

# Record Of Meeting

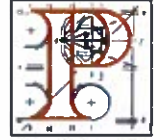
An Bord Pleanála



<b>Case Reference/ Description</b>	North-South 400kV Electricity Interconnector		
<b>Case Type:</b>	Project of Common Interest		
<b>1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting:</b>	7th Meeting		
<b>Date:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	<b>Start Time:</b>	12.00pm
<b>Location:</b>	The Offices of An Bord Pleanála	<b>End Time:</b>	1.00pm
<b>Chair of Meeting:</b>	Diarmuid Collins	<b>Executive Officer:</b>	Seamus Grant

<b>Attendees:</b>
<b>Representing Competent Authority, An Bord Pleanála, PCI Unit</b>
Diarmuid Collins, Senior Administrative Officer Seamus Grant, Executive Officer
<b>Representing Project Promoter</b>
Aidan Geoghegan, Project Manager, EirGrid Fergal McParland, Principal Engineer, EirGrid Deirdre Nagle, Solicitor, EirGrid

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## Introduction

The Competent Authority stated that there would remain segregation between the PCI process and the SID process within ABP, which would preclude staff members Diarmuid Collins, Seamus Grant and Philip Green from any involvement with the North-South application lodged under SID. It is not envisioned that PCI staff would meet with EirGrid for this period of time.

## Article 10.4(b) Schedule for Permit Granting Process

Article 10.4(b) of Regulation 347/2013 requires that a detailed schedule for the permit granting process be drawn up in close co-operation between the Competent Authority and the project promoter (EirGrid), in line with the guidelines set out in Annex VI(2).

The Competent Authority said it has been made aware that ABP (SID) is operating on the basis that there is a considerable amount of material to be submitted with the application and there is a lot of public interest and considerable public participation is expected and that the timescale being considered should reflect that. The guidelines require the specification of the following:

### **(a) The decisions and opinions to be obtained;**

An Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Development).

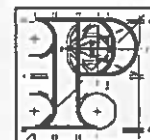
### **(b) The authorities, stakeholders and the public likely to be concerned;**

- Department of Environment Northern Ireland
- Meath County Council
- Cavan County Council
- Monaghan County Council
- An Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Division).

The "Stakeholders" are defined as in section 7 of the PCI Manual of Permit Granting Process Procedures. Your attention is also drawn to the list of prescribed bodies as provided to the prospective applicant at the pre-application consultation by An Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Development).

"The Public" is defined as in Article 2 of the (Aarhus) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

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**(c) The individual stages of the procedure and their duration;**

These are defined as the Pre-application Procedure and the Statutory Permit Granting Procedure as referred to in Article 10 of the Regulation 347/2013. The Pre-application Procedure is intended to be finished in early June 2015. The regulation allows 18 months for the Statutory Permit Granting Procedure, plus an additional 9 months extension to the deadline at the discretion of the Competent Authority. An Bord Pleanála (Competent Authority) does not envisage at this stage that this additional period permitted by Article 10.2 will be availed of.

**(d) Major milestones to be accomplished and their deadlines in view of the comprehensive decision to be taken;**

The major milestones identified are as follows:

1. Submission of the Application File to An Bord Pleanála (SID).
2. Public Comments, for a duration of ten weeks subsequent to the lodgement of the application file.
3. It is noted that a possibility for further information being sought by An Bord Pleanála (SID) must be allowed for.
4. There is a working assumption that an oral hearing will be held by An Bord Pleanála (SID).
5. The Strategic Infrastructure Development decision will take in excess of 12 months but is likely to be closer to 16 months in duration.
6. The PCI Comprehensive Decision will be taken within 18 months – An Bord Pleanála (Competent Authority) does not envisage at this stage that the 9 month extension period permitted by Article 10.2 will be availed of.

**(e) Resources planned by the authorities and possible additional resource needs;**

We have been advised that An Bord Pleanála (SID) has considered this and identified the required resources (Inspectorate and Administrative Support) and has put in place arrangements for the processing of the application.

**Next Steps in closure of pre-application procedure**

In the interests of public participation and transparency EirGrid is requested to put a copy of the letter to be issued outlining this detailed schedule on the North South Interconnector project website.

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The CA sees the process involving the transition of the project from the Pre-application stage to the Statutory Permit Granting stage as outlined below:

The expectation is that a complete PCI application file is to be submitted during the second week of June 2015.

The summary report on public participation activities as required by Article 9.4 of Regulation 347/2013 is to be submitted together with the application file to the Competent Authority.

The CA has requested that the project promoter submit at the same time a letter confirming that all outstanding information has been incorporated into the application.

A letter identifying significant changes (if any) to the original Draft Application file is also requested. Should the project promoter not regard any changes made as significant then no letter need be submitted.

An Bord Pleanála (Competent Authority) then proceeds to consider accepting the application under Article 10.4(c).

The Strategic Infrastructure Development application may then be lodged to the relevant body (An Bord Pleanála SID).

The PCI file contents will be placed on the An Bord Pleanála website for public access.

**Diarmuid Collins,  
Senior Administrative Officer**

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2015**