

TheOval,
160ShelbourneRoad,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin4.

160BótharShíolBhroin,
DroicheadnaDothra,
BaileÁthaCliath4.

TELEPHONE+353(0)16771700
FAX+353(0)16615375
E-MAILinfo@eirgrid.com

www.eirgrid.com

Mr. Diarmuid Collins,
Senior Administrative Officer,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

3rd June 2014

North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development.

Formal Notification under Article 10(1)(a) of Regulation 347/2013 of a Designated Project of Common Interest (PCI). PCI Ref. PCI001.

Dear Diarmuid,

In accordance with the provisions of Article 10(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No. 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repealing Decision No 1364/2006/EC and amending Regulations (EC) No 713/2009, (EC) No 714/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009, EirGrid, as project promoter, hereby formally notifies An Bord Pleanála, as designated Competent Authority for Projects of Common Interest (PCI), of the North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development project for the purpose of establishing the start of the permit granting process for this project.

The proposed transmission infrastructure development, is referenced in An Bord Pleanála's *Projects of Common Interest Manual of Permit Granting Process Procedures* (May 2014) as "North-South Electricity Interconnector (part of "Cluster"); the Union List Reference is confirmed in the *Manual* as 2.13.

Also in this regard, Part 1 of Annex 1 – *Energy Infrastructure Priority Corridors and Areas* - of Regulation (EU) No. 347/2013 identifies:-

"(2) North-South electricity interconnections in Western Europe ('NSI West Electricity'): interconnections between Member States of the region and with the Mediterranean area including the Iberian peninsula, notably to integrate electricity from renewable energy sources and reinforce internal grid infrastructures to foster market integration in the region.

Member States concerned: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Malta, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom;"



The proposed development has separately been the subject of pre-application consultation (now formally closed) between EirGrid and An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of Section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) – ABP Ref. VC0054 applies. EirGrid envisages that a consent is required for the project as a strategic infrastructure project and that such an application will be lodged with the Strategic Infrastructure Unit of An Bord Pleanála.

A separate parallel consenting process is currently being undertaken in Northern Ireland in respect of that portion of the overall Interconnector within that jurisdiction. This is being administered through the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland. The transitional provisions in Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No. 347/2013 apply to that part of the overall Interconnector within Northern Ireland. Other than the above, EirGrid does not currently anticipate that other Statutory permits/approvals and licenses, such as waste or foreshore licenses, are required to realise the proposed Interconnector Project per Ref. PCI001. However, this is without prejudice to the entitlement of EirGrid or other relevant/interested party, to apply for, seek and/or place reliance on any other permit, consent, licence or approval, whether under a particular statutory provision or otherwise, in the event that this should prove necessary and/or is required and/or desirable for the purposes of realising the North- South Interconnector Project.

Also in accordance with the provisions of Article 10(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No. 347/2013, please find enclosed a disc containing an electronic copy of the following documents and particulars in respect of the North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development, in fulfilment of the requirement to provide “a reasonably detailed outline of the project” for the purposes of this notification.

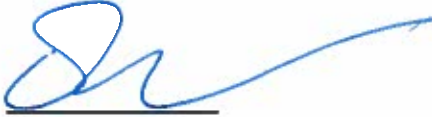
- *North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development Final Re-evaluation Report (April 2013) – including: Appendix A – Review of Issues Raised in Written Submissions to An Bord Pleanála and Presentations at the Oral Hearing in Respect of the Previous Application for Approval (An Bord Pleanála Reference VA0006); and Appendix B – Response to Submissions and Other Engagement arising during the Re-evaluation Process;*
- *North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development Preferred Project Solution Report (July 2013);*
- EIA Scoping Opinion received from An Bord Pleanála in respect of the proposed development;
- Various public and landowner consultation brochures published since 2010;
- Environmental Statement (ES), prepared by Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE), and included as part of a current planning application in respect of that portion of the Interconnection project within Northern Ireland;



Pursuant also to the provisions of Article 10(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No. 347/2013, EirGrid would be grateful to receive the Board's signed and dated acknowledgement (within the meaning of Article 10(1)(a)) of this formal written notification of a PCI project at its earliest convenience.

Please contact the undersigned in all correspondence relating to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Des Cox

Senior Co-ordinator, Public Planning and Consents,

EIRGRID plc

