

| Case<br>Reference/<br>Description                             | North-South 400kV Electricity Interconnector |                    |              |
|---|--|--------------------|--------------|
| Case Type:  | Project of Common Interest                   |                    |              |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup><br>Meeting: | 3rd Meeting                                  |                    |              |
| Date:   | 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2014                | Start Time:        | 4.00pm       |
| Location:   | The Offices of An Bord Pleanala              | End Time:          | 5.00pm       |
| Chair of Meeting:   | Diarmuid Collins                             | Executive Officer: | Seamus Grant |

#### Attendees:

### Representing Competent Authority, An Bord Pleanála, PCI Unit

Diarmuid Collins, Senior Administrative Officer

Seamus Grant, Executive Officer

### Representing Project Promoter

Aidan Geoghegan, Project Manager, EirGrid

Fergal McParland, Principal Engineer, EirGrid

Des Cox, Principal Planner, EirGrid

Deirdre Nagle, Solicitor, EirGrid

Deborah Meghen, Manager HV Transmission Projects, EirGrid



#### Introduction

The Board's representatives welcomed the project promoter and introductions were made.

#### Scope of Material and Level of Detail of Information

The CA drew attention to the letter to EirGrid dated 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014, outlining the required scope of material and level of information to be submitted as part of the application file to apply for the comprehensive decision.

EirGrid noted this letter and asked if it would be necessary to submit a draft of the summary of public participation activities to be produced by Eirgrid in accordance with Article 9.4 of the PCI Regulation with the draft application. The CA said it did not see this as necessary. The role of the CA on receipt of the draft application file would be to see if there was any "missing information" in the context of Article 10.4(c) of the Regulation. The CA stated that there would be no assessment of the merits or otherwise of the draft application but examination of the draft would be restricted to looking at the completeness of the draft in the context of "missing information". The CA stated that when an application was made to An Bord Pleanála under the Planning and Development Act 2000, An Bord Pleanála would still have the ability to seek further information in relation to the application should that be required.

#### Public availability of file

CA stated that their intention was to make this PCI file available to the public which would include the draft application. This would also include the summary of public participation activities to be produced by Eirgrid in accordance with Article 9.4 of the PCI Regulation.

EirGrid stated that it would have no objection to the file being made publically available when the S.I. application was lodged or soon after the S.I. application was lodged as it regards this point as the end of the PCI pre-application procedure and it would avoid any confusion about the process.

#### **Draft Application**

The next stage is for Eirgrid to lodge the draft application.

EirGrid asked if it would be any problem if the application file should include alterations or additions not included with the draft application, should this be necessary. CA said it would be unreasonable not to allow this.



#### **Schedule for Permit Granting Process**

The CA and Eirgrid agreed that a detailed schedule for the permit granting process for this project could not be realistically drawn up without knowledge in relation to missing information; whether or not it would be required and what the extent of it might be should it be required. The CA noted that the modifications to the Concept for Public Participation required Eirgrid to give an indicative date to the public for lodgement of the S.I. application. The issue of any possible missing information was a delay to this.

#### AOB

#### Opportunities for Public Participation

The CA referred to its letter of 10/9/14 and referred to the information required to be made available to the public concerning opportunities for public participation in relation to the application that would be made under the Planning and Development Act 2000. For clarity it said that the following was relevant, and while no decision would be made on an oral hearing until the application was made, a working assumption that an oral hearing would be held should be made.

- Newspaper and site notices stating the plans, EIS and NIS would be available to the public.
- Written submissions/observations would be invited from the public on the implications for proper planning and sustainable development, the likely effects on the environment and the likely effects on a European site if the proposed development is carried out.
- Oral Hearing will be held (working assumption). The public can directly address the oral hearing and participate in the process.

#### Project Website

CA stated it wished to remind Eirgrid that the EirGrid project website and the SI website should be two separate websites. EirGrid noted this.



CA drew attention to the Manual of Procedures having been updated in September 2014.

Diarmuid Collins,

**Senior Administrative Officer** 

October 2014