
From: Diarmuid Collins
Sent: Thursday 10 December 2020 12:14
To: SORCHA Skelly
Cc: Nichola Meehan
Subject: FW: PCI0003 Slides discussed at pre-application call held 17 Nov 2020

Good Afternoon SORCHA,

Please put this email with attachments on the electronic file for the Celtic Interconnector.
Regards,
Diarmuid collins.

From: Valerie.Brennan@Eirgrid.com <Valerie.Brennan@Eirgrid.com>
Sent: Tuesday 17 November 2020 12:56
To: Diarmuid Collins <D.Collins@pleanala.ie>
Cc: Des.Cox@Eirgrid.com; Eoghan.Tuite@Eirgrid.com
Subject: PCI0003 Slides discussed at pre-application call held 17 Nov 2020

Dear Diarmuid,

Many thanks for your time and very helpful feedback today.

Please find attached a copy of the slides that we discussed.

We will work on some of the key actions arising notably:

1. Preparing a letter setting out a joint schedule proposal for all 3 jurisdictions (similar to the timelines slide - slide 9 of 12).
2. Preparing a document setting out in more detail the proposed scope of the application in Ireland (based on the proposed scope slides 7-8 of 12).

If I have forgotten to mention any key points arising from your perspective, please do let me know.

Many thanks again and best regards,

Valerie.

Valerie Brennan
Consents Coordinator
Celtic Interconnector Project
 **Co-financed by the European Union**
Connecting Europe Facility

T: + 353 (0)86 3097171
E: valerie.brennan@eirgrid.com
W: www.eirgrid.com



EirGrid plc - Transmission System Operator, Ireland.
The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.

Oibritheoir Eangach Leictreachais na hÉireann.

160 Bóthar Shíol Bhroin, Droichead na Dothra, Baile Átha Cliath 4, D04 FW28.

Registered Office

The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.

Registered in Ireland No. 338522 V.A.T. No. IE 6358522H

TELEPHONE + 353 (0)1 677 1700

EMAIL info@eirgrid.com

FAX + 353 (0)1 661 5375

WEB www.eirgrid.com

Directors:

Brendan Tuohy CHAIR, Mark Foley CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Dr Theresa Donaldson, Shane Brennan, Tom Coughlan, Lynne Crowther, Michael Hand, Eileen Maher, Liam O'Halloran, John Trethowan, Martin Corrigan (Company Secretary)

Disclaimer:

This electronic message contains information (and/or attachments) which may be privileged or confidential. All content is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient please be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this message is prohibited. Any views or opinions presented within this message are solely those of the author, and may not represent those of EirGrid. If you suspect that you have received this email in error please notify the sender immediately. Although EirGrid scans e-mail and attachments, it does not guarantee that either is virus-free and accepts no liability for any damage sustained as a consequence of viruses.

Séanadh:

Tá faisnéis (agus/nó ceangaltáin) a d'fhéadfadh a bheith faoi phribhléid nó faoi rún sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo. Tá an t-ábhar uile beartaithe a bheith d'úsáid an duine aonair nó an aonáin chuig a ndírítear é amháin. Sa chás nach tú an faighteoir beartaithe, bíodh fios agat go bhfuil cosc ar aon nochtadh, cóipeáil, dáileadh nó úsáid d'ábhair na teachtaireachta seo. Is iad tuairimí nó barúlacha an údair amháin na tuairimí nó na barúlacha a léirítear sa teachtaireacht seo, agus b'fhéidir nach ionann iad agus tuairimí nó barúlacha EirGrid. Má shíleann tú go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, cuir é seo in iúl don seoltóir láithreach le do thoil. Cé go scanann EirGrid ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin, ní thugann siad ráthaíocht go mbíonn ceachtar acu saor ó víreas ná ní ghlacann siad aon dlíteanas as aon damáiste a dhéantar de thoradh víreas.



www.eirgrid.com

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

Telephone +353 1 677 1700

Email info@eirgrid.com

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

Sent: By Post and By Email to D.Collins@pleanala.ie

Date: 21 December 2020

Your Ref.: PCI0003 (PCI Project 1.6)

Our Ref.: Celtic Interconnector Project

Re: Proposed Project Scope Document

Dear Diarmuid,

Please find enclosed / attached the Proposed Project Scope Document for the Celtic Interconnector Project (An Bord Pleanála Ref. PCI0003). We trust that this provides you with clarity regarding the proposed contents of the Draft Application File.

Given that it is a short 20 page document, we hope that it can be dealt with by the Project of Common Interest Unit of An Bord Pleanála in an expeditious manner. More specifically, we would be grateful to receive your response to this proposal before the end of January 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Valerie Brennan

Consents Coordinator

Celtic Interconnector Project

valerie.brennan@eirgrid.com



AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
21 DEC 2020	
LTR DATED _____	FROM _____
LDG- _____	
ABP- _____	

Celtic Interconnector



Proposed Scope of the Application

An Bord Pleanála Reference: PCI0003

December 2020



Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	3
1.1	Introduction.....	3
1.2	PCI process to date	3
1.2.1	PCI Process in Ireland	3
1.2.2	PCI Process in the UK	4
1.2.3	PCI Process in France	5
1.3	Purpose of the Report.....	5
1.4	Key Consent Requirements	5
2	Overall Structure of the Proposed Application File	7
2.1	Context of EirGrid's proposal	7
2.2	Proposed structure of the Draft Application File	7
3	Volume 1: SID Plans and Particulars	9
3.1	Volume 1A: Statutory Particulars for SID Application	9
3.1.1	EirGrid Cover Letter	9
3.1.2	Completed SID Application Form	9
3.2	Volume 1B: Planning Drawings for SID Application	9
3.2.1	Contents of Volume 1B Planning Drawings.....	10
	In summary, Volume 1B Planning Drawings will include the following:	10
4	Volume 2: SID Application Reports.....	11
4.1	Volume 2A: Planning Report for SID Application	11
4.2	Volume 2B: Public and Landowner Consultation Report for SID Application.....	12
5	Volume 3: Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Ireland.....	13
5.1	Introduction.....	13
5.2	Volume 3A: NTS of EIAR for Ireland	13
5.3	Volume 3B: Common Chapters of EIAR for Ireland	13
5.4	Volume 3C: EIAR for Ireland Onshore	14
5.5	Volume 3D: EIAR for Ireland Offshore	14
6	Volume 4: Environmental Report for UK Offshore.....	16
7	Volume 5: Joint Environmental Report.....	17
8	Volume 6: Natura Impact Statement	18
9	Volume 7: Foreshore License Plans and Particulars.....	19
9.1	Volume 7A.....	19
9.2	Volume 7B.....	19
10	Volume 8: Additional Foreshore License Related Assessments	20
10.1	Volume 8A.....	20
10.2	Volume 8B.....	20
10.3	Volume 8C.....	20
	Appendix A: Draft List of Drawing Types to be submitted with Draft Application File ..	21

1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The project promoters EirGrid plc (EirGrid) and Réseau de Transport d'Électricité (RTE), the Transmission System Operators (TSOs) in Ireland and France, are jointly planning the first direct electrical link between Ireland and France. The Celtic Interconnector Project (hereafter termed the 'Celtic Interconnector') will enable the import and export of electricity and consist of a proposed 700 megawatt (MW) High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) between the Knockraha substation in East Cork and a substation at La Martyre in the Finistère region of France.

The Celtic Interconnector will have a total length of approximately 575km of which approximately 497km concerns the maritime area between Ireland and France. Within the maritime area, the cable concerns the following approximate linear lengths across the three jurisdictions of Ireland, the UK and France:

- 34 km in the Irish Territorial Waters;
- 117 km in the Irish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ);
- 211 km in the UK EEZ;
- 87 km in the French EEZ; and
- 48 km in French Territorial Waters.

1.2 PCI process to date

Through a decision made on 14 October 2013, the European Union 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 for the Trans-European Energy Infrastructure (No. 347/2013 EU), hereafter referred to as 'the TEN-E Regulation'. This PCI status has been renewed on a bi-annual basis since 2013. The TEN-E Regulation seeks to modernise and expand Europe's energy infrastructure and to interconnect networks across borders to meet the European Union's core energy policy objectives of competitiveness, sustainability and security of supply.

1.2.1 PCI Process in Ireland

An Bord Pleanála ('the Board') is the National Competent Authority for facilitating and coordinating the permit granting process for PCI in Ireland. In its role as the project promoter, EirGrid submitted a notification under Article 10(1)(a) of the TEN-E Regulation to the Board on 24th December 2018 in respect of the Celtic Interconnector. EirGrid received an acknowledgement of the notification from the Board on 21st March 2019, which confirmed that the project is mature enough to enter the permit granting process and that where two or more Member States are concerned with a PCI project, the date of acceptance of the last notification by the Competent Authority would serve as the start date of the permit granting process.

Following on from this and further to detailed technical analysis of the seabed in so far as it concerns the UK's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the project promoters established that rock placement works would likely be required in the UK's EEZ in order to protect the submarine cable from hazards. Consequently, EirGrid and RTE commenced consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) who is the relevant Competent Authority for the purposes of the PCI process in the UK in 2019. Following a meeting held on 21st January 2020, the MMO confirmed that the activity of protecting the submarine cable proposed with rock (and / or 'rock mattresses') requires a Marine Licence from the MMO. On 31st January 2020 the MMO formally accepted the project onto the PCI process in the UK.

In light of the stipulations of Article 10(1)(b) of the TEN-E Regulation and the advice of the Board's notification of 21st March 2019, EirGrid wrote to the Board on 6th February 2020 to confirm the understanding that the start date of the permit granting process in Ireland is 31st January 2020. Following on from this, EirGrid submitted an updated Concept of Public Participation (CPP) to the Board on 24th April 2020 and on 6th July 2020; the Board formally approved this CPP.

On 15th July 2020, the Board informed EirGrid that the next steps in the PCI process are those that are set out under Article 10(4)(a) and (b) of the TEN-E Regulation, more specifically:

1. Article 10(4)(a) provides that the Competent Authority shall identify, in close co-operation with the other authorities concerned, the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted by the project promoter as part of the application file. This may be done on the basis of a proposal by the project promoter.
2. Article 10(4)(b) provides that the Competent Authority shall draw up, in close cooperation with the project promoter and other authorities concerned and taking into account the results of the activities carried out under Article 10(4)(a), a detailed schedule for the permit granting process.

The purpose of the subject Report is to contribute towards the realisation of Article 10(4)(a) of the TEN-E Regulation.

1.2.2 PCI Process in the UK

As noted in Section 1.2.1 above, in order to undertake cable protection works that are required within the UK's EEZ, the UK's Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 requires that the Celtic Interconnector secures a Marine Licence from MMO and goes through the PCI process in the UK. The MMO is the relevant delegated National Competent Authority (NCA) / permit granting authority in the UK for the purposes facilitating and coordinating the TEN-E Regulation process for PCI projects in the UK.

The MMO formally accepted the PCI Notification for the Celtic Interconnector on 31st January 2020. On 13th March 2020, the project promoters submitted a CPP for the UK jurisdiction to the MMO and following associated correspondence regarding necessary updates to the CPP during June 2020, the MMO formally accepted the CPP for the UK on 16th June 2020.

1.2.3 PCI Process in France

The Celtic Interconnector requires a number of consents in France to cover both the onshore and offshore elements of the project. The 'Direction Générale de l'Energie et du Climat' (DGEC) is the relevant delegated National Competent Authority for the PCI process in France. Similar to the PCI process to date in Ireland, while the project promoters originally received formal approval of the Celtic Interconnector onto the PCI process in France on 28th September 2018, the 31st January 2020 serves as the start date of the permit granting process in France.

The DGEC approved the French CPP on 3rd May 2019. Following on from this, the French consenting files were submitted to the DGEC on 2nd December 2020 and we understand that this serves as the start date of the permit granting process in France.

1.3 Purpose of the Report

This document has been prepared in response to the Boards invitation of 15th July 2020. It sets out a proposal for the draft scope and level of detail of information to be submitted by EirGrid in respect of the proposed application file for the Celtic Interconnector Development.

In addition, it has been prepared with reference to the requirements of Article 10(4)a) of Regulation 347/2013, the measures set out in the Board's Manual of Procedure for the Permit Granting Process (May 2014), and in accordance with Annex VI of Regulation 347/2013 (which sets out the Guidelines for Transparency and Public Participation in respect of projects designated as Projects of Common Interest).

1.4 Key Consent Requirements

Owing to the fact that the Celtic Interconnector concerns electricity transmission that is of strategic importance to the state, EirGrid has commenced pre-application consultation with the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Unit of the Board in accordance with Section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (Ref. PL04.302725). Should the Board deem the proposed development to be SID, an SID Application will be lodged with the Strategic Infrastructure Division of the Board, pursuant to Section 182A the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

In addition and in accordance with the Foreshore Act 1933 (as amended), EirGrid has also commenced pre-application consultation with the Foreshore Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This is for the purposes of seeking a Foreshore Licence for those works associated with the Celtic Interconnector that concern their jurisdiction – i.e. from the Ordinary High Water Mark to the 12 nautical mile limit offshore.

Figure 1.1 sets out the PCI process in respect of the scope of material and level of detail required by the Board for SID applications.

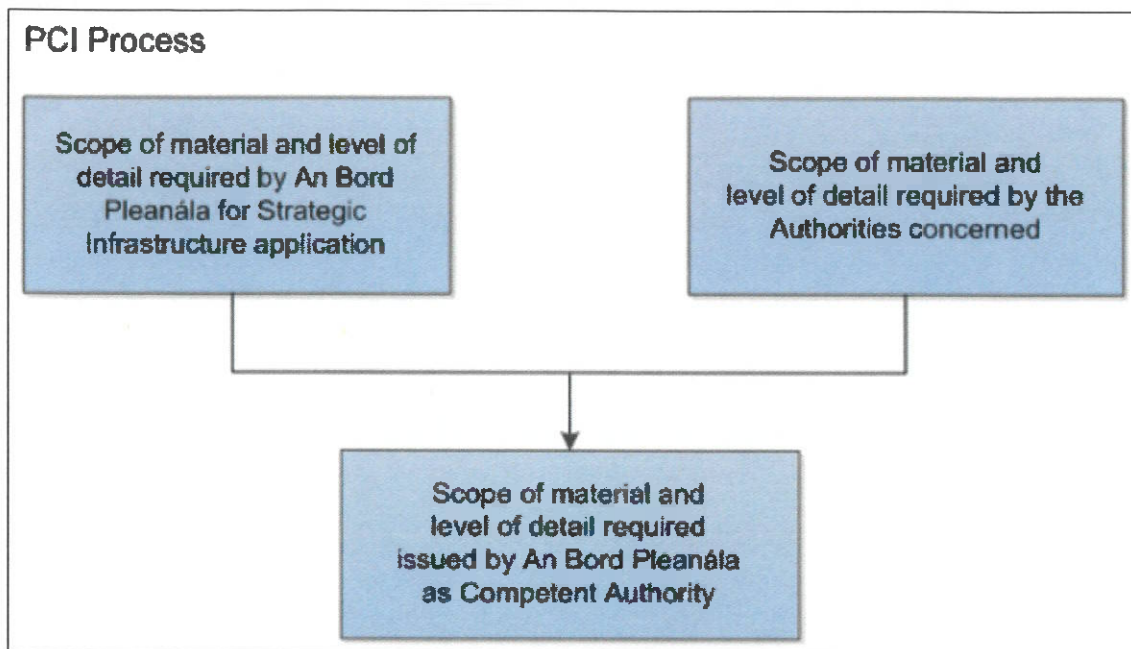


Figure 1.1: PCI Process and Scope of Material and Level of Detail required by An Bord Pleanála (Source: Project of Common Interest – Manual of Permit Granting Process Procedures, May 2014)

2 Overall Structure of the Proposed Application File

2.1 Context of EirGrid's proposal

In preparing this proposal, consideration has been given to the following:

- Feedback received by EirGrid from prescribed bodies and other stakeholders in respect of the application for approval.
- Legal advice received by EirGrid regarding the approach that should be taken to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- Feedback received by EirGrid from the Board during a series of pre-application consultation meetings during which the Board provided guidance on the scope and content of documentation to be submitted for the application.

Of particular note, two key matters have informed the proposed scope of the application file regarding those elements of the overall development outside the Irish jurisdiction:

- As the UK NCA for PCI, the MMO has instructed that the proposed development within its jurisdiction is not a type of development which comes within under the provisions of the EIA Directive as transposed into UK legislation. As such, no EIAR is proposed to be submitted with the Application. It has been agreed that an Environmental Statement will be submitted with the Application, and this will also be submitted with the Irish PCI (and SID) Application.
- In France, the PCI process requires the submission of the Application file some considerable time in advance of the public consultation process. As a result, the French Application will not be in the public domain at the time of making the Irish PCI (and SID) Application submission. Therefore, the French EIAR cannot be included in the Irish submission; however, the Joint Environmental Report prepared in respect of the overall project will be included.

2.2 Proposed structure of the Draft Application File

The application documentation for the proposed development will be presented in a number of volumes as set out in Table 2.1. This is consistent with the approach that was adopted for a number of other EirGrid SID applications, most notably the North South Interconnector Project which bears a lot of similarities to the Celtic Interconnector in so far as it also concerned a cross-jurisdictional PCI project. The structure of the proposed application documentation is intended to assist with the legibility of the application package.

Article 214(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in relation to application procedures for SID applications states:

"When making an application for strategic infrastructure development, the applicant shall send to the Board – (a) 10 copies of the plans and particulars of the proposed development (including any plans, particulars or other information indicated by the Board under article 210(2)) and of the EIAR and, where the application is accompanied by an NIS, of the NIS."

The planning fee of €100,000 for making an application under section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended will be enclosed with the final application file; however, a placeholder for same shall be included in the Draft Application File. It should be noted that Table 2.1 sets out what will be submitted to the PCI Unit (Volumes 1-8), however, only Volume 1 – 6 will be submitted to the SID Unit as those are the only documents that are relevant to the SID application.

Table 2.1 Proposed Structure of the PCI Draft Application File

SID Planning Application:		
Volumes		Details
Volume 1	Volume 1A	Statutory Particulars
	Volume 1B	Planning Drawings
Volume 2	Volume 2A	Planning Report
	Volume 2B	Public and Landowner Consultation Report
Volume 3	Volume 3A	Non-Technical Summary of EIAR for Ireland
	Volume 3B	Common Chapters of EIAR for Ireland
	Volume 3C	EIAR for Ireland Onshore
	Volume 3D	EIAR for Ireland Offshore
Volume 4	Volume 4	Environmental Report for UK Offshore
Volume 5	Volume 5	Joint Environmental Report (JER)
Volume 6	Volume 6	Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for Ireland
Foreshore Licence Application:		
Volume 7	Volume 7A	Statutory Particulars
	Volume 7B	Drawings
Volume 8	Volume 8A	Planning & Consultation Report (incl. appendices)
	Volume 8B	Marine Strategy Framework Directive Assessment
	Volume 8C	Water Framework Directive Assessment

3 Volume 1: SID Plans and Particulars

3.1 Volume 1A: Statutory Particulars for SID Application

Volume 1A consolidates the SID Application statutory particulars which will include the following documents:

- EirGrid Cover letter setting out enclosures.
- Completed SID Application Form and Schedules
- [Planning Fee (€100,000)] *Only included with Final File.

3.1.1 EirGrid Cover Letter

The 'EirGrid Cover Letter' will be prepared by the Applicant and is intended to accompany the application for approval for the proposed Celtic Interconnector and provide background information in relation to the project and the application. This covering letter should be read in the light of the more detailed Planning Report which is contained in Volume 2A.

3.1.2 Completed SID Application Form

The 'Completed SID Application Form and Schedules' will include the following:

- A copy of the Newspaper Notice to be published in English the following newspapers: 'The Irish Times'; the 'Irish Examiner' and relevant local newspapers.
- A copy of the Site Notice as erected and published in English. The various locations of the Site Notice will be shown on the relevant planning drawings submitted with the application.
- A schedule of drawings included with the application file.
- A letter of consent from relevant landowners to the making of the application for approval.
- A summary record of pre-application consultation meetings undertaken in respect of the proposed development.
- A list of bodies comprising the relevant local authorities and prescribed bodies that were notified / sent a copy of the application and the EIAR and NIS.
- The EIA portal confirmation notice.

3.2 Volume 1B: Planning Drawings for SID Application

Article 210 of Part 18 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of pre-application discussions for strategic infrastructure development provides that:

"The Board shall, during the course of pre-application consultation, indicate to a prospective applicant: (a) the plans and particulars or other information which the Board will require for the purposes of consideration of an application."

Accordingly, the approval drawings associated with the SID Application will be included in Volume 1B Planning Drawings.

3.2.1 Contents of Volume 1B Planning Drawings

In summary, Volume 1B Planning Drawings will include the following:

- Site Layout Plan;
- Site Location Map;
- Other Plans and Elevations;
- Typical Cross Sections of HVDC and HVAC Cables and Typical Joint Bay Plan;
- Typical Road Layout, Typical Joint Bay and Typical Passing Bay Arrangement;
- Plans of Converter Station Compound at Ballyadam;
- Elevations of Converter Station at Ballyadam;
- Plans of Knockraha Substation Connection Point;
- Elevations of Knockraha Substation Connection Point; and
- Temporary Construction and Material Storage Yard Compounds.

More specifically, Volume 1B Planning Drawings will include the following:

1. Book of application drawings at A1 scale;
2. Book of application drawings at A3 scale; and
3. A Drawing Schedule that will be attached with a full list of application drawings to be submitted. An indicative list of the type of drawings it is proposed to submit is included in **Appendix A** of this Report.

4 Volume 2: SID Application Reports

4.1 Volume 2A: Planning Report for SID Application

Volume 2A will comprise a Planning Report including a Social and Community Chapter. It will provide the background to the proposed development, set the proposed development into its planning and environmental policy context and summarise the main issues of planning and sustainable development arising on the application for approval.

The purpose of the Planning Report is to present, in summary, the planning issues associated with the proposed development. It will have regard to the Statutory remit of the SID Division of An Bord Pleanála to consider the likely consequences for proper planning and sustainable development in the area in which it is proposed to situate the development, in determining whether planning approval should be granted for the proposed development. The proposed structure of the Planning Report is set out in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 – Structure of Planning Report

Chapter	Content
Chapter 1	Introduction – Report context, purpose and structure, details of the applicant, need for the project, status of the project in terms of Project of Common Interest (PCI), Project Ireland 2040 and current Programme for Government.
Chapter 2	The Proposed Development – Project overview, project background, project development, planning history and summary description of the proposal including description of the onshore infrastructure being proposed.
Chapter 3	Legislative Context – PCI and TEN-E Regulations Context, SID context, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, Appropriate Assessment (AA) process, transboundary issues and application related matters.
Chapter 4	Planning Policy Context – European, national, regional, local and planning guidance documents of relevance to the project.
Chapter 5	Social and Community – Approach to community and social impact assessment, community engagement and public participation in project development, including EirGrid's approach to community benefit funding.
Chapter 6	Planning Appraisal – Evaluation of proposed development having regard to, <i>inter alia</i> , planning policies, planning objectives and the interests of proper planning and sustainable development.
Chapter 7	Conclusion – Concluding statements to describe the proposed development from a planning perspective.

4.2 Volume 2B: Public and Landowner Consultation Report for SID Application

Volume 2B Public and Landowner Consultation Report will include a description of the extent and nature of public consultation and participation that took place in Ireland in respect of the project including the focused consultation that took place between 2017 and the submission of the relevant consenting files for planning approval which is planned to occur during Spring 2021. The proposed structure of the Public and Landowner Consultation Report, which is subject to change, is set out in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 – Structure of the Public and Landowner Consultation Report

Chapter	Content
Chapter 1	Introduction and Overview – This will comprise an introduction and an overview of the public and landowner consultation activities that took place on the project from 2017 – 2021, including compliance with the TEN-E Regulation.
Chapter 2	Context of Public and Stakeholder Engagement – In setting this context, this Chapter will reference the Aarhus Convention, the PCI process, the EIA Directive, the requirements of national law and best practice, EirGrid's 6 Step Framework for Grid Development process, the award that EirGrid received from the Irish Planning Institute (IPI) in 2018 for 6 step process, the project's receipt of the '2020 Renewables Grid Initiative Good Practice of the Year Award' for the Communication and Engagement and project communications team associated with the Celtic Interconnector, joint activities that EirGrid undertook with its project partners vis a vis our European citizen stakeholders via the www.celticinterconnector.eu website and associated brochure, videos, etc.
Chapter 3	Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement – Approach to / Terms of Reference for consultation and public participation, level of participation, public participation methods and activities, nature of feedback received and impact of public participation on project development. In addition, this Chapter will report upon difficulties encountered, notably, the impact of Covid19 restrictions, access to information, nature of public participation, levels of public participation and stakeholder engagement and levels of landowner engagement.
Chapter 4	The Impact of Feedback received from the Public and Landowner Engagement – Consultation and Public Participation, the purpose and aims of the preferred project solution consultation, public participation methods and activities, level of participation, nature of feedback, and impact of consultation feedback on preferred project solution, notably EirGrid's Step 4 process and the identification of the Best Performing Option.
Chapter 5	Conclusions – Effective dissemination of information to the public and landowners, level and nature of public participation, feedback received and the impact of public consultation on the final proposal. It will also demonstrate how consultation methodologies were adapted at certain junctures to ensure continuous improvement.

5 Volume 3: Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Ireland

5.1 Introduction

Volume 3 comprises an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) specific to the Irish jurisdiction and constitutes the basis upon which the comprehensive decision to be made by the PCI Unit of the Board will be built. As discussed separately with both the PCI Unit and the SID Unit of An Bord Pleanála during the pre-application phase, for the convenience of the public and the legibility of the document and given the overall geographical extent of this linear project, the EIAR will be presented in four volumes: Volume 3A Non-Technical Summary (NTS); Volume 3B Common Chapters; Volume 3C Ireland Onshore; and, Volume 3D Ireland Offshore.

In addition and for the information of the public, EirGrid will also submit the UK Environmental Report that is required for the UK jurisdiction as Volume 4 and the JER which concerns the whole project (including France) as Volume 5. Please refer to Chapter 6 and 7 of this report for further details in terms of the content of these specific additional volumes.

5.2 Volume 3A: NTS of EIAR for Ireland

Volume 3A will comprise a NTS for the Irish jurisdiction in respect of the proposed development which will be completed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the codified EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and various guidance documents.

5.3 Volume 3B: Common Chapters of EIAR for Ireland

Volume 3B will introduce the Holistic Assessment and comprise the Common Chapters of the EIAR for Ireland. More specifically, it is proposed that Volume 3B will include the chapter topics that are set out in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 – Contents of Common Chapters (the Holistic EIAR)

Chapter	Suggested Contents
Chapter 1	Introduction Context – Rationale for undertaking a holistic approach to EIAR and structure of the EIAR.
Chapter 2	Project Need – The strategic need, PCI context and benefits of the context.
Chapter 3	Whole Project Description – A summary description of the overall Celtic Interconnector project including maps of the whole project in Ireland. Context will also be provided about the aspects of the project that concern both the UK and the French jurisdictions.
Chapter 4	EIAR Methodology – This will focus on the Irish jurisdiction and set out the manner in which EirGrid has taken a whole project approach to EIA.
Chapter 5	Transboundary Impacts – Transboundary consultation and impacts.

Chapter 6	Cumulative Impacts – Legislative requirement, cumulative effects and impacts.
Chapter 7	Interaction of Effects – Discussion of the impacts of interactions.

5.4 Volume 3C: EIAR for Ireland Onshore

Volume 3C is comprised of an EIAR for Ireland Onshore. The proposed contents of Volume 3C is set out in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 – Structure of the Volume 3C: EIAR for Ireland Onshore

Chapter	Suggested Contents
NTS for Ireland Onshore	
Chapter 1	Alternatives Considered
Chapter 2	Description of Onshore Development (Ireland)
Chapter 3	Onshore Construction Phase Activities (Ireland)
Chapter 4	Noise and Vibration
Chapter 5	Air Quality and Climate
Chapter 6	Land, Soils and Hydrology
Chapter 7	Water
Chapter 8	Biodiversity
Chapter 9	Landscape
Chapter 10	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
Chapter 11	Material Assets
Chapter 12	Roads and Traffic
Chapter 13	Population and Human Health
Chapter 14	Major Accidents and Disasters
Chapter 15	Summary of Monitoring and Mitigation Measures

5.5 Volume 3D: EIAR for Ireland Offshore

Volume 3D is comprised of an EIAR for Ireland Onshore. It is acknowledged that the foreshore area is a matter for the Foreshore Unit to assess the environmental impact; however, this volume is included within Volume 3 in the interests of the holistic approach that has been taken to the approach to EIA in the Irish jurisdiction. The proposed contents of Volume 3D is set out in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3 – Structure of the Volume 3D: EIAR for Ireland Offshore

Chapter	Suggested Contents
NTS for Ireland Offshore	
Chapter 1	Description of Landfall
Chapter 2	Description of Offshore Cable
Chapter 3	Alternatives Considered
Chapter 4	Noise and Vibration
Chapter 5	Air Quality and Climate
Chapter 6	Sediment Quality
Chapter 7	Physical Processes
Chapter 8	Water Quality
Chapter 9	Biodiversity
Chapter 10	Seascape and Landscape
Chapter 11	Archaeology & Cultural Heritage
Chapter 12	Material Assets
Chapter 13	Population and Human Health
Chapter 14	Shipping and Navigation
Chapter 15	Commercial Fisheries
Chapter 16	Major Accidents and Disasters

6 Volume 4: Environmental Report for UK Offshore

Volume 4 is comprised of an Environmental Report for UK Offshore. The proposed contents of Volume 4 are set out in Table 6.1. The proposed contents of this Report have been guided by advice that the project promoters have received from with the MMO during 2020 in terms of the range of topics that they wish to be considered.

Table 6.1 – Structure of the Volume 4: Environmental Report for UK Offshore

Chapter	Suggested Contents
NTS	
Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapter 2	Policy and Legislation
Chapter 3	PCI Application and Marine Licence Application Content
Chapter 4	Consultation Approach
Chapter 5	Project Description
Chapter 6	Consideration of Alternatives
Chapter 7	Assessment Approach
Chapter 8	Technical Scope of the Environmental Report
Chapter 9	Noise and Vibration
Chapter 10	Air Quality and Climate
Chapter 11	Marine Sediments and Sediment Quality
Chapter 12	Marine Physical Processes
Chapter 13	Marine Water Quality
Chapter 14	Biodiversity
Chapter 15	Seascape and Landscape
Chapter 16	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
Chapter 17	Material Assets
Chapter 18	Population and Human Health
Chapter 19	Shipping and Navigation
Chapter 20	Commercial Fisheries
Chapter 21	Major Accidents and Disasters
Chapter 22	Conclusions and Recommendations

7 Volume 5: Joint Environmental Report

Volume 5 will comprise of the Joint Environmental Report (JER) for the Celtic Interconnector Project. The JER has been written in accordance with the European Commissions 'Guidance of the Application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure for Large Scale Transboundary Projects' (EC Guidance). In this respect it is noted that the EC Guidance states that the purpose of a JER (for large-scale transboundary projects such as the subject project) is to cover "the whole project" and assess its overall effects, "in particular cumulative and significant adverse transboundary effects". It states that "the best approach is to first prepare a joint environmental report for the whole project and then prepare the individual national environmental reports". Accordingly, the JER was prepared in November 2020, prior to the preparation of the individual national environmental reports.

The JER has been structured in a logical sequence as set out in Table 7-1.

Table 7.1 – Contents of JER

Chapter	Contents
NTS	
Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapter 2	Project description
Chapter 3	Alternatives assessed
Chapter 4	The terrestrial project in Ireland
Chapter 5	The terrestrial project in France
Chapter 6	Offshore project
Chapter 7	Impact assessment

Following EC Guidance, the JER covers specific assessments and information required under EU or national legislation on other issues such as nature protection (with focus on transboundary Natura 2000 sites likely to be affected). The JER also sets out an assessment of reasonable alternative in Chapter 3 in the best interest of the surrounding environment. In addition, the JER includes a high level Non-Technical Summary (NTS) which addresses a number of matters including:

- What is the Celtic Interconnector?
- Why should the Celtic Interconnector be constructed?
- What does the Celtic Interconnector comprise?
- How was the Celtic Interconnector route decided?
- Does the Celtic Interconnector generate likely significant effects?
- When will the Celtic Interconnector be constructed?

8 Volume 6: Natura Impact Statement

Volume 6 includes Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statements (NIS) for Ireland onshore and offshore. Section 6A assesses Ireland Onshore, and Section 6B assesses Ireland Offshore. Section 6C summarises the conclusions of Article 6(3) assessments across jurisdictions in Ireland (onshore and offshore), UK (offshore only i.e. a Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment) and France (onshore and offshore i.e. Évaluation des incidences Natura 2000). Volume 6 will assist the Board in conducting an Appropriate Assessment (AA), to determine under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, whether the proposed development alone, or in combination with other plans or projects, will adversely affect the integrity of a European site(s).

The proposed structure of the NISs in Section 6A and 6B are set out in Table 8.1.

Table 8.1 – Proposed Structure of Section 6A and 6B

Chapter	Suggested Contents
Chapter 1	Introduction – Overview, legal review, structure of report, methodology and consultation.
Chapter 2	Screening for Appropriate Assessment – Management of European Sites, overview of proposed development, characteristics of European Sites, summary of potential significant effects, screening outcome.
Chapter 3	Natura Impact Statement – Summary of Screening outcome, description of proposed development, description of receiving environment, impact prediction, potential adverse effects on site integrity, mitigation, outcomes.
Chapter 4	References
Appendices	European Sites map

9 Volume 7: Foreshore License Plans and Particulars

9.1 Volume 7A

Volume 7A will comprise all of the statutory particulars required for a Foreshore License in Ireland determined under the Foreshore Act 1993 (as amended) which is regulated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The particulars will include:

- Cover letter setting out enclosures;
- Foreshore Licence Application Form;
- Certified copy of Company Memo and Articles of Association; and
- A copy of the newspaper notice.

9.2 Volume 7B

Volume 7B will provide the appropriate drawings for the Foreshore License application. The following drawings will be submitted as part of the application pack:

- Site Location Map;
- Site Layout Plan;
- Other plans and elevations; and
- Longitudinal Sections.

As is required by the Foreshore Unit, the drawing pack will include an Ordnance Survey Map of 1:2,500 showing the precise area and the hectarage involved below the line of high water of medium tides clearly marked in a distinctive colour is submitted. The foreshore area being developed will be stated in metric measurements (i.e. hectares or square kilometres). Plans, elevations and sectional drawings will show clearly the nature of the proposed works and lines and levels of high and low water of Spring tides.

10 Volume 8: Additional Foreshore License Related Assessments

10.1 Volume 8A

Volume 8A will comprise a Planning and Consultation Report for the foreshore licence application.

10.2 Volume 8B

Volume 8B will comprise the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Assessment. MSFD is European Legislation which aims to protect the marine environment, monitor and assess the quality of their seas against Good Environmental Status which ensures appropriate actions are pursued to achieve a high standard of Good Environmental Status.

10.3 Volume 8C

Volume 8C will comprise a Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment. The objectives of the WFD are to protect all high-status waters, prevent further deterioration of all waters and restore degraded surface and ground waters to good status.

Appendix A: Draft List of Drawing Types to be submitted with Draft Application File

Drawing Type	Comment
Onshore Cable Route Context Maps	These drawings will indicate the location of the proposed development. They will be produced at 1:50,000 and will be A1 size.
Detailed Cable Route Maps	These drawings will indicate the details of the proposed onshore cable route across a series of Sheets that are directly referred to in the Context Map. They will be produced at 1:2,500 and will be A1 size.
Typical Cross Sections of HVDC / HVAC Cables and Typical Joint Bay Plan	These drawings will indicate the details of a typical HVDC and HVAC cable. In addition they will include a typical plan of a joint bay. They will be produced at a variety of scales including 1:10 and 1:20 and will be A1 size.
Typical Road Layout, Typical Joint Bay and Typical Passing Bay Arrangement	These drawings will indicate the details of a typical road layout, a typical joint bay and a typical passing bay arrangement. They will be produced at a variety of scales including 1:50 and 1:100 and will be A1 size.
Converter Station Compound Drawings	These drawings will indicate the proposed design and layout of the Converter Station, and the proposed works within and adjacent to the Converter Station at Ballyadam. More specifically: - The plan drawings will be produced at a number of scales including 1:1,000 at A1 size and 1:500 at A1 size. - The elevation and section drawings will be produced at a scale of 1:500 at A1 size.
Knockraha Substation Connection Point Drawings	These drawings will indicate the proposed design and layout of the Connection Point, and the proposed works within and adjacent to the Connection Point at Knockraha substation. More specifically: - The plan drawings will be produced at a number of scales including 1:500 at A1 size and 1:300 at A1 size. - The elevation and section drawings will be produced at a scale of 1:250 at A1 size.
Typical Temporary Construction and Material Storage Yard Compounds	These drawings will be produced at various scales and will be A1 size and will provide site location, layout and fencing details for the proposed temporary construction and material storage yard.

