

Memo

To: Diarmuid Collins, Senior Administrative Officer

From: Des Johnson, Director of Planning

Re: PCI0001 North-South Electricity Interconnector - Scoping

Date: 9th October 2014

I refer to your written request dated 15th September 2014 for the input of the Strategic Infrastructure Section to identify the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted by Eirgrid in relation to a proposed strategic infrastructure planning application.

Please find attached report prepared by Phil Green, ADP. This has been prepared having regard to the pre-application consultations which took place under the strategic infrastructure provisions of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, in respect of the proposed North-South Interconnector project sited within the Republic of Ireland, and also the written opinion, issued on 11th December 2013, on the information to be contained in the environmental impact statement in respect of the same project.

Mr Green's report (paragraph 3.5, 2nd bullet point) refers to "background and continuing need for proposed development". This issue was discussed in pre-application consultations with the prospective applicant under the strategic infrastructure process; these consultations commenced in November 2010 and were completed in February 2014. Under Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 the proposed project is listed on the Union list as a '*project of common interest*' and you should note that Article 7 of this Regulation refers to 'priority status' to such projects and states "the adoption of the Union list shall establish, for the purposes of any decisions issued in the permit granting process, the necessity of these projects from an energy policy perspective, without prejudice to the exact location, routing or technology of the project". As such, it appears to me that the necessity for the project from an energy policy perspective is established under the Regulation.

You will note that Mr Green's report outlines the requirements for information to be submitted with any future application under the strategic infrastructure provisions of the 2000 Act. The project promoter (Eirgrid) should be informed of these together with any specific requirements arising from Regulation (EU) No 347/2013.