

Celtic Interconnector



Volume 0: PCI Process Overview Report

An Bord Pleanála Reference: PCI0003

April 2021

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1 Introduction and Context

1.1 Introduction and Context

The European Union through a decision made on 14 October 2013, recognised the ‘France-Ireland Interconnector’ as being a Project of Common Interest (PCI) No. 1.6 for the North Seas Countries Offshore Grid Initiative (‘NSCOGI’) priority corridor under *Regulation (EU) No. 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repealing Decision No. 1364/2006/EC and amending Regulations (EC) No 713/2009, (EC) No 714/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009*, hereafter, ‘the TEN-E Regulation’. This PCI status for what is now known as the Celtic Interconnector project has been renewed on a bi-annual basis since 2013.

In Ireland, EirGrid plc (EirGrid) was notified on 21 March 2019 that the project was mature enough to enter the PCI permit granting process. The permit granting process commences with the date of acceptance of the last notification by the Competent Authority which in this instance is 31 January 2020, as this is the date when the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in the UK, who are the competent authority for the purpose of the PCI process for that part of the overall Celtic Interconnector project within the UK jurisdiction, accepted the project into the PCI process.

The Celtic Interconnector is a proposed electrical link which will enable the movement of electricity between Ireland and France and will be the first direct energy link between the two countries, running from the south coast of Ireland to the north-west coast of France. The Celtic Interconnector Project (An Bord Pleanála Ref. No. PCI0003) is currently nearing the end of the pre-application phase of the Project of Common Interest (PCI) process.

1.2 Progress to date on completing the Pre-Application Procedure

The pre-application requirements that concern this PCI Project have been completed in accordance with the provisions of the TEN-E Regulation. In summary, the procedural requirements which have been completed in Ireland comprise:

- Article 9(7): Establish and update a website linked to the Commission website. This is available at <https://www.celticinterconnector.eu>.
- Article 9(3): Within 3 months of Article 10(1)(a), submit Concept of Public Participation (CPP) to 3 CAs in line with Annex VI. This is available at: <https://www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/projects/celtic-interconnector/related-documents/index.xml> and appended to this Report.
- Article 9(4) and 9(5): Carry out at least 1 public consultation within no more than 2 months in each Member State concerned. In addition to other public consultation undertaken by EirGrid in respect of the development of the project, this public consultation occurred in June and August 2020; in the UK this occurred in June and July 2020 and in France this occurred in July 2020.

Comment [A1]: Appendix to be included in Final Application File

- Article 10(1)(a): Submit Notification Document to all 3 Competent Authorities (CAs). This is available at: <http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/Celtic-Interconnector-Project-Pre-Application-Notification-from-EirGrid-to-Competent-Authority.pdf> and appended to this Report.
- Article 10(4)(a): The CA shall identify, in close cooperation with other CAs, the scope of material and level of detail to be submitted. By email correspondence dated 29 March 2021 ABP PCI Unit confirmed that this requirement was completed.
- Article 10(4)(b): The CA shall draw up, in close cooperation with the project promoters and other authorities concerned, a detailed schedule for the permit granting process in line with Annex VI.(2). By email correspondence dated 22 April 2021 ABP PCI Unit confirmed that this requirement was completed.
- Article 10(4)(b): For projects crossing the border between two or more Member States, the CAs of the Member States concerned shall prepare a joint schedule, in which they endeavor to align their timetables. By email correspondence dated 28 April 2021 ABP PCI Unit confirmed that this requirement was completed.
- Article 10(4)(c): The Draft Application File (DAF) shall be submitted to the relevant CAs. This Volume 0 document comprises part of the DAF submission.

Comment [A2]: Appendix to be included in Final Application File

The project promoters are targeting that the requirements of Article 10(1)(b), which is the date that the final application file will be accepted, will occur in June 2021.

1.3 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to address the Checklist requirements of Section 4.2.2 of the Projects of Common Interest Manual of Permit Granting Process Procedures (PCI Manual) prepared by An Bord Pleanála. As illustrated in Figure 1.1, Section 4.2.2 of the PCI Manual sets out the list of documents / information that must be submitted as part of the application file for the comprehensive decision.

This report outlines the various consent applications that are required in order to enable the Competent Authority in Ireland (the PCI Unit of An Bord Pleanála) to issue a comprehensive decision in relation to the Celtic Interconnector Project.

Figure 1.1: Checklist contained in Section 4.2.2 of Manual of Permit Granting Process**4.2.2 Checklist**

The following is a checklist of documents to be submitted as part of the application file for the comprehensive decision.

- Schedule of permits/consents required to realise the project.
- Letter confirming that the project promoter has included details of all permits/consents that are required to realise the project in the Schedule.
- Provision of contact details for each of the relevant consenting authorities.
- Document detailing all the information and plans and particulars that are required for each separate application for consent required to issue the comprehensive decision.
- Details of any documents such as reports or surveys that are incomplete together with an estimated timeline for completion.
- A schedule of the intended dates for lodgement of all the relevant applications for consent required.
- Contact details for the project promoter.

2 Schedule of Permits / Consents Required, Associated Confirmation Letter and Contact Details for Consent Authorities

2.1 Schedule of Permits / Consents Required to Realise the Project

The Checklist (1st bullet point) requires the provision of a schedule of permits / consents that are required to realise the project. Table 2.1 sets out the details of those consents and authorisations that are considered by EirGrid to facilitate the progression of the project into the construction phase.

Table 2.1: Primary Consents Required for the Celtic Interconnector Project

Ref.	Consenting Authority	Name of Consent / Notice / Licence	Name and Contact Details of Consenting Authority
1	An Bord Pleanála	Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Grant of Planning Approval	Kieran Somers, Executive Officer, SID Unit, An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V90 k.somers@pleanala.ie Tel: (01) 873 7250
2	Foreshore Unit	Foreshore Licence	Nina Murray, Principal Officer, Foreshore Unit, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Newtown Road, Wexford, Y35 AP90 nina.murray@housing.gov.ie Tel: (053) 911 7332
3	Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU)	Authorisation to Construct an Interconnector	Róisín Cullinan, Licensing Manager, The Grain House, The Exchange, Belgard Square North, Cookstown, Dublin 24, D24 PXW0 rcullinan@cru.ie Tel: 00 353 (0)1 4000 800
		Consent to Lay Electric Cables	Harry Molloy, Analyst, CRU, The Exchange, Belgard Square North, Cookstown, Dublin 24, D24 PXW0 hmolloy@cru.ie Tel: (01) 4000 800

2.2 Letter Confirming that the Project Promoter has included Details of all Consents Required

As is required by the Checklist (2nd bullet point), please refer to Appendix A which contains a letter confirming that the project promoter (EirGrid plc) has included details of all permits / consents that are required to realise the project in the Schedule.

2.3 Contact Details for Each Relevant Consenting Authority

As is required by the Checklist (3rd bullet point), please refer to Table 2.1 which sets out the contact details for each of the relevant consenting authorities.

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3 Details of All Information, Plans and Particulars Required for Each Separate Application for Consent

3.1 Contents of Celtic Interconnector Draft Application File

There are 3 primary consents / authorisations required to realise the proposed development, namely; a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) consent for the onshore infrastructure; a Foreshore Licence for the offshore infrastructure and Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) consents / authorisations for the regulatory aspects of the project.

Table 3.1 sets out the details of those 3 consents / authorisations. The Draft Application File (DAF) contains Volumes 1-9 in their entirety.

Table 3.1: Contents of Draft Application File for the Celtic Interconnector

Consents	Volumes	No.	Contents
1. Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Application:	Volume 1	1A	Statutory Particulars
		1B	Planning Drawings
	Volume 2	2A	Planning Report
		2B	Public and Landowner Consultation Report
	Volume 3	3A	Non-Technical Summary (NTS) for Ireland Onshore**
		3C	Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for Ireland Onshore**
	Volume 4		Environmental Report for UK Offshore*and **
	Volume 5		Joint Environmental Report (JER)
	Volume 6	6A	Onshore Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for Ireland (including in-combination effects) **
	2. Foreshore Licence Application:	Volume 3	3B
3D			EIAR for Ireland Offshore*
Volume 4			Environmental Report for UK Offshore*and **
Volume 5			Joint Environmental Report (JER)
Volume 6		6B	Offshore NIS for Ireland (including in-combination effects)*
Volume 7		7A	Statutory Particulars
		7B	Foreshore Licence Drawings
Volume 8		8A	Planning and Consultation Report
	8B	Marine Strategy Framework Directive Assessment	
		8C	Water Framework Directive Assessment
3. CRU Consent Applications:	Volume 9	9A	Draft Application Form under Section 16(1)(b) of the 1999 Act for Authorisation to Construct an Interconnector
			Draft Application under Section 48 of the 1999 Act for Consent to Lay Electric Cables Applications
		9B	Draft Application under Section 49 of the 1999 Act for Consent to Lay Electric Cables Applications
Notes:			
* This is proposed to be submitted as part of the SID Application for information purposes.			
** This is proposed to be submitted as part of the Foreshore Licence Application for information purposes.			

3.2 Information Required for Each Separate Application for Consent

As required by the Checklist (4th bullet point), the information and plans and particulars required for each separate application for consent required to issue the comprehensive decision in Ireland are set out as follows:

- Table 3.2 concerns the SID Application required for the onshore elements of the project;
- Table 3.3 concerns the Foreshore Licence Application required for the offshore elements of the project; and,
- Table 3.4 concerns the Draft CRU Consent Applications required for the authorisation and licensing of electricity interconnectors. It is proposed that Volume 9A will be submitted to the CRU for processing in January 2022 and Volume 9B will be submitted to the CRU for processing in April / May 2022.

Please note that in the interest of enabling the SID Unit and the Foreshore Unit to have a holistic understanding of the proposed development, reference particulars that concern areas outside of their jurisdiction are included as part of the contents of these consent applications.

Table 3.2: Contents of SID Consent Application

Consents	Volumes	No.	Contents	
1. SID Application - Main Particulars:	Volume 1	1A	Statutory Particulars	
		1B	Planning Drawings	
	Volume 2	2A	Planning Report	
		2B	Public and Landowner Consultation Report	
	Volume 3	3A	NTS for Ireland Onshore	
		3C	EIAR for Ireland Onshore (including cumulative and transboundary effects)	
	Volume 5		JER	
	Volume 6	6A	Onshore NIS (including in-combination effects)	
	- Reference Particulars:	Volume 3	3B	NTS for Ireland Offshore (for information)
			3D	EIAR for Ireland Offshore (for information)
Volume 4			Environmental Report for UK Offshore (for information)	
Volume 6		6B	Offshore NIS (for information)	

Table 3.3: Contents of Foreshore Licence Consent Application

Consents	Volumes	No.	Contents
Foreshore Licence Application - Main Particulars:	Volume 3	3B	NTS for Ireland Offshore
		3D	EIAR for Ireland Offshore (including cumulative and transboundary effects)
	Volume 5		JER
	Volume 6	6B	Offshore NIS (including in-combination effects)
	Volume 7	7A	Statutory Particulars
		7B	Drawings
	Volume 8	8A	Planning Report

Consents	Volumes	No.	Contents
		8B	Marine Strategy Framework Directive Assessment
		8C	Water Framework Directive Assessment
- Reference Particulars:	Volume 3	3A	NTS for Ireland Onshore (for information)
		3C	EIAR for Ireland Onshore (for information)
	Volume 4		Environmental Report for UK Offshore (for information)
	Volume 6	6A	Onshore NIS (for information)

Table 3.4: Contents of Draft CRU Consent Applications

Consents	Volumes	No.	Contents
Draft CRU Consent Applications:	Volume 9	9A	Draft Application Form under Section 16(1)(b) of the Electricity Regulation Act ¹ for Authorisation to Construct an Interconnector
		9B	Draft Application Form under Section 48 of the Electricity Regulation Act for Consent to Lay Electric Cables
			Draft Application Form under Section 49 of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 for Consent to Lay Electric Cables

3.3 Detailed Description of All of the Information, Plans and Particulars Required for Each Separate Application for Consent

The key documents for the SID Application include an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the Ireland Onshore elements of the application. The key documents for the Foreshore Licence Application are an EIAR and an NIS for the Ireland Offshore elements of the proposal.

The Joint Environmental Report (JER) provides an end-to-end environmental appraisal of the proposed development. The JER has been written in accordance with the European Commission's 'Guidance of the Application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure for Large Scale Transboundary Projects'¹ (EC Guidance). In accordance with the EC Guidance, the JER was prepared in advance of the individual national reports.

The following sub-sections set out a more detailed account of the contents of Volumes 1-9 of the DAF.

3.3.1 Contents of the Statutory Particulars for the SID Application (Volume 1)

Volume 1 contains the statutory particulars for the SID Application. Table 3.5 sets out the contents of Volume 1A and Volume 1B.

Table 3.5: Contents of Statutory Particulars and Planning Drawings (Volume 1)

Consents	Ref.	Contents
Statutory Particulars: Volume 1A	1	Standard Cover Letter for the Application
	2	SID Application Form
	3	Letters of Consent
	4	Site Notice

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/Transboundry%20EIA%20Guide.pdf>

Consents	Ref.	Contents
	5	Newspaper Notices
	6	List of Prescribed Bodies
	7	Drawings Schedules
	8	Details of Pre-Application Consultation Meetings
	9	Confirmation of EIA Portal
Planning Drawings: Volume 1B	1	Site Layout Plans and Site Location Maps
	2	HVDC Cable Drawings
	3	Converter Station Drawings
	4	HVAC Cable Drawings
	5	Knockraha Substation Drawings

3.3.2 Contents of the Key Reports to support the SID Application (Volume 2)

Volume 2 contains two key Reports to support the SID Application, namely a Planning Report (Volume 2A) and a Public and Landowner Consultation Report (Volume 2B). Table 3.6 sets out the contents of Volume 2A and Volume 2B.

Table 3.6: Contents of Key SID Reports (Volume 2)

Consents	Chapter No.	Contents
Planning Report: Volume 2A	1	Introduction
	2	The Proposed Development
	3	Legislative Context for the Irish Onshore Proposal
	4	Planning Policy Context
	5	Social and Community
	6	Planning Appraisal
	7	Conclusion
Public and Landowner Consultation Report: Volume 2B	1	Introduction and Overview
	2	Context for Public, Stakeholder and Landowner Engagement
	3	Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement
	4	Landowner Consultation and Engagement
	5	Public Participation Methods and Activities
	6	Nature and Feedback Received and Impact of Public Participation on Project Development
	7	The Impact of Feedback Received
	8	Additional Activities
	9	Conclusions
	Appendices	

3.3.3 Contents of the EIAR for Ireland Onshore (Volume 3C)

Volume 3A concerns the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the EIAR for Ireland Onshore. Table 3.7 sets out the contents of the EIAR for Ireland Onshore (Volume 3C). The contents of this EIAR and the order of the chapters have been informed by pre-application consultation with the SID Unit of An Bord Pleanála.

Table 3.7: Contents of the EIAR for Ireland Onshore (Volume 3C)

Consents	Chapter No.	Contents
Introductory Chapters: Volume 3C1	1	Introduction
	2	Project Need
	3	Project Description Overview
	4	EIAR Methodology
		Appendices
Technical Chapters: Volume 3C2	5	Alternatives Considered
	6	Description of the Onshore Development
	7	Onshore Construction Phase Activities
	8	Population and Human Health
	9	Air Quality and Climate
	10	Land, Soils and Hydrogeology
	11	Surface Water including Flood Risk
	12	Biodiversity
	13	The Landscape
	14	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
	15	Roads and Traffic
	16	Material Assets
	17	Noise and Vibration
	18	Major Accidents and / or Disasters
	19	Interaction of Effects
	20	Summary of Cumulative Effects and Transboundary Effects
	21	Summary of Monitoring and Mitigation Measures
		References
		Appendices

Comment [A3]: This chapter numbering will be included in the Final Application File. It may differ from that contained in the Draft Application File.

3.3.4 Contents of the EIAR for Ireland Offshore (Volume 3D)

Volume 3B concerns the NTS of the EIAR for Ireland Offshore. Table 3.8 sets out the contents of the EIAR for Ireland Offshore (Volume 3D). The contents of this EIAR have been informed by pre-application consultation with the Foreshore Unit.

Table 3.8: Contents of the EIAR for Ireland Offshore (Volume 3D)

Consents	Chapter No.	Contents
Introductory Chapters: Volume 3D1	1	Introduction
	2	Project Need
	3	Project Overview
	4	EIAR Methodology
		Appendices
Technical Chapters: Volume 3D2	5	Description of the Landfall
	6	Description of the Offshore Cable
	7	Alternatives

Consents	Chapter No.	Contents
	8	Population and Human Health
	9	Air Quality and Climate
	10	Marine Sediments Quality
	11	Marine Physical Processes
	12	Marine Water Quality
	13	Biodiversity
	14	Seascape and Landscape
	15	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
	16	Material Assets
	17	Noise and Vibration
	18	Shipping and Navigation
	19	Commercial Fisheries
	20	Major Accidents and Disasters
	21	Summary of Transboundary and Cumulative Impacts
	22	Summary of Monitoring and Mitigation
	23	Interaction of Effects
		Appendices

3.3.5 Contents of the UK Environmental Report (ER) / Volume 4

Table 3.9 sets out the contents of the UK ER (Volume 4). The content of the ER has been informed by pre-application consultation that has taken place with the Competent Authority in the UK.

Table 3.9: Contents of UK ER (Volume 4)

Chapter No.	Contents
	UK Environmental Report Non-Technical Summary
1	Introduction
2	Relevant Policy and Legislation
3	PCI Application and Marine Licence Application Content
4	Consultation Approach
5	Project Description
6	Consideration of Alternatives
7	Assessment Approach
8	Technical Scope of the Environmental Report
9	Population and Human Health
10	Air Quality and Climate
11	Marine Sediment Quality
12	Marine Physical Processes
13	Marine Water Quality
14	Biodiversity
15	Seascape and Landscape

Chapter No.	Contents
16	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
17	Material Assets
18	Noise and Vibration
19	Shipping and Navigation
20	Commercial Fisheries
21	Major Accidents and Disasters
22	Summary of Monitoring and Mitigation
	Appendices

3.3.6 Contents of the Joint Environmental Report (JER) / Volume 5

Table 3.10 sets out the contents of the JER (Volume 5). The JER document in either the English or French language is the same document for all three jurisdictions.

Table 3.10: Contents of JER / Volume 5

Chapter No.	Contents
1	Introduction
2	Project Description
3	Alternatives Approach
4	The Terrestrial Project in Ireland
5	The Terrestrial Project in France
6	Offshore Project
7	Impact Assessment

3.3.7 Contents of the Onshore NIS (Volume 6A)

Table 3.11 sets out the contents of the Onshore NIS (Volume 6A).

Table 3.11: Contents of Onshore NIS (Volume 6A)

Chapter No.	Contents
1	Introduction
2	Screening for Appropriate Assessment
3	Natura Impact Statement
4	References
	Appendices

3.3.8 Contents of the Offshore NIS (Volume 6B)

Table 3.12 sets out the contents of the offshore NIS (Volume 6B).

Table 3.12: Contents of Offshore NIS / Volume 6B

Chapter No.	Contents
1	Introduction

Chapter No.	Contents
2	Screening for Appropriate Assessment
3	Natura Impact Statement
4	Summary Statement
5	References
	Appendices

3.3.9 Contents of the Statutory Particulars for the Foreshore Licence Application (Volume 7)

Volume 7 contains the statutory particulars for the Foreshore Licence Application. Table 3.13 sets out the contents of Volume 7A and Volume 7B.

Table 3.13: Contents of Statutory Particulars for Foreshore Licence Application

Consents	Ref.	Contents
Statutory Particulars: Volume 7A	1	Standard Cover Letter for the Application
	2	Foreshore Licence Application Form
	3	Certified Copy of Memorandums and Articles of Association
	4	Certificate of Incorporation
	5	Newspaper Notices
Foreshore Licence Drawings: Volume 7B	1	Irish Shore Approach and Landfall at Claycastle Option 1 Phase One
	2	Irish Shore Approach and Landfall at Claycastle Option 1 Phase Two
	3	Irish Shore Approach and Landfall at Claycastle Option 2 Phase One
	4	Irish Shore Approach and Landfall at Claycastle Option 2 Phase Two
	5	Foreshore Licence Map 1
	6	Foreshore Licence Map 2
	7	Irish Shore Approach and Landfall at Claycastle Typical Section

3.3.10 Contents of the Key Reports to support the Foreshore Licence Application (Volume 8)

Volume 8 contains three key Reports to support the Foreshore Licence Application, namely a Planning and Consultation Report (Volume 8A), a Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Assessment (Volume 8B) and a Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment (Volume 8C). Table 3.14 sets out the contents of Volume 8A, 8B and 8C.

Table 3.14: Contents of Key Reports to support Foreshore Licence Application (Volume 8)

Consents	Chapter No.	Contents
Planning and Consultation Report: Volume 8A	1	Introduction
	2	Planning Policy
	3	Consultation
	4	References

Consents	Chapter No.	Contents
		Appendices
MSFD Assessment: Volume 8B	1	Background
	2	MSFD Status in Irish Waters
	3	Approach to MSFD Assessment
	4	MSFD Assessment
	5	Summary
	6	References
WFD Assessment Volume 8C	1	Background
	2	Assessment Method
	3	Project Description
	4	Stage One: Screening
	5	Stage Two: Scoping
	6	Stage Three: Detailed WFD Assessment
	7	References
		Appendices

3.3.11 Contents of Draft CRU Consent Applications (Volume 9)

Volume 9 contains three Draft CRU Consent Applications. The reason for which these three Applications are being submitted as Draft Applications is due to the fact that Volume 9A won't be applied for until January 2022 and Volume 9B won't be applied for until April / May 2022. Table 3.15 sets out the contents of Volume 9A and 9B.

Table 3.15: CRU Consent Applications

Consents	No.	Contents
Draft CRU Consent Applications: Volume 9	9A	Draft Application Form under Section 16(1)(b) of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999, as amended (hereafter, the 'Electricity Regulation Act') for Authorisation to Construct an Interconnector
	9B	Draft Application Form under Section 48 of the Electricity Regulation Act for Consent to Lay Electric Cables
		Draft Application Form under Section 49 of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 for Consent to Lay Electric Cables

4 Details of any Documents that are Incomplete / Omitted and Estimated Time for Completion

4.1 Details of any Documents that are Incomplete / Omitted and Estimated Time for Completion

While the DAF that has been submitted is complete as possible at this juncture, as is required by the Checklist (5th bullet point), Table 4.1 contains details of documents that are incomplete and / or have for good reason not included in the DAF. As required by the Checklist (6th bullet point), it also includes an estimated time for completion. Please note that:

- The reason for which statutory particulars such as application fees, the EIA portal confirmation, final newspaper notices, etc. are not included is due to the fact that these particulars will only be generated in June 2021 in time for submission of the Final Application File (FAF). At the time of writing, the schedule of prescribed bodies to which notification was sent has yet to be agreed with the SID Unit of An Bord Pleanála. Having particular regard to the omission of the applications fees we note that the PCI Manual of Procedures (p. 21) states that:

“Any fee or deposit required to be lodged with any of the applications should also be stated for examination purposes though the fee or deposit itself should not be included. Such fees are payable directly to the relevant authorities. There is no fee payable to the Competent Authority in respect of a Project of Common Interest.”

- NB: Placeholders have been added to the text of the DAF throughout all relevant documents to explain where specific additional details will be added in for submission of the FAF. This will occur in addition to all other general text and information updates.** In this specific instance, we wish to highlight that, as set out in Article 10(5) of the TEN-E Regulation, the purpose of the submission of the DAF in advance of the submission of the FAF is to ensure the completeness and adequate quality of the application file, rather than being concerned with specific details contained within the DAF consenting documentation. This understanding has also been confirmed during pre-application consultation between EirGrid and the PCI Unit of An Bord Pleanála.

Table 4.1: Details of any documents that are incomplete and / or omitted and estimated time for completion

Consents	Vol.	Contents	Estimated timeline for completion
1. SID Application - Main Particulars:	1A	<p>The following Statutory Particulars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Cover Letter for the Application SID planning application fee of €100,000 Schedule of prescribed bodies to whom notification was sent SID project specific website address EIA portal confirmation 	Submission of the FAF*

Consents	Vol.	Contents	Estimated timeline for completion
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final newspaper notices The following landowner letters of consent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter of Consent from CIE Letter of Consent from TII 	
	1B	The following planning drawings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detail options of the landfall point. Detail of typical HDD compound, construction compound and construction laydown area. 	Submission of the FAF*
	2A & 2B	Planning Report & Public and Landowner Consultation Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendices 	Submission of the FAF*
	3C1 & 3C2	EIAR for Ireland Onshore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendices 	Submission of the FAF*
	3D1 & 3D2	EIAR for Ireland Offshore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendices 	Submission of the FAF*
	4	Environmental Report for UK Offshore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of Monitoring and Mitigation Appendices 	Submission of the FAF*
2. Foreshore Licence Application:	7A	The following Statutory Particulars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Cover Letter for the Application Foreshore Licence application fee Final newspaper notices 	Submission of the FAF*
	8A	Planning and Consultation Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendices 	Submission of the FAF*
	8C	WFD Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendices 	Submission of the FAF*
3. Draft CRU Consent Applications	9A & 9B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certain financial information*** Personal data regarding landowners A copy of the Connection Agreement A copy of the planning consents 	Submission of the Final CRU Consent Applications**
Notes: * Target date is June 2021 ** Target date is January 2022 for Volume 9A and April / May 2022 for Volume 9B. In particular, CRU has confirmed to EirGrid that SID consent must be required prior to submission of an application for authorisation to lay cables. *** EirGrid notes that the much of the financial information sought from the Applicant, EirGrid plc, has recently been considered as part of the CRU Price Review 5 process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statements of the accounts for the last two years kept by the applicant in respect of relevant undertakings carried on by the applicant, showing the financial state of affairs of that undertaking and its profit or loss, together with copies of the latest audited accounts. EirGrid acknowledges the requirement for statements of accounts for the last two years showing the financial state of affairs. These will be submitted as part of the final application. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If more than three months have elapsed since the end of the accounting year covered by the accounts submitted, a certificate from the applicant stating no material adverse change has occurred. The end of the accounting year is 30 September 2021 and so a certificate will be submitted along with the statement of accounts as part of the final application.			

5 Schedule of Intended Dates for Lodgement of Consent Applications

5.1 Schedule for Intended Dates for Lodgement of Consent Applications

As required by the Checklist (7th bullet point), the key dates for lodgement of the key applications for consent are set out below.

1. **Key dates for lodgement of the SID Application:** EirGrid intends to submit the SID application for development consent in June 2021. Assuming approval of the application for development consent (in tandem with the other requisite consent – the Foreshore Licence), EirGrid intends to commence the construction phase in Q4 2022.
2. **Key dates for lodgement of the Foreshore Licence Application:** EirGrid intends to submit the Foreshore Licence application in June 2021. Assuming approval of the application (in tandem with the other requisite consent – the SID application for consent), EirGrid intends to commence the construction phase in Q4 2022.
3. **Key dates for lodgement of the Draft CRU Consent Applications:** EirGrid intends to submit the authorisation to construct an interconnector application in January 2022, and the applications for authorisation to lay cables in April / May 2022, both directly to the CRU.
 - a. The various authorisations to construct an interconnector must be in place before the construction phase commences in Q4 2022; the intended submission of the application authorisation to construct an interconnector in January 2022 will allow the CRU 18 weeks to process this application. EirGrid expects to receive this authorisation by April / May 2022;
 - b. EirGrid anticipates that the SID Application will be consented by early Q2 2022. The grant of this consent will satisfy the requirement to obtain planning permission before submitting the application for CRU authorisation to lay cables; EirGrid expects to receive this authorisation by late Q2 2022;
 - c. Pursuant to Section 3 of the Foreshore Acts, EirGrid anticipates to apply for a Foreshore Licence from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in June 2021 for the installation, operation and maintenance of cables including external cable protection (if required) in the foreshore. EirGrid expects to receive this Licence by April 2022.

All of the above will facilitate ABP PCI Unit in issuing a Comprehensive Decision in late Q2 2022 / early Q3 2022.

6 Contact details of the project promoter

6.1 Contact Details of Project Promoter

As is required by the Checklist (7th bullet point), we herein confirm that the project promoters for the Celtic Interconnector Project are EirGrid plc (EirGrid) and Réseau de Transport d'Électricité (RTE). Both entities are the Transmission System Operators (TSOs) in Ireland and France.

For the avoidance of doubt, EirGrid plc will submit the Draft Application File and subsequent final Application File in respect of those elements of the overall Celtic Interconnector project occurring in Ireland. EirGrid and RTE will jointly submit the Application File for that element of the overall project in UK, while RTE will submit the Application File for those elements of the overall project occurring in France.

Table 1.1 sets out the contact details of the project promoters. In the Irish jurisdiction, EirGrid plc represents the project promoter.

Table 1.1: Contact Details of the Project Promoters for the Celtic Interconnector

EirGrid	RTE
The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04Y2Y4, Ireland	Centre Developpement et Ingeniere, Immeuble Window, 7C Place du Dôme, 92073 Paris La Defense Cedex, France
Tel. 00 353 (1) 677 1700	Tel.: 00 33 (0)1 7924 8000

7 Conclusions

7.1 Conclusions

Overall, it is considered that the proposed development has progressed entirely in accordance with the provisions of the TEN-E Regulation, and the Checklist and overall content of the ABP Manual of Procedures in respect of PCI projects.

In addition, it is considered that the proposed development is entirely in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development, and is consistent with EirGrid's exclusive statutory function as National Transmission System Operator (per Article 8 of Statutory Instrument 445/2000) *"to operate and ensure the maintenance of and, if necessary, develop a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient electricity transmission system, and to explore and develop opportunities for interconnection of its system with other systems, in all cases with a view to ensuring that all reasonable demands for electricity are met and having due regard for the environment"*.

Appendix A: Letter confirming that the Project Promoter has included Details of all Consents Required



www.eirgrid.com

An tUbhchruth, 160 Bóthar Shíol Bhroin
Droichead na Dothra, Baile Átha Cliath 4, D04 FW28, Éire

The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road
Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 FW28, Ireland

Fón / Telephone +353 1 677 1700

R-phost / Email info@eirgrid.com

Mr. Diarmuid Collins,
Senior Executive Officer,
An Bord Pleanála,
Project of Common Interest (PCI) Unit,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

Date: 29 April 2021

Your Ref.: PCI0003 (PCI Project 1.6)

Re: Confirmation of Permits / Consents Required to Realise the Project

Dear Sir / Madam,

We confirm that EirGrid plc has included details of all permits / consents that are required to realise the project as detailed in the Volume 0 PCI Process Overview Report.

Please refer to Section 2 of the Volume 0 Report for a schedule of permits / consents that apply to the Celtic Interconnector Project.

In addition, please note that:

- These are the permits and consents required to be obtained by EirGrid plc in order to commence construction of the project.
- These are the consents and authorisations that will enable An Bord Pleanála, as Competent Authority for PCI projects, to issue a Comprehensive Decision in respect of those elements of the overall Celtic Interconnector project occurring in Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

Des Cox

Consents and Planning Lead
Celtic Interconnector Project



Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility

STIÚRTHÓIRÍ: Brendan Tuohy *Cathaoirteach*
An Dr Theresa Donaldson *Leaschathaoirteach* • Mark Foley *Príomhfhidhmeánach*
Shane Brennan, Tom Coughlan, Lynne Crowther, Michael Hand, Eileen Maher
Liam O'Halloran, John Trethowan • Martin Corrigan *Rúnaí Caldeachta*
Seoladh Clárálthe: EirGrid cpt, An tUbhchruth, 160 Bóthar Shíol Bhroin, Droichead na Dothra, Baile Átha Cliath 4, D04 FW28, Éire • Uimhir Chláraithe na Caldeachta No. 338522

DIRECTORS: Brendan Tuohy *Chair*
Dr Theresa Donaldson *Deputy Chair* • Mark Foley *Chief Executive*
Shane Brennan, Tom Coughlan, Lynne Crowther, Michael Hand, Eileen Maher
Liam O'Halloran, John Trethowan • Martin Corrigan *Company Secretary*
Registered Address: EirGrid Plc, The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 FW28, Ireland • Company Registration No. 338522

April 2021

22



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