



# North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development Community Update May 2011



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**GRID25**  
DELIVERING IRELAND'S ELECTRICITY FUTURE

**EirGrid Commences  
Non Statutory Consultation**



# The Re-Evaluation Process

## Background and Context

EirGrid and Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) are jointly planning a cross-border project to facilitate sharing of electricity and to promote better competition. In addition EirGrid is seeking to improve the security of electricity supply throughout the north-east area.

EirGrid submitted an application to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) for the section of this project in the Republic of Ireland at the end of 2009 however that application was withdrawn in June 2010.

Since then, EirGrid has entered a process of re-evaluation in which the project has been thoroughly re-examined. This includes issues raised by stakeholders and the general public during the previous application process.

## What is Happening Now?

EirGrid has now published a Preliminary Re-Evaluation Report and is engaging in a six week period of non-statutory consultation providing all interested stakeholders with an opportunity to give feedback on the indicative project solution, before submitting a fresh application for planning approval to An Bord Pleanála.

## EirGrid would like to hear your views

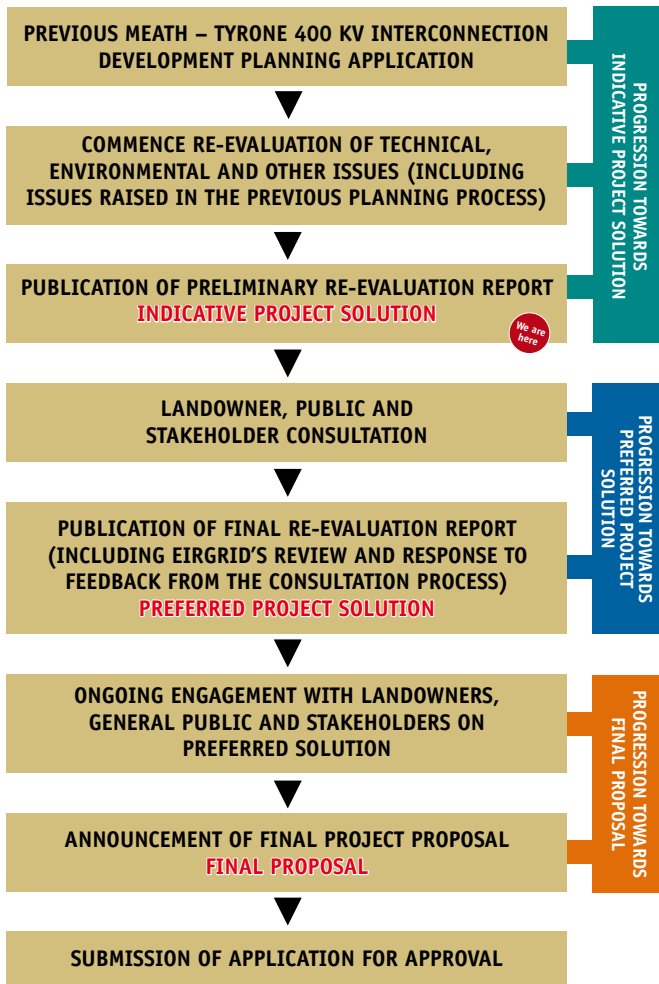
Please submit your views on the report or development to the Project Team by 17th June 2011. Consultation questions and a feedback form can be found in this brochure. The Preliminary Re-evaluation Report is available on [www.eirgrid.com](http://www.eirgrid.com) or by contacting the Project Team.





## Towards a New Planning Application

The diagram below illustrates the current re-evaluation process that will ultimately lead to the submission of a new application to ABP.



## Project Roadmap Definitions

### Indicative Project Solution

This project has a history of almost four years and a significant amount of research and public consultation has been carried out. This allows EirGrid to bring forward an indicative project solution which, unlike other projects, has the significant benefit of the information gathered and learnings from the previous planning process.

### Landowner, Public and other Stakeholder Consultation

EirGrid is holding a six week consultation, seeking feedback on the conclusions contained in the Preliminary Re-Evaluation Report, as well as any new insights on the project that interested stakeholders may have. This is an opportunity to make submissions or observations to EirGrid regarding the nature and location of the project.

### Preferred Project Solution

EirGrid will examine the feedback from the Landowner, Public and Stakeholder consultation and make a decision on whether to adopt (with any modifications) the 'Indicative Project Solution' as the 'Preferred' solution, or whether new information has come to light that requires additional technical and environmental evaluation.

## ...definitions continued

### **Ongoing Engagement with Affected Landowners, General Public and Other Stakeholders on Preferred Project Solution**

The terms of reference for the engagement with stakeholders will focus on the refinement of the 'Preferred' solution having regard to localised constraints and other criteria.

### **Final Proposal**

Following all of the environmental studies and stakeholder engagement, EirGrid will publish the final project proposal, which will form the basis for a new application to An Bord Pleanála.

## Report Findings

### **The Preliminary Re-evaluation Report documents the reassessment of high level issues that form the basis of this project. The report contains the following preliminary findings:**

**1.** There is still a clear and immediate need for enhanced interconnection with Northern Ireland. This will provide significant benefits for the people of Ireland:

- Improve competition in the electricity market;
- Improve security of supply; and
- Support the development of renewable power generation.

**2.** There remains a need to reinforce the transmission network in the north-east area of the Republic of Ireland.

**3.** The best technological solution for this project is a 400 kV Overhead Line (OHL), running from the existing Woodland Substation in Meath to the proposed Turleenan Substation in Tyrone.

**4.** Undergrounding of short sections of the line is feasible but no new areas that would warrant additional undergrounding have been identified to date.

**5.** The previously planned intermediate substation (in the vicinity of Kingscourt), is not now expected to be required within the next decade. This will therefore be subject to a separate application to An Bord Pleanála when that need arises.

**6.** Each of the previously identified route corridors remains viable as a routing option for the proposed Development.

**7.** Route 3B in the Meath Study Area and Route A in the Cavan-Monaghan Study Area remain the corridors that strike the best balance between all criteria. The indicative line route is broadly similar to the line proposed in the previous application (see map insert).





## Project Evolution

### What changes have been made to the project as a result of the Preliminary Re-evaluation Process?

The Preliminary Re-evaluation Report has reconfirmed most of the original conclusions for this project. However, some modifications have been made, which include:

- Removal of the previously proposed Moyhill Substation near Kingscourt and certain modifications associated with this;
- Local modification to avoid new houses.

## We Welcome Your Feedback

EirGrid is seeking feedback from all interested stakeholders on the findings of the Preliminary Re-evaluation Report, which is available at [www.eirgrid.com](http://www.eirgrid.com) and the project information centres (See details of location at the back of this brochure).

If you have any feedback on the findings in this report, EirGrid would like to hear your views. EirGrid is keen to learn of any new insights on aspects of the project before a new application for planning approval is submitted. Submissions will be recorded and considered by the project team as the project moves forward. The assessment and response to feedback

received as part of this process will be published with the Final Re-evaluation Report.

We would greatly appreciate your comments and views on the following key questions:

1. Has EirGrid considered all relevant criteria in determining that the optimum technical solution for this project is an overhead line? If not, what additional information should EirGrid consider or what viable, cost-effective, technically appropriate and environmentally-sensitive alternative would you suggest?
2. Have all environmental criteria been appropriately considered? Is there anything else that you think should be looked at?
3. Are there any other key issues that EirGrid should consider before submitting a new application to ABP.

There is a tear-off feedback form on the last page of this brochure. You can also provide feedback through email, on the phone line, or by meeting with a member of the project team.

A six week non-statutory consultation process will now commence; please submit your views to the Project Team by 17th June 2011.

# Contact Us

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

Phone: **Lo-Call 1890 25 26 90**  
(9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday)

Visit:

**Navan Information Centre**

10a Kennedy House,  
Kennedy Road,  
Navan,  
Co. Meath  
(Please note our new address)  
Open Tuesdays, 1:00 – 7:00 pm or by appointment

**Carrickmacross Information Centre**

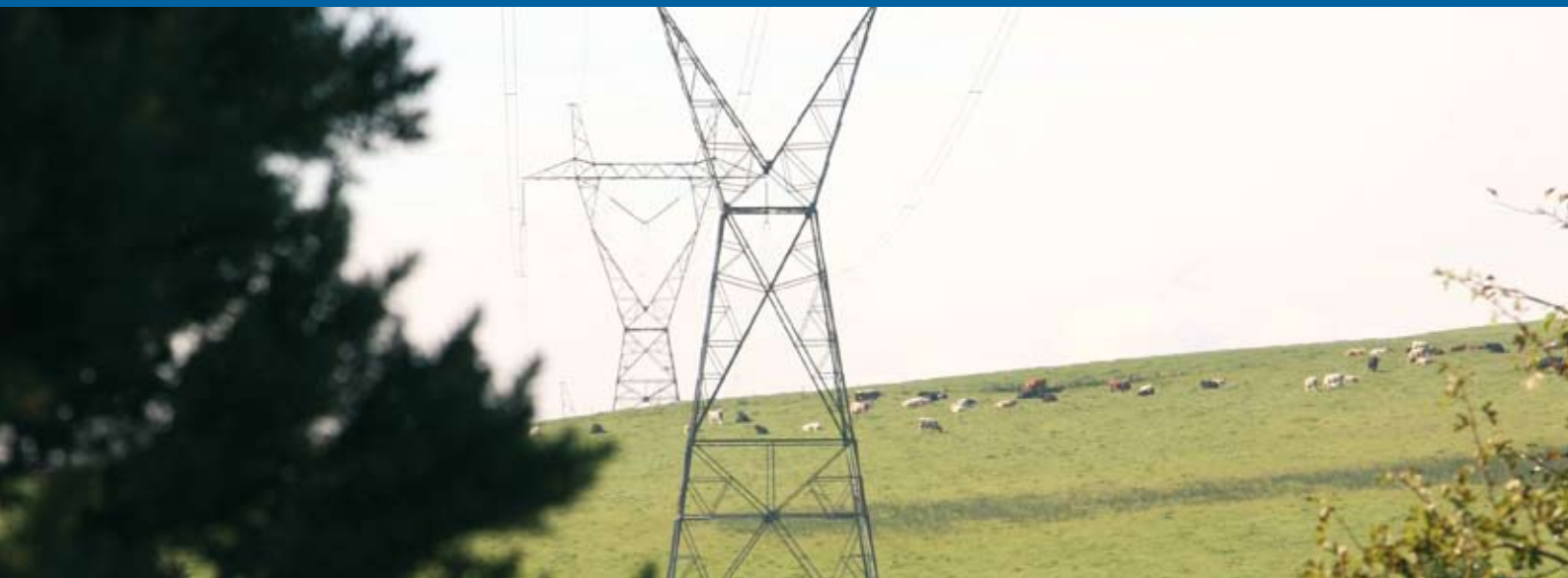
Carrickmacross Workhouse,  
Shercock Road,  
Carrickmacross,  
Co. Monaghan  
Open Wednesdays, 1:00 – 7:00 pm or by appointment

Web: [www.eirgrid.com](http://www.eirgrid.com)

Post:

**C/O EirGrid NS Project Manager**

West Pier Business Campus,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin,  
Ireland







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

Phone: **Lo-Call 1890 25 26 90**  
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