



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Inspector's Report PCI0003/ABP-302725-18

To: Director of Planning.

Report prepared further to instruction from Director of Planning

**Regulation (EU) No. 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council  
of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-european energy infrastructure**

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**Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)**

**PCI 0003 / ABP-302725-18**

**Project promoter:**

EirGrid PLC

**Issue:**

Project of Common Interest (PCI)/ Strategic Infrastructure (S.I.) application – Concept for public participation submitted by Eirgrid PLC pursuant to Art 9(3) of Regulation 347/2013 for that section of the Celtic Interconnector project falling within the Irish State

**Nature of Development:**

Proposed Celtic Interconnector to facilitate an electrical link enabling the movement of electricity between Ireland and France via a connection point from East Cork.

**Inspector:**

Una Crosse

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1. An Bord Pleanála's PCI Unit has requested comments by email dated 25 June 2019 on the Concept for Public Participation dated June 2019 submitted by EirGrid PLC.
- 1.2. Under the provisions of Article 9(3) the Concept must follow the process set out in the Boards PCI Manual and in line with the guidelines set out in Annex VI of the Regulation.

## 2.0 EirGrid Submission

The Concept lodged by EirGrid includes the Concept document which includes appendices as follows:

- Executive Summary and Introduction;
- Project Overview which outlines the project benefits and project elements;
- Background to the Concept of Public Participation is outlined including reference to the PCI Manual;
- Public Participation is addressed which provides an outlines of the promoters approach to public participation, the project participation undertaken to date and future participation (Steps 4-6), network development plans are outlined as is the National Consenting Process which includes Strategic Infrastructure Development and the foreshore lease;
- The Consultation Timeline is outlined;
- The Project Stakeholders are detailed with detail on the methods of addressing stakeholders;
- The Key Human Resources involved in the Project are detailed.
- Appendix A1 is copy of Annex VI of the Regulation
- Appendix A2 outlines examples of consultation undertaken to date.

### 3.0 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. The single matter to be dealt with in this report is to respond to the request for comments to the Board's PCI Unit on the Concept lodged by EirGrid. The request from the Board's PCI Unit results from the fact that the proposed development requires a separate consent from the Board given its statutory role under the State's planning (strategic infrastructure) legislation.
- 3.2. The decision to be made in this case is influenced by the fact that EirGrid have already entered into the statutory requirements for pre application consultations under the strategic infrastructure provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Reference ABP-302725-18 refers in this instance. I would note that previous pre-application meetings held to date have referenced the public participation undertaken to date and that proposed in the future.

### 4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1. In light of the above I recommend that the Board's PCI Unit be advised that it is the opinion of the SID unit that the document would fulfil the requirements of the TEN-E Regulation (Article 9(3) and Annex VI).
- 4.2. Notwithstanding same, it is recommended that Section 4.5 entitled 'National Consenting Process' might be refined slightly as it relates to EIAR/NIS. Where these two elements are referenced in this section, they are qualified in some instances with 'where required'/'if required' but not in all cases including reference to the requirements for the Foreshore Licence. To provide greater clarity it may be useful for EirGrid to state whether it is their intention or not at this stage to prepare such reports/statements or to at least provide a statement as to their current position on the matter which could be qualified as being subject to change if deemed necessary.



Una Crosse

Senior Planning Inspector

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

