

# Memo

**To:** Diarmuid Collins, Senior Administrative Officer, PCI Unit

**From:** Des Johnson, Director of Planning

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014

**Re:** PCI 0001 North-South Electricity Interconnector

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I refer to your memorandum dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 informing that the project promoter for the proposed North-South Interconnector project in the Republic of Ireland (Eirgrid) submitted a draft application for the project under the administrative provisions of EU Regulation 347/2013, and requesting input of the Strategic Infrastructure Division into the examination of the draft application in respect of any 'missing' information. The submission of the draft application file by the project promoter is a mandatory requirement as part of the pre-application stage of the PCI permit granting process under the provisions of Article 10.4(c) of the Regulation.

I attach a report prepared by Philip Green, Assistant Director of Planning, dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014. His report is informed by a separate report by Conor McGrath, Senior Planning Inspector, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014. Mr Green had previously provided an opinion from a strategic infrastructure perspective on the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted as part of the application file, and Mr McGrath had prepared a scoping opinion on the information to be contained in an Environmental Impact Statement to be submitted with the proposed application. Mr Green examined the draft application submitted to determine if there is any 'missing' information when considered in the context of the opinion previously given, and which was conveyed to Eirgrid by the PCI Unit by letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014. You will note that Mr Green's report does identify 'missing' information.

Please note that the report prepared by Mr Green has regard to the provisions of the EU Regulation 347/2013 but offers no views on the planning merits or otherwise of the proposed development. The PCI process is administrative in nature. Any future application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála under the strategic infrastructure provisions of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, when a full assessment of the planning merits of the proposal will be undertaken

before a decision is made. This is a different process with different legislative provisions under which further information, which may be deemed necessary in order to make an informed decision, may be requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John J. ...', followed by the initials 'J.P.' to the right.

11<sup>th</sup> December 2014.