



## North-South 400kV Interconnection Development

# Community Update

April 2013



Part Funded by the EU-TEN-E Initiative



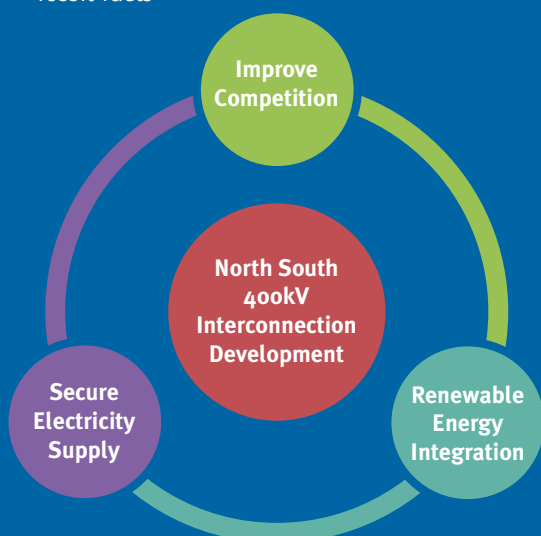
## Overview

EirGrid and Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) are jointly planning a major cross-border electricity scheme. This scheme is a 400kV overhead line linking the existing 400kV substation in Woodland, County Meath with a planned substation in Turleenan, County Tyrone and will provide a second high capacity electricity transmission line between Ireland and Northern Ireland. The scheme consists of two separate but related and complementary projects. EirGrid will in due course apply for planning approval for that part of the scheme located in Ireland called the North-South 400kV Interconnection Development.

## Project Drivers

The key drivers for this project are to:

- **Improve competition in the electricity market**  
This project will improve the efficiency of the all-island electricity market
- **Ensure a secure supply of electricity for the island of Ireland**  
This project will enhance the security of the electricity supply throughout the island of Ireland which is essential for economic growth, the creation of jobs and improving the standard of living and quality of life for all
- **Help Ireland meet its 40% renewable electricity target**  
This project will allow more renewable energy to be connected to the network, reducing our production of greenhouse gases and our reliance on imported fossil fuels



While each of these key drivers on their own creates a definite need for the project, combined they create an overwhelming and urgent need.

## What has happened so far?

This project was first launched in autumn 2007 and an application for planning approval was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in December 2009. This application was withdrawn in July 2010.

Since the withdrawal of the application, EirGrid has been engaged in the process of undertaking a comprehensive re-evaluation of the project. This involved, among other things, a thorough re-examination of the previous application, including issues raised during the previous application process. In May 2011, EirGrid published its interim findings as set out in a Preliminary Re-evaluation Report, which was subject to consultation.

The consultation requested feedback on the content and findings of the Preliminary Re-evaluation Report and included engagement with the public and landowners on the indicative line route.

### The consultation on the Preliminary Re-evaluation Report included:

- The strategic need for the project.
- Technology options for the project.
- Project study area.
- Environmental and other constraints.
- Identification of corridor options.
- Identification of the preferred corridor.
- Identification of an indicative line route within the preferred corridor.

## Government Review

A separate review process was undertaken by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR), whereby an International Expert Commission (IEC) reported on the case for, and cost of, undergrounding the North-South 400kV Interconnection Development.

This report was published in January 2012 and recommended the interconnector should not be undergrounded using Alternating Current (AC) cable. However, this report also stated that if undergrounding is to be used, the best technology option currently available is Direct Current (DC). The report estimated that using this technology would cost up to three times more than the standard overhead line solution.

Following a period of consultation, a Government Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure was published in July 2012. This policy statement recognised this project as one of a group of projects that are “vital developments for the regions and for the economy and society as a whole”. It also emphasised the importance of early and ongoing consultation to help identify appropriate mitigation measures such as the reconfiguring or rationalising of existing networks, and the development of a community gain programme.

## Conclusion of EirGrid's project re-evaluation

EirGrid has completed its re-evaluation process and published the Final Re-evaluation Report. The re-evaluation process has considered and responded to the following:

- Stakeholder feedback from the previous planning application.
- Stakeholder feedback from the Preliminary Re-evaluation Report consultation.
- The outcome of the Government Review.

The key findings of the project re-evaluation are, that there remains an urgent strategic need for the project. Following EirGrid's consideration of the findings in the IEC report, using DC technology would be technically inferior for this project compared to a standard AC overhead line solution and EirGrid agrees with the IEC that this option would be vastly more expensive.

**On this basis EirGrid is proposing that the new Interconnector circuit will generally take the form of a single circuit 400kV AC overhead line.**

The indicative line route for this overhead line is broadly similar to the previously proposed line route, but incorporates localised modifications as follows:

- Modifications to the line route in order to take account of the construction and granting of permission for new houses occurring since the preparation and submission of the previous application in December 2009.
- Modification arising as a result of the decision not to proceed with an intermediate substation (in the area to the west of Kingscourt) as part of this forthcoming application for approval of the Interconnection Development.
- Modifications arising from technical and environmental considerations during the re-evaluation process.

## EirGrid welcomes your views

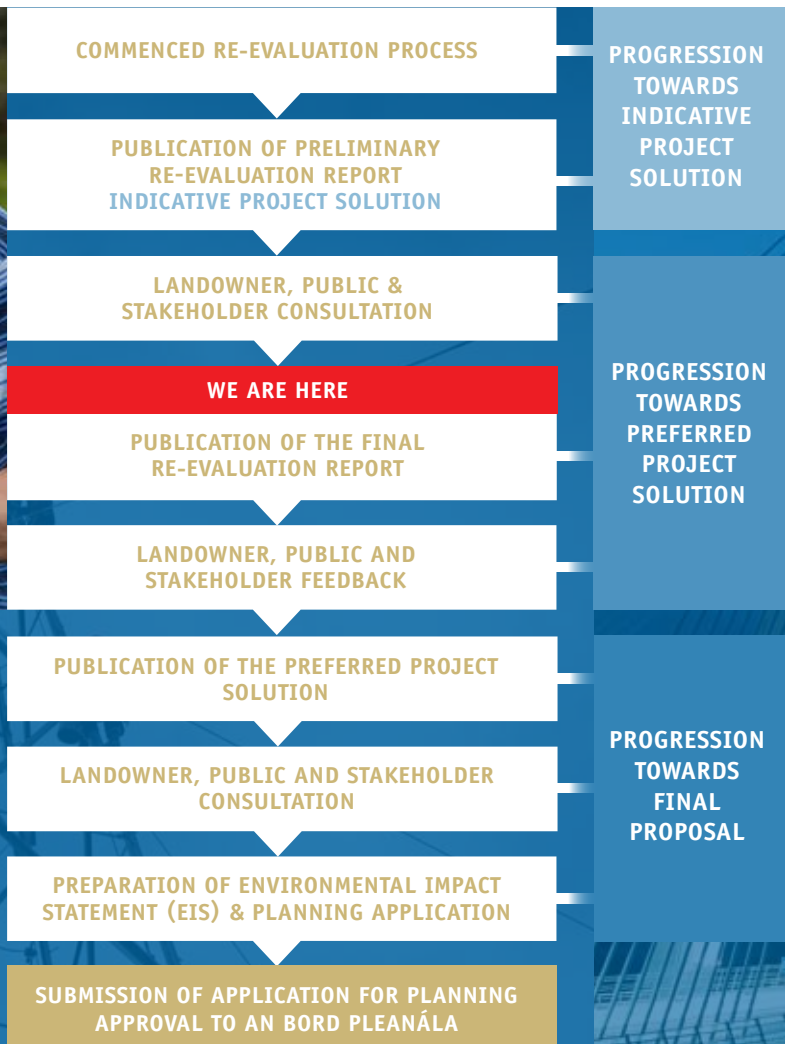
EirGrid is fully committed to engaging extensively with landowners, members of the public and other interested parties on all aspects of the project at any time. It is vital that everyone has an opportunity to provide feedback on the information presented and decisions that are made as the project progresses towards a planning application.

We encourage you to participate by writing to us, calling us, dropping into one of our information centres



## Progression towards a new application for statutory approval

The diagram opposite illustrates the process that will ultimately lead to the submission of a new application for planning approval of the project to An Bord Pleanála.





or attending a project open day in Meath, Cavan or Monaghan. We welcome your comments on the Final Re-evaluation Report and your views on whether all issues have been considered as part of the re-evaluation process. If not what other issues do you think EirGrid should consider?

All feedback and submissions will be reviewed and considered by the project team and where appropriate will be incorporated into later stages of the project. To enable this, all feedback should be received by Monday, May 27th 2013.

EirGrid is also seeking your feedback on how best to adopt community gain within transmission project developments and the Grid25 programme in general. You can give your views on community gain by contacting the project information service or using the dedicated feedback form attached to this brochure.

## What's happening now?

EirGrid is holding a series of information days on the project. We invite all interested members of the public and other stakeholders to attend these open days to meet with the project team, learn more about the project and give your feedback.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday April 23rd 2013	1pm – 8pm	<b>Town Hall</b> Cavan Town Co. Cavan
Wednesday April 24th 2013	1pm – 8pm	<b>Town Hall</b> Cavan Town Co. Cavan
Thursday April 25th 2013	1pm – 8pm	<b>The Workhouse</b> Shercock Road Carrickmacross Co. Monaghan
Friday April 26th 2013	1pm – 8pm	<b>The Workhouse</b> Shercock Road Carrickmacross Co. Monaghan
Monday April 29th 2013	1pm – 8pm	<b>Navan Education Centre</b> Athlumney, Navan Co. Meath
Wednesday May 1st 2013	1pm – 8pm	<b>Navan Education Centre</b> Athlumney, Navan Co. Meath

## What happens next?

Following the completion of this period of consultation, EirGrid will consider all feedback received before finalising its preferred project solution. The preferred project solution will be published in the coming months, which will be the subject of a further period of public consultation.

This consultation will focus on the:

- Preferred line design, this will include the line route, preferred structure and tower locations.
- Methodology for siting and construction of towers.
- Environmental issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).



# Feedback - Community Gain



The **Government Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure** published in July 2012 “underlines the imperative [...] and the appropriateness of building community gain consideration into project planning and budgeting and as an intrinsic part of the ongoing consultation with local communities and local authorities.”

EirGrid is currently considering how best to adopt community gain within transmission project development and the Grid25 programme in general. EirGrid is seeking your views on the following:

- Who** Who should receive community gain?  
Who should be included in the “community” on transmission projects?
- What** What initiatives should be eligible for community gain support ie. sports, arts, education?  
What do you define as “gain” for your community e.g. mitigation measures such as compensatory undergrounding\* or a fund for local community groups?
- When** At what point in a project should community gain be considered?  
At what point in a project should community gain be available?
- How** How should community gain be managed?  
How should community gain be distributed, what criteria should be used and who should define that criterion?

## Submit Your Views

You are welcome to submit your views on additional pages.

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**Return to :** c/o **Grid25 Manager**, Block 2, Floor 2, West Pier Business Campus, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

\* Compensatory undergrounding is the undergrounding of lower voltage lines in an area where an overhead high voltage circuit is planned.

## About EirGrid

EirGrid, a state-owned company, is the national operator of the electricity transmission grid.

The national transmission grid is an interconnected network of high voltage power lines and cables, comparable to the motorways, dual carriage ways and main roads of the national road network. It is operated at three voltage levels; 400kV, 220kV and 110kV and is approximately 6,400km in overall length within Ireland.

It is the backbone of Ireland's electricity system and is vital to ensuring that all industrial, commercial and residential customers from both rural and urban areas have a safe, secure, reliable, economic and efficient electricity supply.

## Contact Details

**Write:** c/o EirGrid NS Project Manager,  
Block 2, Floor 2, West Pier Business Campus,  
Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland.  
**Phone:** Lo-call **1890 25 26 90**  
(9am to 5pm Monday to Friday)

**Email:** [northsouth@eirgrid.com](mailto:northsouth@eirgrid.com)

**Website:** <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment>

### Visit Information Centres:

#### Navan

Every Tuesday from 12 noon to 7pm  
10a Kennedy House, Kennedy Road, Navan, Co. Meath.

#### Carrickmacross

Every Wednesday from 12 noon to 7pm  
Carrickmacross Workhouse, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross,  
Co. Monaghan.

#### Kingscourt

Every Thursday from 12 noon to 7pm  
Dun A Ri House Hotel, Station Road, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan.



# GRID25

DELIVERING IRELAND'S ELECTRICITY FUTURE

[www.eirgridprojects.com](http://www.eirgridprojects.com)

Grid25 is EirGrid's ongoing development plan to deliver a sustainable, competitive and secure electricity supply to homes, business and industries. Grid25 will also help us meet our target of 40% of our energy supply coming from sustainable Irish sources.