

Ann Cunningham,
Felling Section,
Forest Service,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford,

Date: 22nd March, 2019

Re: PCI 1.6 'Celtic Interconnector' Project

Dear Ann,

On 24th December, 2018, EirGrid plc (Project Promoter) notified An Bord Pleanála (Competent Authority) of the 'Celtic Interconnector' project in accordance with Article 10.1(a) of Regulation (EU) 347/2013.

Article 10.1(a) of the Regulation provides that An Bord Pleanála (Competent Authority) shall, including on behalf of other authorities concerned, acknowledge or, if it considers the project as not mature enough to enter the permit granting process, reject the notification. A three-month period was provided for this.

Accordingly, as Competent Authority we inform you that the project is considered mature enough to enter the Permit Granting Process under Chapter III of EU Regulation No. 347/2013. Please note that the date of signature of this acknowledgement of the notification by the competent authority, March 21st, 2019, shall serve as the start of the permit granting process.

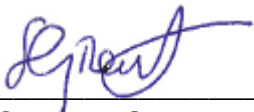
We have made Eirgrid aware of their obligation under per Article 9(3) of the regulation that they shall, within an indicative period of three months to the start of the permit granting process

pursuant to Article 10.(1)(a), draw up and submit a concept for public participation to the competent authority.

Article 10.4(a) & (b) of the Regulation provides that An Bord Pleanála (Competent Authority) shall “identify, in close cooperation with the other authorities concerned... the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted by the project promoter... (and) a detailed schedule for the permit granting process”.

We will contact you in the next few weeks to begin to organise this process.

Yours sincerely,



Seamus Grant,
Executive Officer,
PCI Unit.