



## Board Direction

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**Ref: PCI 0001 – North-South Electricity Interconnector  
Concept for Public Participation**

The documentation on this file, the report from PCI Unit and Inspector's Report to PCI Unit on the Concept for Public Participation were considered at a meeting of all available Board Members at a meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

In coming to its decision the Board had regard to the planning history of the project, the designation of the project as a Project of Common Interest under EU Regulation 347/2013, the decision by the Board that the project could not avail of the transitional provisions under that Regulation and the extensive consultation and participation process undertaken by the applicant before the start of this permit granting process and which the Board is obliged to take into account under Article 9.3 of the Regulation.

The Board was satisfied, generally in agreement with the report from PCI Unit, that the public participation concept as submitted by the applicant, subject to the modification herein specified, meets the requirements of the Regulation and complies with requirements set out in the Manual of Permit Granting Process published under Article 9 of the Regulation by An Bord Pleanála on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

In coming to this conclusion the Board was satisfied that the Public Participation Concept, as modified, would, in particular, meet the requirements of Articles 9.3 and 9.4 of the Regulation. The Board decided to request modification of the public participation concept.

The Board considered that the Public Participation Concept should be modified as follows:

- An information leaflet of no more than 15 pages should be published by the applicant containing, at a minimum, the following factual information:

- The history of the project to date;
  - Information regarding Regulation 347/2013;
  - The project status as a Project of Common Interest (PCI);
  - The main implications (benefits and obligations) arising from its status as a PCI;
  - Future project roadmap including an indicative date for lodgement of application under Section 182A of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2014 and indicating the opportunities for public participation at this stage;
- An advertisement or advertisements should be placed in two national newspapers (The Irish Times and Irish Independent ) notifying the public of the publication of this information brochure and drawing attention to the scope of the project, the status of the project as a PCI and an indicative date for lodgement of a planning application under Section 182A of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 – 2014.

The Board did not agree with the recommendation in the Report from PCI Unit that it was necessary to utilise television advertisements or further public meetings given the extensive consultation that had already taken place and the numbers of public meetings which had already been held.

The Board decided to request modification of the public participation concept.

Board Member:

Mary Kelly  
Mary Kelly

Date: September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014