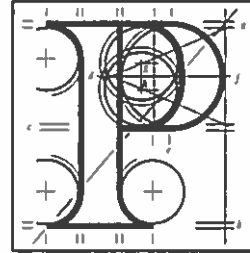



An Bord Pleanála



To: File

From:  Diarmuid Collins, Senior Administrative Officer.

Re: North-South Interconnector Project

Date: 29th September, 2014.

I spoke on the phone with Eirgrid, the project promoter, on 29th September in relation to the Overview on its project website. In "What is happening now?" it is stated that "On 10th September 2014 the CPP was approved, subject to a minor modification, by ABP."

I stated that the Regulation 347/2013 did not use the terminology "minor modification" and neither did the letter of 10th September refer to "minor modification".



Overview

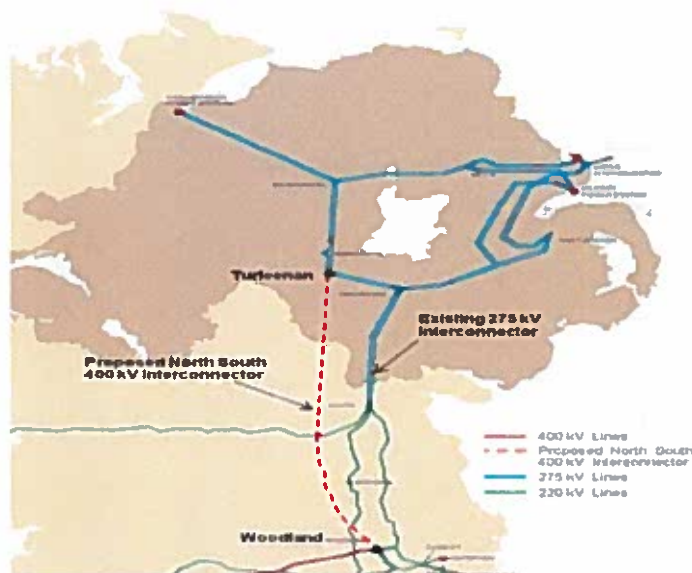
North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development (also known as the Meath-Tyrone 400 kV Interconnection Development)

Overview

This project summary is available to download in report format via the following link: [Project Summary Report](#)

What is it?

EirGrid and [SONI \(System Operator for Northern Ireland\)](#) are jointly proposing a new high capacity electricity interconnector between the electricity networks of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Currently there is only a single such interconnector between the two networks and a second interconnector is now proposed as shown on the map below.



The planning of that portion of the proposed interconnector within Northern Ireland was originally undertaken by NIE ([Northern Ireland Electricity](#)). However on 30th April 2014 the responsibility for the development in Northern Ireland was transferred to SONI. For details on the NI portion of the development please see [SONI project website](#).

Why is it being proposed?

The new interconnector will increase the capacity, and the reliability, of interconnection between the two networks. This will allow the two independent networks to operate together as if they were one system for the mutual benefit of residents and businesses in both jurisdictions.

The increase in interconnection capacity will effectively eliminate current restrictions in cross border support in the event of a shortage of electricity in one jurisdiction, thus enhancing the security of electricity supply throughout the island of Ireland.

Operating the two networks as if they were one system will bring cost savings for all electricity consumers as larger electricity systems can be operated more efficiently than smaller ones.

The increase in interconnection capacity will also facilitate further and greater connection of wind generation in both parts of the island which will help achieve Ireland's renewable energy targets.

What has happened recently?

The project has been designated as a Project of Common Interest (PCI) by the European Commission and is now subject to EU Regulation No. 347/2013 (the Regulation). An Bord Pleanála (ABP) has been designated as the competent authority for managing the PCI process in Ireland. The PCI Pre-application Process commenced on 02nd July 2014 and in accordance with the Regulation on 31st July 2014 EirGrid submitted a Concept for Public

Participation (CPP) to ABP. ABP then had three months within which it could either approve the CPP or requests modifications.

What is happening now?

On 10th September 2014 the CPP was approved, subject to a minor modification, by ABP. The approved CPP therefore consists of the modification by ABP and the CPP document prepared by EirGrid.

EirGrid will now prepare a draft application file (consisting of a draft application for planning approval and a draft Environmental Impact Statement) and will in due course submit this to ABP for approval. Only after the draft application file is approved by ABP will EirGrid then submit the final application to ABP. Before doing so EirGrid will publish the information leaflet required by ABP as part of the approved CPP.

For further information on the project, you may contact us in the following ways:

Write: c/o EirGrid NS Project Manager, Block 2, Floor, 2, West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland

Phone: Lo-call 1890 25 26 90

Email: northsouth@eirgrid.com

Website: <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kVinterconnectiondevelopment>

Make an appointment to visit our information centres:

Navan: 10a Kennedy House, Kennedy Road, Navan, Co. Meath

Carrickmacross: Carrickmacross Workhouse, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan

Kingscourt: Dun a Ri House Hotel, Station Road, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan