



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order ABP- 315838-23

Development (Emergency Electricity Generation) Act 2022

Development (Emergency Electricity Generation) Regulations 2022

Reference Number: ABP-315838-23

Planning Authority: Kerry County Council

Application by SSE Generation Ireland Limited submitted to An Bord Pleanála by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communication on the 17th day of February, 2023 for determination in accordance with article 9 of the Development (Emergency Electricity Generation) Regulations 2022 as to whether the proposed development comprising the installation and operation of temporary emergency electricity generating plant, to a limit of 500 hours per annum. at the existing Tarbert Power Station, Tarbert in the townland of Tarbert Island County Kerry would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

The proposed development is described as follows:

- 3 number 50 megawatt gas turbine generators.
- 3 number exhaust stacks - 30 metres tall.
- 3 number fin fan coolers with several control modules.
- 6 number fuel oil tanks (80 metres cubed) (containerised).

- 6 number containerised switchgear and control modules.
- 1 number fuel oil drain tank for filler change over.
- 3 number Fuel Oil storage tanks (1000 metres cubed).
- 2 number demineralisation treatment units.
- 1 number demineralisation water storage tanks (1320 metres cubed).
- 1 number raw and fire water storage tank (2500 metres cubed).
- 2 number Distillate fuel unloading and forwarding.
- 2 number pre-filters.
- 1 number coalescer filter.
- 3 number fuel oil heaters.
- Instrument air compressors.
- 3 number generator circuit breakers.
- 2 number generator step-up transformers:
- 1 number administration building.
- 1 number 220kV substation.
- Circa 560 metres underground cable to connect to an existing Tarbert 220KV substation.

The construction phase of the designated development will comprise:

- temporary construction and laydown areas comprising hardstanding, laydown and open storage areas,
- temporary facilities and stores,
- materials and plant storage,
- contractor compound and construction staff office and welfare facilities,
- temporary vehicle parking facilities, and
- signage.

In connection with and in addition to the above, the following infrastructure will be included;

- internal roads,

- external lighting including lighting columns,
- security fencing and gates, and

The designated development at the Tarbert Power Station will also include as necessary all associated and ancillary above and below ground site development works, including works comprising or relating to construction, excavation, and vegetation clearance.

Decision

The Board determines 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, either 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 Appropriate Assessment 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, County 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 candidate Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002165),
- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004077),
- Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004161), and,
- Moanveanlagh Bog candidate Special Area of Conservation (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.

