

## Sorcha Skelly

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**From:** Appeals2  
**Sent:** Wednesday 22 July 2020 13:58  
**To:** Sorcha Skelly  
**Subject:** FW: HSE submission ref ABP Ref 306909-20 Windfarm Grid Connection Coroy Wexford  
**Attachments:** HSE submission Ballyroe buck ABP 306909 EHIS 1229.pdf

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**From:** Bord  
**Sent:** Tuesday 21 July 2020 16:19  
**To:** Appeals2 <appeals@pleanala.ie>  
**Subject:** FW: HSE submission ref ABP Ref 306909-20 Windfarm Grid Connection Coroy Wexford

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**From:** Sulley, Andrew <[andrew.sulley@hse.ie](mailto:andrew.sulley@hse.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 21 July 2020 15:36  
**To:** Bord <[bord@pleanala.ie](mailto:bord@pleanala.ie)>  
**Cc:** Hueston, Caroline <[caroline.hueston@hse.ie](mailto:caroline.hueston@hse.ie)>  
**Subject:** HSE submission ref ABP Ref 306909-20 Windfarm Grid Connection Coroy Wexford

Please find enclosed the HSE submission with regard to ABP 306909 substitute consent application for a Electrical Grid Connection.

Any clarification that might be required should be directed to Caroline Hueston at [caroline.hueston@hse.ie](mailto:caroline.hueston@hse.ie)

Andrew Sulley  
Senior EHO

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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse  
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Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara.**

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## **HSE SUBMISSION REPORT**

**Environmental Health Service Consultation Report**  
*(as a Statutory Consultee under the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) & Regulations made thereunder)*

**Report to:** An Bord Pleanála

**Type of consultation:** rEIAR

**Planning Authority:** Wexford County Council and An Bord Pleanála

**Reference Number:** ABP Ref 306909-20

**EHIS Reference number:** 1229

**Applicant:** ESB International of One Dublin Airport Central, Dublin Airport, Cloghran, County Dublin

**Proposed Development:** Crory Wind Farm Group Grid Connection serving Knockalour, Gibbet Hill, Ballynacoran and Ballycadden Wind Farms, County Wexford.

The following HSE stakeholders were notified of the application on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020:

- Emergency Planning – David O’Sullivan
- Estates – Helen Maher
- Assistant National Director for Health Protection – Kevin Kelleher / Laura Murphy
- CHO –Kate Killeen White

**This report only comments on Environmental Health (EH) Impacts of the proposed development as outlined in this rEIAR and the adequacy of the rEIAR from an EH viewpoint.**

#### **Assessment of Principle & Description of the Project**

The Electricity Supply Board (ESB) intend to apply for substitute consent for development at this site in the townlands of Ballyroebuck, Ballyandrew, Tincurry, Ballaman, Ballynancoran, Corah, Kiltilly, Curralane Oldtown, Knocknalour, Moneydurtlow, Bolinahaney, Bolacaheer, Graigue More, Tombrack, Boris, Ballycarney, Curraduff, Boolnadrum, County Wexford.

The development seeking substitute consent consists of the as-constructed 20kV electricity grid connection elements (consisting of approx. 26 kms of underground cables (UGC) and approx. 2 kms of overhead lines (OHL)), at the townlands specified above, which connects the four separate windfarms Ballycadden, Ballynancoran, Gibbet Hill and Knocknalour Wind Farms (collectively referred to as the Crory Wind Farm Group) to the national electricity grid at Crory ESB substation, County Wexford.

The as-constructed elements consist of the following: c. 2km of 20 kV overhead line (OHL). The as-constructed OHL consists of c. 26 wood poles (ranging from 9m to 12.5m above ground) supporting electrical conductor lines and ancillary structures and equipment. The as-constructed UGC generally consists of cables within the public road (a trench was excavated to a depth of c. 1.2m and to a maximum width of 2.2m – the cables were then placed in ducts within this trench which was then backfilled) with some minor deviations off the public road. The UGC also includes joint bays and other ancillary structures/equipment and is marked by road and bridge markers”.

#### **Assessment of Consideration of Alternatives**

The rEIAR does not fully describe any alternative routes for the grid connection which were considered prior to the existing grid connection taking place.

It is stated that if the existing grid connection infrastructure has to be removed then alternative grid connection routes and/or designs would be sought and implemented to provide grid connections from the windfarms to the national grid. This would have further potential impacts on environmental and public health.

### **Environment and Public Health Effects during construction**

During the construction phase of the development there was potential for temporary negative impacts on the environment and public health, including those on surface water, groundwater, soil, noise, dust, air pollution and traffic.

The rEIA acknowledges that the development resulted in temporary minor and not significant effects on the environment and the public during the construction phase, it states that that appropriate mitigation measures were in place to mitigate impacts.

Surface waters along the route such as the Ballycarney Stream, Borris Stream, and Ballingale stream are very sensitive to potential contamination. These rivers are tributaries to the River Slaney and are known to be of trout and Atlantic salmon potential. The movement and removal of soils, overburden and rock during the construction phase had the potential to give rise to negative impacts on water quality through the potential discharge of sediment to surface waters. Concrete and other cement-based products are highly alkaline and corrosive and can have significant negative impacts on water quality. There was also a risk of spills and leaks from hydrocarbons associated with the operations impacting on water, land and soils.

Some minor greenhouse gas emissions associated with construction vehicles and plant will have occurred during the construction phase of the development. There was also potential for dust emissions from the cable connection works related to excavations and vehicle movements.

Due to the nature of the activities undertaken and the use of heavy machinery, there was potential for noise impacts at noise sensitive properties. There was the potential for short term traffic nuisance to local road users and residents along the grid connection cable route during the construction phase.

The Environmental Health Department were not made aware of any significant environmental or public health impacts having arising from the development construction works and have not received any complaints as of the date of this report, in relation to the development.

### **Decommissioning**

It is noted that as the cable grid connection forms an integral part of the local electricity network it is intended that the cables will be retained as a permanent structure and will not be decommissioned.

### **Renewable Energy**

It is acknowledged that the development contributes to meeting Ireland's 2020 renewable energy targets and EU targets for renewable energy by 2030, and its commitment to transition to a low carbon economy by 2050.

### **Assessment of Interaction of the Above Impacts**

The cumulative impacts arising from the construction of the wind farms, and the grid connection have a long term positive effect on air quality and on climate change; this in turn may have a slight, long-term, positive effect on human health.

### **Conclusions**

This application for substitute consent is being made under Section 177E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to regularize planning permission for a built grid connection to connecting the CWFG to the Crory 110 kV substation.

It was a condition of windfarm planning consent that prior to commencement of works on site, the applicant shall obtain planning permission for connection of the wind farm to the National Grid. This is in the interest of clarity and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Due to the nature of the substitute consent planning application EIA assessments for the windfarms and the grid connections were submitted separately.

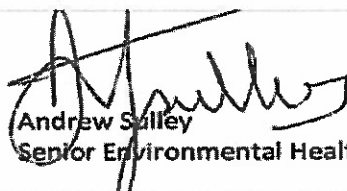
There is a need to assess such projects comprising both the wind energy development element and the subsequent grid connection element, as a single project for EIA purposes, and in particular any cumulative effects.

It is likely that some impacts on environment and public health arose as a result of the construction of the grid connection but these were temporary and mitigated to reduce the likelihood of a significant impact. Further likely significant impacts are not expected as a result of normal operation of the grid connection.

**All correspondence or any queries with regard to this report including acknowledgement of this report should be forwarded to Caroline Hueston at [caroline.hueston@hse.ie](mailto:caroline.hueston@hse.ie)**



Environmental Health Officer  
Environment OU



Andrew Sulley  
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