



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-011816-23
ABP-315838-23

The documentation on file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 23/02/2023.

The Board determined that an appropriate assessment is required based on the reasons and considerations as set out below.

Reasons and Considerations

The Board noted that the proposed development is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site.

In completing the screening for Appropriate Assessment, the Board accepted and adopted the screening assessment and conclusion in the Inspector's report in respect of the identification of the European sites which could potentially be affected, and the identification and assessment of potential significant effects of the proposed development, wither individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on these European sites in view of the site's Conservation Objectives.

In accordance with Article 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, on the basis of the information on file, including the AA Screening Report and supporting information, and having regard to:

- the nature and scale of the designated development,

- the close proximity between the development and European sites and the potential for emissions during both the construction and operational phases of the development,
- the potential for in-combination effects with the other energy infrastructure development in the area,

The Board concluded that the designated development comprising an emergency electricity generation development at Tarbert Power Station, Tarbert Island, Co. Kerry, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on the following European Sites, in view of the sites' conservation objectives:

- Lower River Shannon cSAC (site code 002165),
- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (site code 004077),
- Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (site code 004161), and;
- Moanveanlagh Bog cSAC (site code 002351).

An appropriate assessment is therefore required, to determine if adverse effects on the integrity of the above European sites can be excluded in view of the conservation objectives of the sites.

The Board is satisfied that the potential for significant effects on the conservation objectives of other European sites within and outside of the zone of influence can be screened out because of the separation distances and the lack of substantive ecological linkages or pathways between the proposed works and other European sites. In reaching the conclusion of the screening assessment, no account was taken of measures intended to avoid or reduce the potentially harmful effects of the project on any European Site.

Board Member

Date: 23/02/2023

Chris McGarry