral hearing. This included submissions from certain statutory agencies in Northern Ireland.

Information provided by the Board, prescribed bodies and other stakeholders in respect of the previous application for approval has informed the scoping and proposed content of the documentation for the current application.

- The current proposed development has been the subject of separate pre-application consultation (now formally closed) between EirGrid and the Board under the provisions of Section 182E of the *Planning and Development Act 2000* (as amended) – An Bord Pleanála Ref. PL02.VC0054 applies.

The series of pre-application consultations has provided guidance on the scope and content of documentation to be submitted for the current application. For example, reference is made to the Record of Meeting for 18th December 2013 which included *inter alia*: a list of the requirements of section 182A of the *Planning and Development Act, 2000* (as amended) and article 214 of the *Planning and Development Regulations, 2001* (as amended); *Guidelines for Electronic Copies of Applications*; and a Draft Preliminary List of Prescribed Bodies for the proposed development.

- In August 2013 EirGrid requested the Board to provide an Environment Impact Statement (EIS) scoping opinion in respect of the proposed development⁴. The Board consulted with various parties (including local and prescribed authorities and certain statutory agencies in Northern Ireland) before providing its scoping opinion on 11th December 2013. The authorities which provided submissions to the Board are listed below.
 - Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Development Applications Unit;
 - The Environmental Protection Agency;
 - Meath County Council;
 - Cavan County Council;
 - Monaghan County Council;
 - National Roads Authority;
 - Fáilte Ireland;
 - An Taisce – the National Trust for Ireland;
 - Health Service Executive / Environmental Health Service;
 - Inland Fisheries Ireland;
 - Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland); and
 - Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

The Board's scoping opinion ascertained the environmental topics of most significance and confirmed the issues identified during the informal scoping⁵ and consultation process undertaken by EirGrid.

The scoping opinion provided by the Board (as informed by consultation with prescribed bodies / other concerned authorities) has informed the scoping and content of the EIS to be submitted as part of the current application.

The pre-application consultation and scoping activities undertaken separately under the provisions of Section 182E of the *Planning and Development Act 2000* (as amended), and the work undertaken and feedback received in respect of the previous application for development consent is considered by

⁴ Scoping, as contemplated by section 182A of the *Planning and Development Act 2000* (as amended), is carried out by the Board (as competent authority) on receipt of a request from a developer to provide a scoping opinion in writing.

⁵ Scoping is an integral part of the preparation of an EIS. The process of identifying issues to be included in the EIS (or 'scoping') involves appraising the project's possible impacts, considering available alternatives and deciding which impacts are likely to occur and likely to be significant based on the proposed development. A developer can undertake an informal scoping exercise and consult with various parties in relation to this exercise.

EirGrid to provide the basis for this proposal on the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted in the proposed application file to the Board.

The proposed scope and level of detail is set out in the following chapters.

3 OVERALL STRUCTURE OF PROPOSED APPLICATION FILE

The application documentation for the proposed development will be presented in a number of volumes as set out in **Table 3.1**. This is consistent with the approach adopted for a number of other EirGrid strategic infrastructure development (SID) applications. The structure of the proposed application documentation is intended to assist with the legibility of the application package.

Article 214(1) of the *Planning and Development Regulations 2001* (as amended) in relation to application procedures for SID applications states:

“When making an application for strategic infrastructure development, the applicant shall send to the Board –

- (a) *10 copies of the plans and particulars of the proposed development (including any plans, particulars or other information indicated by the Board under article 210(2)) and of the environmental impact statement.”*

The Strategic Infrastructure Division of the Board has given EirGrid clarification as to the number of hard copies and electronic copies it requires to be submitted with the application. In addition, it has clarified the various prescribed authorities that require to be provided with a copy of the application, and has requested that confirmation of this is provided within the application particulars. It has also provided EirGrid with other instructions, for example relating to the public notices, application form, and the process for submission of the application.

A cheque for the prescribed fee of €100,000 for making an application under section 182A of the *Planning and Development Act 2000* (as amended) will be enclosed with the application.

Table 3.1 - Structure of the Application Package

VOLUME		DETAILS
Volume 1	Volume 1A	Application form and Enclosures
	Volume 1B	Planning Drawings
Volume 2	Volume 2A	Planning Report and Associated Appendices
	Volume 2B	Public and Landowner Consultation Report Associated Appendices
Volume 3	Environmental Impact Statement	
	Volume 3A	Non-Technical Summary
	Volume 3B	Common Chapters (addressing both the Cavan Monaghan Study area (CMSA) and Meath Study Area)

VOLUME		DETAILS
	Volume 3C	Associated Appendices Associated Figures Cavan-Monaghan Study Area (CMSA)
	Volume 3D	Associated Appendices Associated Figures Meath Study Area (MSA) Associated Appendices Associated Figures
Volume 4		Joint Environmental Report
Volume 5		Natura Impact Statement

4 VOLUME 1

4.1 VOLUME 1A

Volume 1A consolidates the **Application Particulars** and will include the following documents:

- EirGrid Covering letter; and
- Completed Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Application Form and Schedules.

The 'EirGrid Covering Letter' will be prepared by the Applicant and is intended to accompany the application for approval for the proposed North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development and provide background information in relation to the project and application. This covering letter should be read in the light of the more detailed Planning Report and Associated Appendices which is contained in Volume 2A.

The 'Completed SID Application Form and Schedules' will include the following:

- Completed SID Application Form;
- A copy of the Newspaper Notice to be published in the following newspapers: the Irish Times; the Meath Chronicle; the Northern Standard and The Anglo Celt. This notice will be published in both English and Irish;
- A copy of the Site Notice as erected. The various locations of the Site Notice will be shown on the relevant planning drawings submitted with the application. This notice will be published in both English and Irish;
- A letter of consent from ESB to the making of the application for approval for lands not in EirGrid's ownership;
- A letter of consent from the landowners of the proposed construction material storage yard (to be located near Carrickmacross, County Monaghan) to the making of the application for approval;
- A summary record of consultation undertaken in respect of the proposed development.
- List of bodies comprising the relevant local authorities and prescribed bodies (including the prescribed authority for Northern Ireland) notified/sent a copy of the application and the EIS and NIS)
- A drawing schedule.

4.2 VOLUME 1B

Application for approval drawings for the proposed development will be included in **Volume 1B Planning Drawings**.

Article 210 of Part 18 of the *Planning and Development Regulations 2001* (as amended) in respect of pre-application discussions for strategic infrastructure development provides that:

“The Board shall, during the course of pre-application consultation, indicate to a prospective applicant:

- (a) the plans and particulars or other information which the Board will require for the purposes of consideration of an application.”*

Accordingly, the nature of the plans and particulars in respect of the application has been discussed with the Strategic Infrastructure Division of the Board during pre-application consultation.

Volume 1B Planning Drawings will include the following:

- Book of application drawings at A1 scale in 2 No. volumes; one for the Cavan Monaghan Study Area (CMSA) and one for the Meath Study Area (MSA);
- Book of application drawings at A3 scale in 2 No. volumes; one for the CMSA and one for the MSA; and
- A Drawing Schedule will be attached with a full list of application drawings to be submitted. An indicative list of the type of drawings it is proposed to submit is included in **Appendix A** of this report.

5 VOLUME 2

5.1 VOLUME 2A

Volume 2A Planning Report and Associated Appendices will provide the background to the proposed development, set the proposed development into its planning and environmental policy context and summarise the main issues of planning and sustainable development arising on the application for approval. The purpose of the *Planning Report* is to present, in summary, the planning issues associated with the proposed development, having regard to the Statutory remit of the Strategic Infrastructure Division of An Bord Pleanála to consider the likely consequences for proper planning and sustainable development in the area in which it is proposed to situate such development, in determining whether planning approval should be granted for the proposed development.

The proposed structure of the *Planning Report* is set out in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1 - Structure of the Planning Report

Chapter	Content
Chapter 1	Introduction - report context, purpose and structure, details of the applicant, need for the project and a summary description of the proposal.
Chapter 2	Description of Proposed Development - project development, planning history and description of line route, an outline of the overhead line (OHL) elements, works to the existing Woodland Substation and construction related works (including temporary construction material storage yard), ancillary elements and construction methodology.
Chapter 3	Legislative Context – Project of Common Interest (PCI), Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, Appropriate Assessment (AA) process, transboundary issues and application related matters.
Chapter 4	Planning Policy Context – European, national, regional, local and planning guidance documents.
Chapter 5	Planning Appraisal - evaluation of proposed development having regard to <i>inter alia</i> planning policies and objectives.
Chapter 6	Conclusions

5.2 VOLUME 2B

Volume 2B Public and Landowner Consultation Report and Associated Appendices will include the extent and nature of public consultation and participation that took place in respect of the project including on the consultation undertaken between 2011, when a re-evaluation of the previous development proposal commenced, and the submission of this application for planning approval. The report will also outline the earlier consultation which took place in respect of the application for approval in relation to that previous development proposal.

The proposed structure of the *Public and Landowner Consultation Report*, which is subject to change, is set out in **Table 5.2**.

Table 5.2 - Structure of the Public and Landowner Consultation Report

Chapter	Content
Chapter 1	Introduction and overview of public and landowner consultation activities for the project 2007 – 2014.
Chapter 2	Project Background – previous application for approval, context for the new application and re-evaluation process (Grid25, Government Policy Statement on Strategic Importance of Transmission and other Energy Infrastructure), Independent Government Review etc.
Chapter 3	Context of public and stakeholder engagement – Aarhus Convention, PCI process, Consolidated EIA Directive, requirement of national law and best practice, EirGrid's public consultation process and project communications team. This chapter will also address the context of landowner engagement – statutory context and EirGrid best practice.
Chapter 4	Public and Stakeholder Participation in the Previous Application (Phase 1 and Phase 2 Pre-planning Consultation) – approach / Terms of Reference, public participation methods and activities, level of participation, nature of feedback received, and impact of participation on project development. The chapter will also consider statutory consultation for the previous application, key issues arising on written submissions of the public concerned and prescribed bodies, key issues arising on oral submissions of the public concerned and prescribed bodies.
Chapter 5	The Re-evaluation Process: Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement – rationale for the re-evaluation process, approach to / Terms of Reference for consultation and public participation. Both the preliminary re-evaluation consultation and final re-evaluation report will be considered in terms of approach, level of participation, public participation methods and activities, nature of feedback received and impact of public participation on the final re-evaluation recommendations and project development.
Chapter 6	Preferred Project Solution Report: Consultation and Public Participation – purpose and aims of the preferred project solution consultation, public participation methods and activities, level of participation, nature of feedback, and impact of consultation feedback on preferred project

Chapter	Content
	solution and project development.
Chapter 7	Landowner Engagement – the purpose and aims of landowner engagement, description of landowner engagement process, description of the landowner consultation and engagement process for the respective phases of the project, level of participation, nature of feedback, and impact of landowner engagement of project proposal.
Chapter 8	Difficulties Encountered – access to information, nature of public participation, levels of public participation and stakeholder engagement, levels of landowner engagement.
Chapter 9	Period Post closure of the <i>Preferred Project Solution Report</i> consultation and prior to the submittal of the planning application – public and landowner participation following the closed of the <i>Preferred Project Solution Report</i> consultation, overview of communications activities undertaken including Community Update Brochures and on-going landowner engagement.
Chapter 10	Further Public Consultation in Permit Granting Process – this will outline the public consultation that will take place in the context of the requirement and procedures for the proposed strategic infrastructure application.
Chapter 11	Conclusions – effective dissemination of information to the public and landowners, level and nature of public participation and feedback received impact of public consultation on final proposal.

6 VOLUME 3

Section 182A of the *Planning and Development Act 2000* (as amended) provides that where a person (the ‘undertaker’) intends to carry out a “development comprising or for the purposes of electricity transmission”, an application, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and / or Natura Impact Statement (NIS) shall be prepared and submitted to the Board for statutory approval of the development.

Volume 3 will comprise a multi-volume **EIS** in respect of the proposed development (10 No. volumes inclusive) which will be completed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the codified EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, *Planning and Development Act 2000* (as amended), the *Planning and Development Regulations 2001* (as amended) and various guidance documents. As discussed with the Strategic Infrastructure Division of the Board, for the convenience of users and legibility of the document and given the overall geographical extent of this linear development, the environmental appraisal will be presented in two parts. One part will address the environmental appraisal of the project primarily as it passes through counties Cavan and Monaghan (i.e. the Cavan Monaghan Study Area (CMSA) section of the project) and the second part will address the environmental appraisal of the project primarily as it passes through County Meath (i.e. the Meath Study Area (MSA) section of the project). The environmental appraisal for both parts has been undertaken by the same specialists.

The content of the EIS will be informed by the Scoping Opinion (dated 11th December 2013) provided by the Strategic Infrastructure Division of the Board in response to a request by EirGrid pursuant to the provisions of Section 182E of the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, as amended. In this regard, issues identified by the Board in its Scoping Opinion, and the proposed location of where the information will be dealt with in the EIS, are outlined in **Appendix C** of this report.

The main volumes of the EIS, including the Non-Technical Summary will be translated into Irish and included with the application.

The proposed structure of the EIS is set out in **Table 6.1**.

Table 6.1 - Structure of the EIS

Environmental Impact Statement
Volume 3A of the EIS will contain the Non-Technical Summary
Volume 3B of the EIS is a document, which will deal with strategic issues which are common to the overall proposed development, including Consideration of Alternatives, Cumulative Impacts and Impact Interactions and Transboundary Impacts.
Volume 3B Appendices will contain the Appendices associated with Volume 3B.

Environmental Impact Statement	
Volume 3B Figures will contain the 1:5,000 mapping for the project at A1 scale.	
<p>Volume 3C of the EIS will consider the Cavan Monaghan Study Area (CMSA) section of the project.</p> <p>This volume will provide an appraisal of the area of the proposed development from the area of the proposed border crossing at locations between the townlands of Doohat or Crossreagh, and Crossbane, County Armagh, and Lemgare, County Monaghan to the townland of Clonturkan, County Cavan.</p>	<p>Volume 3D of the EIS will consider the Meath Study Area (MSA) section of the project.</p> <p>This volume will provide an appraisal of the area of the proposed development, from the townland of Clonturkan, County Cavan to the existing Woodland Substation in County Meath.</p>
Volume 3C Appendices will contain the Appendices associated with Volume 3C.	Volume 3D Appendices will contain the Appendices associated with Volume 3D
Volume 3C Figures will contain the Figures associated with Volume 3C.	Volume 3D of the EIS will contain the Figures associated with Volume 3D.

6.1 VOLUME 3A

Volume 3A will provide a **Non-Technical Summary** of Volumes 3B, 3C and 3D of the EIS. It will be completed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the codified EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, *Planning and Development Act 2000* (as amended) and the *Planning and Development Regulations 2001* (as amended). In relation to the Non-Technical Summary the Board’s Scoping Opinion states:

“The summary should contain an objective statement of the environmental effects of the development and all significant effects and mitigation measures should be referred to therein. The description of the development to be contained in the non-technical summary should explain the proposals clearly and unambiguously in terms of their nature, scale and extent in order to allow the public to understand the EIA process and to make submissions in relation to the development.”

It is confirmed that the Non-Technical Summary will be prepared having regard to the Board’s Scoping Opinion and in particular to the information detailed above. The purpose of the Non-Technical Summary is to provide a summary in non-technical language of the information required to be contained in the EIS.

The Non-Technical Summary will be laid out in a similar format to the main EIS i.e. describing the proposed development, existing environment, impacts of the proposed development and proposed mitigation measures. In this regard, it is noted that the environmental evaluation will be presented in summary on a topic-by-topic basis addressing both the CMSA and the MSA.

The proposed structure of the Non-Technical Summary is set out in **Table 6.2**.

Table 6.2 - Structure of the Non-Technical Summary

Chapter	Content
Chapter 1	Introduction – purpose and content of the Non-Technical Summary, requirement for an EIA and AA and transboundary impact, difficulties arising during the preparation of the EIS and scoping the EIS.
Chapter 2	Nature and Need for the Proposed Development – SONI proposal, EirGrid proposal, PCI status, need for the proposed development and benefits of the proposed development.
Chapter 3	Main Alternatives Considered – transmission and technology alternatives (HVDC and HVAC, AC OHL and UGC, partial undergrounding and OHL design considerations) and route alternatives.
Chapter 4	Description of the Proposed Development – description of line route, OHL elements, fixing of tower positions, works to existing OHL and works within existing Woodland Substation.
Chapter 5	Environmental Topics Covered in the Environmental Impact Statement – Human Beings – Population & Economic, Human Beings – Land Use, Human Beings – Tourism and Amenity, Human Beings – EMF, Flora and Fauna, Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology, Water, Air – Noise and Vibration, Air – Quality and Climate, Landscape, Material Assets – General. Material Assets – Traffic, Cultural Heritage, Cumulative Impacts and Impact Interactions / inter-relationship between factors, Summary of Likely Significant Effects, Summary of Mitigation Measures.

6.2 VOLUME 3B AND FIGURES AND APPENDICES

Volume 3B of the EIS will deal with strategic issues which are common to the overall proposed development, including Consideration of Alternatives, Cumulative Impacts and Impact Interactions and Transboundary Impacts.

The proposed structure of Volume 3B of the EIS is set out in **Table 6.3**.

Table 6.3 - Structure of Volume 3B of the EIS

Chapter	Content
Chapter 1	Introduction – context of the proposed development, requirement for EIA, preparation of the EIS, structure and content of the EIS and difficulties arising during preparation of the EIS.
Chapter 2	Strategic Need – existing transmission network infrastructure and development context, benefits of the proposed interconnector and conclusions regarding strategic need for the project.
Chapter 3	Scoping the EIS – project background, EIS scoping and associated consultation, findings of the informal scoping and consultation process and An Bord Pleanála's Scoping Opinion.
Chapter 4	Transmission and Technology Alternatives – legislative context for consideration of alternatives, Do Nothing alternative, strategic need, alternatives to transmission network solutions, project objectives / design criteria, specific studies commissioned by EirGrid and SONI on alternative transmission technologies, transmission technology alternatives considered for the proposed development and OHL design considerations.
Chapter 5	Route Alternatives – identification of broad study area(s) for the proposed development, identification of alternative route corridor options and a preferred route corridor for the proposed development, identification of a preferred line design, final line design and the proposed development.
Chapter 6	Description of development: Transmission Circuit and Substation Works – description of line route, overhead line elements and operational activities.
Chapter 7	Construction – construction methodology, ancillary works for construction of OHLs and health & safety.
Chapter 8	Electric Magnetic Fields (EMF) – overview of EMFs, EMF from the proposed development, compliance with exposure guidelines, ELF EMF health research, the precautionary principle and EMF and technical calculations and results – EMF associated with the proposed development.
Chapter 9	Transboundary – transboundary consultation and potential transboundary impacts on the environmental topics covered in the EIS (Human Beings, Flora & Fauna, Soils, geology and Hydrogeology, Water, Air, Landscape, Material Assets and cultural Heritage).
Chapter 10	Cumulative Impacts and Impact Interactions – legislative requirements, cumulative impacts, evaluation of cumulative environmental effects and impact interactions.
Chapter 11	Summary of Mitigation Measures - collective summary of the proposed mitigation measures for both the construction and operational phases of the proposed development.

Volume 3B Appendices will contain the Appendices associated with Volume 3B.

Volume 3B Figures will contain the 1:5,000 mapping for the proposed development at A1 scale.

6.3 VOLUME 3C AND FIGURES AND APPENDICES

Volume 3C of the EIS will consider the CMSA section of the project. This volume will provide an appraisal of the proposed development from the area of the proposed border crossing at locations between the townlands of Doohat or Crossreagh, and Crossbane, County Armagh, and Lemgare, County Monaghan to the townland of Clonturkan, County Cavan.

The proposed structure of Volume 3C of the EIS is set out in **Table 6.4**.

Table 6.4 - Structure of Volume 3C of the EIS

Chapter	Content
Chapter 1	Introduction – information on the content of this volume of the EIS and EIS format.
Chapter 2	Human Beings : Population & Economic – methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (population, and employment and economic activity), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors
Chapter 3	Human Beings: Land Use - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (land use along the proposed alignment, soil types in land parcels along the proposed alignment and categorisation of land parcels), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 4	Human Beings: Tourism and Amenity - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (key tourism attractions and amenities in the area, visitor and recreational activities and events, accommodation providers and value of tourism in the area), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 5	Human Beings: Electric and Magnetic Fields - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment, potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 6	Flora and Fauna - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (designated conservation areas, non-designated sites of conservation interest, rare and protected flora, habitats, fauna, invasive alien species and key ecological receptors), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.

Chapter	Content
Chapter 7	Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (topography and geomorphology, soils, geology, hydrogeology, areas of geological heritage importance, current and historical mining sites and contaminated land), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 8	Water - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (hydrology, Water Framework Directive requirements and surface water quality), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 9	Air: Noise and Vibration- methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (baseline noise survey and noise survey results), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 10	Air: Quality and Climate - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (climate change, ambient air quality, other atmospheric emissions, heavy metals and organic pollutants and dust deposition) potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 11	Landscape - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (landscape context and character, landscape value, detailed description of the landscape units, landscape value, landscape capacity and sensitivity of the landscape) potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 12	Material Assets: General - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (baseline evaluation of utilities, aviation and waste), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 13	Material Assets: Traffic- methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (road infrastructure, road safety and site access), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 14	Cultural Heritage - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (landscape – Monaghan to Cavan, archaeological and historical background, desk based archaeological evaluation, desk based architectural evaluation and route survey), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.

Volume 3C Appendices will contain the Appendices associated with Volume 3C.

Volume 3C Figures will contain the Figures associated with Volume 3C.

6.4 VOLUME 3D AND FIGURES AND APPENDICES

Volume 3D of the EIS will consider the MSA section of the project. This volume will provide an appraisal of the proposed development, from the townland of Clonturkan, County Cavan to the existing Woodland Substation in County Meath.

The proposed structure of Volume 3D of the EIS is set out in **Table 6.5**.

Table 6.5 - Structure of Volume 3D of the EIS

Chapter	Content
Chapter 1	Introduction – information on the content of this volume of the EIS and EIS format.
Chapter 2	Human Beings : Population & Economic – methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (population and employment and economic activity), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors
Chapter 3	Human Beings: Land Use - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (land use along the proposed alignment, soil types in land parcels along the proposed alignment and categorisation of land parcels), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 4	Human Beings: Tourism and Amenity - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (key tourism attractions and amenities in the area, visitor and recreational activities and events, accommodation providers and value of tourism in the area), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 5	Human Beings: Electric and Magnetic Fields - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment, potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 6	Flora and Fauna - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (designated conservation areas, non-designated sites of conservation interest, rare and protected flora, habitats, fauna, invasive alien species and key ecological receptors), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 7	Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (topography and geomorphology, soils, geology,

Chapter	Content
	hydrogeology, areas of geological heritage importance, current and historical mining sites, contaminated land, former railways and disused quarries and soil excavation areas), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 8	Water - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (hydrology, Water framework Directive requirements and surface water quality), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 9	Air: Noise and Vibration- methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (baseline noise survey and noise survey results), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 10	Air: Quality and Climate - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (climate change, ambient air quality, other atmospheric emissions, heavy metals and organic pollutants and dust deposition) potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 11	Landscape - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (landscape context and character, landscape value, detailed description of the landscape units, landscape value, landscape capacity and sensitivity of the landscape) potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 12	Material Assets: General - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (baseline evaluation of utilities, aviation and waste), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 13	Material Assets: Traffic- methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (road infrastructure, road safety, site access and proposed network improvements), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.
Chapter 14	Cultural Heritage - methodology, characteristics of the proposed development, existing environment (landscape – Cavan to Meath, archaeological and historical background, desk based archaeological evaluation, desk based architectural evaluation, other cultural heritage and route survey), potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and interrelationships between environmental factors.

Volume 3D Appendices will contain the Appendices associated with Volume 3D

Volume 3D Figures will contain the Figures associated with Volume 3D.

7 VOLUME 4

Volume 4 will comprise a **Joint Environmental Report** prepared by EirGrid and SONI that covers the overall proposed interconnector from Turleenan, County Tyrone to Woodland, County Meath in a manner which assesses its overall effects and, in particular, cumulative and significant adverse transboundary effects, in a manner consistent with the approach set out in the European Commission's *Guidance on the Application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure for Large-scale Transboundary Projects* (May 2013).

The proposed structure of Volume 4 *Joint Environmental Report* is set out in **Table 7.1**.

Table 7.1 – Structure of the Joint Environmental Report

Chapter	Content
	Non-Technical Summary – introduction, the Joint Environmental Report (JER), project need, overall project description, alternatives, location and routeing alternatives and JER appraisal of the proposed interconnector.
Chapter 1	Introduction – the proposed interconnector, guidance and legislation on transboundary projects and report context.
Chapter 2	Project Description and Purpose – project need and overall project description.
Chapter 3	Alternatives – technological alternatives and location and routeing alternatives.
Chapter 4	Population: Socio-Economic – methodology, receiving environment, mitigation measures, residual impacts during construction, residual impacts during operational phase and transboundary effects.
Chapter 5	Population: Tourism - methodology, receiving environment, mitigation measures, residual impacts during construction, residual impacts during operational phase and transboundary effects.
Chapter 6	Population: Land Use - methodology, receiving environment, mitigation measures, residual impacts during construction, residual impacts during operational phase and transboundary effects.
Chapter 7	Material Assets - methodology, receiving environment, mitigation measures, residual impacts during construction, residual impacts during operational phase and transboundary effects.
Chapter 8	EMF - methodology, receiving environment, mitigation measures, residual impacts during construction, residual impacts during operational phase and transboundary effects.

Chapter	Content
Chapter 9	Traffic - methodology, receiving environment, mitigation measures, residual impacts during construction, residual impacts during operational phase and transboundary effects.
Chapter 10	Noise - methodology, receiving environment, mitigation measures, residual impacts during construction, residual impacts during operational phase and transboundary effects.
Chapter 11	Ecology (Flora and Fauna) - methodology, receiving environment, mitigation measures, residual impacts during construction, residual impacts during operational phase and transboundary effects.
Chapter 12	Solis, geology and Hydrogeology - methodology, receiving environment, mitigation measures, residual impacts during construction, residual impacts during operational phase and transboundary effects.
Chapter 13	Water - methodology, receiving environment, mitigation measures, residual impacts during construction, residual impacts during operational phase and transboundary effects.
Chapter 14	Air and Climatic Factors - methodology, receiving environment, mitigation measures, residual impacts during construction, residual impacts during operational phase and transboundary effects.
Chapter 15	Cultural Heritage - methodology, receiving environment, mitigation measures, residual impacts during construction, residual impacts during operational phase and transboundary effects.
Chapter 16	Landscape - methodology, receiving environment, mitigation measures, residual impacts during construction, residual impacts during operational phase and transboundary effects.
Chapter 17	Cumulative Impacts & Interactions – cumulative impact and interactions of impacts.
Chapter 18	Conclusions

8 VOLUME 5

Volume 5 will comprise a **Natura Impact Statement (NIS)**. EirGrid, as the applicant for consent for the proposed development, is furnishing a NIS to the competent authority (An Bord Pleanála in this instance) in relation to the proposed development. The NIS will assist An Bord Pleanála to conduct an Appropriate Assessment (AA), including making a determination under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, before development consent may be given, as to whether the proposed development would be likely to adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

The proposed structure of Volume 5 *Natura Impact Statement* is set out in **Table 7.1**.

Table 8.1 – Structure of the Natura Impact Statement

Chapter	Content
Chapter 1	Introduction – background to the proposed development and consultation.
Chapter 2	Statutory Context -
Chapter 3	Guidance -
Chapter 4	Stage One: Screening Stage – description of the proposed development, identification of relevant European sites and compilation of information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives and assessment of likely effects.
Chapter 5	Appropriate Assessment – characteristics of European sites and potential impacts.
Chapter 6	Mitigation Measures – design stage mitigation (avoidance), construction phase mitigation and operational phase mitigation.
Chapter 7	Appropriate Assessment – conclusions.

APPENDIX A

**Draft List of Drawings Type to be submitted with the
North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development
application for approval**

Drawing Type Proposed	Comment
Line Route Map- Context	These drawings will indicate the location of the proposed development. They will be produced at 1:50,000 and will be A1 size.
Line Route Map- Constraints	These drawings will indicate the location of the proposed development in context and with constraints. They will be produced at 1;50,000 and will be A1 size.
Landowner Detail Maps	These drawings will indicate general landownership boundaries. They will be produced at 1:10,560 and will be A1 size. These will not identify individual landowners.
Line Route Map– Detail	These drawings will indicate details of the proposed line route. They will be produced at 1:2,500 and will be A1 size.
Plan & Profile Drawings	These drawings will indicate the longitudinal profile for the proposed line route. This is based on the aerial photogrammetric/ LIDAR data. These maps will be produced at 1:5,000 /1:500 and will be A1 size.
Woodland Substation	These drawings will indicate the existing design and layout of the substation, and the proposed works within and adjacent to the substation.
Foundation Drawings	These drawings will indicate typical 400 kV tower foundation details. The drawings will be produced at A1 size.
Proposed Tower Outline Drawings	These drawings will indicate typical tower outlines for the suite of towers proposed to be used on the Project. These drawings will be produced at 1:200 and will be A1 size.
Temporary Construction Material Storage Yard	These drawings will be produced at various scales and will be A1 size and will provide site location, layout and fencing details for the proposed temporary construction material storage yard.

APPENDIX B

**Issues Identified in the Scoping Opinion of the Strategic
Infrastructure Division of the Board
(dated 11th December 2013)**

Issues Identified in the Board's Scoping Opinion

Topic	Specific Issue Raised	Relevant Chapter of EIS where it is proposed to address issue
<p>Alternatives – considered (national, regional and local)</p>	<p>The need to provide an outline of the following alternatives / options considered prior to the selection of the development option: interconnection / network reinforcement options, technologies, corridor options, design & scale of development / structures, inclusion of substation(s) along route and construction methodologies.</p>	<p>Volume 3B, Chpts 4, 5 and 7</p>
<p>Human Beings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of potential impacts on settlement patterns along the route. The Board specifically requested that existing dwellings, community facilities and public facilities be identified (such as schools and healthcare facilities) including any extant planning permissions. • An assessment of impacts on residential amenities from construction and siting of support structures and OHL. • Identification and assessment of operation impacts and human health including noise and EMF, based on recognised international standards. • Assessment and comparison of the effects of above and below ground development alternatives. • An assessment of the likely impacts on the linguistic or cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht area, or on the promotion of Irish as the community language. • Implications / impacts on the local, regional or national economy. 	<p>Volume 3B, 3C and 3D and other elements of the application documentation</p>
<p>Flora and Fauna</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline data should include an ecological survey of all works sites at an appropriate time of the year. Survey work may also be required outside of the development sites. • Assessment of the impacts of flora, fauna and habitats to have regard to Natura 2000 sites, other (proposed) designated sites, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Wildlife Acts, Red Data Book species and biodiversity in general. 	<p>Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 6</p>

Topic	Specific Issue Raised	Relevant Chapter of EIS where it is proposed to address issue
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment should include indirect effects of construction activities and access, as well as long term impacts of fragmentation and severance. • Assessment of potential impacts on the aquatic environment during construction and operation. • EIS should address invasive alien plant and animal species and methods to ensure they are not introduced or spread. • Assessment of the extent and impact of hedgerow removal or linear woodland loss along the route. • Identification of any requirement for licenses or derogations. 	
Soils and Geology	The main items raised were: the inclusion of an assessment of potential soil erosion, the submission of a construction method statement (to include peat mitigation) and identification and assessment of potential impacts on sites of geological heritage interest (including Altmush Stream and Galtrim Moraine).	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 7
Water	The main items raised were: the identification and assessment of the potential water quality impacts of excavation / construction activities proximate to water courses, assessment of potential hydrogeological impacts and submission of a construction method statement and management plan (including measures to protect water quality when diverting field drains / pumping groundwater).	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 8
Air and Climate / Noise	Air and Climate were identified as minor issues not requiring significant studies. In terms of noise the Board requested a description and assessment of the noise environment at construction and operational phases (clearly measurable against the existing ambient noise environment).	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 10

Topic	Specific Issue Raised	Relevant Chapter of EIS where it is proposed to address issue
Landscape	<p>The Board requested the following: an overview of defined landscape character areas affected, identification of the area of visual influence of the development; an assessment of the impacts on landscape character and visual amenity including designated landscapes and views of amenity value; consideration of the impacts of the development on the character and setting of sites of cultural and historical interest and on historic landscapes, and identification of historic demesne landscapes along the route. Visual impacts of the development should be demonstrated by a series of scaled / accurate photomontages to include impacts on protected views / scenic routes. In addition the Board require consideration of the potential for alternative routing or partial undergrounding in sensitive landscape areas, or where separation between towers is reduced below average with resulting visual impacts. The rationale for the route / design approach adopted should be identified and the cumulative visual and landscape impacts of the development with the existing and proposed 110 kV and 220 kV network should be considered.</p>	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 11
Material Assets	<p>In terms of material assets the Board require: the identification of the enhancement of existing electrical network infrastructure, the identification and assessment of public road crossings (including construction methodology); information on the likely effects on public utilities and services; submission of a construction management plan (addressing stringing options, road closures, detours, and impacts on railway infrastructure, access for construction, on-going maintenance and treatment of new / widened construction entrances). In addition the likely impact / restrictions for agriculture or commercial forestry and the assessment of the effects on the amenity / tourism value of the area including designated tourism routes (the Monaghan way) and impacts on fishing and fisheries tourism, the potential future use of disused railways and impacts on aviation transport (including Trim airfield).</p>	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpts 4, 12 and 13

Topic	Specific Issue Raised	Relevant Chapter
Cultural Heritage	The Board has requested the following information in relation to cultural heritage - identification and assessment of: archaeological heritage (including impacts on the character and setting of features of interest) as well as relationships between sites; and areas of social, cultural and historic interest (including Bective Abbey, Donaghpatrick, Teltown Zone of Archaeological Amenity and Muff Crossroads). The Board also requested the identification of any pre-application archaeological excavation or site investigation undertaken; any heritage in the vicinity of the route corridor; indirect effects of construction activity including access / routes on structures and buildings; and the impact on longer views from sites of national importance and significance.	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 14
Transboundary Effects	The Board requested that a <i>Joint Environmental Report</i> be prepared. The joint report should ensure the implementation of a common approach and methodology for the identification and assessment of impacts arising across the overall project. The prospective applicants are advised to consult with the relevant authorities in Northern Ireland with regard to the information to be contained in the EIS.	Volume 4 of the application documentation

The scoping opinion also referred to the inclusion of a schedule of mitigation measures and a *Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)* in the EIS. The scope of these particulars was discussed in subsequent pre-application consultation with the SI Division of The Board. Following clarification of this matter, a schedule of mitigation measures will be included as Chapter 11 of Volume 3B of the EIS and an Outline CEMP will be provided as an appendix to the EIS.