



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting

Case Reference / Description	Celtic Interconnector PC10003		
Case Type	Project of Common Interest (PCI)		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	First meeting following entry into Permit Granting Process		
Date	27 th March 2019	Start Time	10.15am
Location	An Bord Pleanála	End Time	11.30am
Chairperson	Diarmuid Collins	Executive Officer	Sorcha Skelly

Present:

Representing Competent Authority, An Bord Pleanála, PCI Unit

Diarmuid Collins, Senior Administrative Officer

Sorcha Skelly, Executive Officer

Representing Project Promoter (Eirgrid)

Bernard Dee, Eirgrid

Eoghan Tuite, Eirgrid

Gary Nolan, Eirgrid

Introduction:

Introductions were made and the Competent Authority (CA) stated that it would take a record of this meeting and it will enter the public domain at the conclusion of the process.

The CA stated that this meeting is being held as a general overview and preparatory meeting on the Permit Granting Process. This meeting would be entirely separate from the SID meetings and process and that there would be no crossover in ABP staff between these meetings. Under the PCI process, the CA said it will not be discussing the merits or otherwise of the project.

Permit Granting Process (Overview)

The CA issued an acknowledgment letter to Eirgrid on 21st March 2019 confirming that the project is considered mature enough to enter the Permit Granting Process. That date of this acknowledgment letter serves as the start of the permit granting process. Eirgrid shall within an indicative period of three months from 21st March 2019 draw up and submit a concept for public participation to the CA.

The CA informed Eirgrid that it has tried to contact the French CA to inform it of the date of acceptance but the email address supplied appears to be incorrect and there is no valid postal address to send a hard copy of the letter. Eirgrid said it will provide the French CA contact details by the end of the week.

EU 2019 Energy Call for Proposals

Eirgrid is hoping this project is eligible for a grant from the EU Commission to fund PCI projects. The final date for it to submit the grant application for this year is 13th June 2019. Section 3.1 of the application form requires the competent authority to declare that the class of development is neither covered by Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive. Eirgrid feel that this development falls under this category. Eirgrid stated that the application form asks a very specific question (Annex I or Annex II or Neither of the two annexes) and there is a space for the competent authority to comment if needed for an explanation. The PCI Unit said that its understanding was that it would be unlikely that the Board Secretary would complete any sections of the form while the proposed development was at the pre-application consultation stage with the Strategic Development Section as matters in relation to EIA and AA would

be part of a process which would also include public participation (at application stage) and assessments, recommendations and reports by Inspectors and eventual decision by the Board. The PCI Unit suggested that matters in relation to EIA/AA be pursued with SID.

Public Participation:

Eirgrid have an indicative period of three months to draw up and submit a concept for public participation to the CA from the date the start of the permit granting process commences. The PCI Unit asked Eirgrid for an estimated date as to when they may submit this to the CA. Eirgrid said it hoped to submit this by mid to late May.

The PCI Unit queried if the French CA would make the French public participation concept available to the public. Eirgrid is to check and revert.

Eirgrid asked when the public participation is circulated to authorities, if the process is similar to the process for entry into the permit granting process. The PCI Unit clarified that all authorities are given a number of weeks to comment on the public participation concept. Their responses are used to inform the decision on the Concept but their individual approval is not required.

Eirgrid referred to Page 15 of the PCI Manual where it states that all submissions received as part of the public consultation should be published on the project website. Eirgrid stated that all submissions will be reviewed and it can detail them individually but due to GDPR it won't be able to publish all submissions on its website. It stated that it could summarise what they receive from the public and put it in the public domain but it will be unable to publish names. Public Bodies comments could be published. The PCI Unit suggested that Eirgrid propose this approach to PCI by email but that this approach seemed reasonable.

Eirgrid asked if it needed to have a separate PCI website for the project website. It was stated that the Celtic Inter Connector website would suffice as the project website.

A further meeting could be organised prior to the public participation being submitted for any further queries. Eirgrid said it would hope to submit the public participation concept by mid-May.

Detailed Schedule for Permit Granting Process (Overview)

The PCI Unit stated that the public participation concept process might be completed prior to commencing work on the detailed schedule for permit granting process. To draw up the schedule, the CA will co-ordinate a meeting with Eirgrid and all other authorities concerned. It will be Eirgrid's responsibility to detail time lines for the project to all participants at the meeting.

Scope of Material and Level of Detail (Overview)

The CA referred to the advice given in its Manual of Procedures and said it would prefer to proceed on the basis of a proposal by the Project Promoter.

AOB

Eirgrid queried what CA's interpretation of Annex VI(3)(b) was. The CA said paragraph (3) related to principles to be applied and the project promoter should aim to apply these principles in its public participation.



Diarmuid Collins,
Senior Administrative Officer,
15th April, 2019.