



An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1.

18<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**Re: Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála for East West HVDC Interconnector**

Dear Sir/Madam,

EirGrid plc hereby make this application to An Bord Pleanála for the development of a proposed high voltage direct current (HVDC) East West Interconnector between Ireland & Great Britain.

**Justification:**

The Irish Government has identified the need for an electricity interconnector between the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom. It appointed EirGrid plc and the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) in 2006 to secure the construction of a 500MW East West Interconnector (EWI).

The need for the project is established on a number of grounds. The EU has identified an urgent need for action to increase minimum interconnection levels between Member States of at least 10%. Electricity Interconnection between Ireland and the Great Britain is among a number priority projects at EU level required to achieve the objectives of sustainability, competitiveness and security of supply. The National Development Plan 2007–2013 and Energy Policy Framework 2007–2020 for Ireland establish the delivery of an east west electricity interconnector as a priority.

The benefits arising from the EWI for Ireland are identified as being enhanced security of electricity supply, promotion of competition in electricity market and support for increased electricity generation from renewable sources.

The Oval 160 Shelbourne Road  
Ballsbridge Dublin 4

160 Bóthar Shíol Bhroin  
Droichead na Dothra Baile Átha Cliath 4

TELEPHONE +353 (0)1 677 1700  
FAX +353 (0)1 661 5375  
E-MAIL [info@eirgrid.com](mailto:info@eirgrid.com)

*Directors*

Bernie Gray CHAIRPERSON Dermot Byrne CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
Emer Daly William Egerton Cormac MacDonnchadha  
David Mackey Martina Moloney Jane Williams

*Registered Office*

The Oval 160 Shelbourne Road Ballsbridge Dublin 4 Ireland  
Registered in Ireland No. 338522 V.A.T. No. IE 6358522H

[www.eirgrid.com](http://www.eirgrid.com)





The proposed development will consist of the following;

- A subsea cable installed beneath the Irish seabed from the 12 nautical mile limit to an underground transition joint to be located in the car park at North Beach, Rush, County Dublin.
- Underground electric HVDC cables installed between the underground transition joint to be located at North Beach, Rush, County Dublin and a converter station to be located adjacent to an existing ESB 400kV Station in the townland of Woodland, west of Batterstown, County Meath. The proposed underground HVDC cables will be installed within a route corridor following the existing public road network where possible.
- A Converter station and ancillary buildings and equipment located adjacent to an existing ESB 400kV substation in the townland of Woodland in County Meath. The converter station compound will also incorporate outdoor high voltage equipment. Two technologies are available to achieve the conversion; Line Commutated Converter (LCC) HVDC and Voltage Source Converter (VSC) HVDC. Both technologies use thyristors which are power electronic switching devices. In addition, the equipment at Woodland will include AC transformers, harmonic filters and capacitor banks, all of which are necessary for the station to operate efficiently. EirGrid is currently engaged in a public procurement process for the East West Interconnector infrastructure which will ensure the maximum benefit to electricity consumers. The tender is open to both technologies and this planning application covers the possible use of either technology.
- An associated new 400kV cable bay is required within the existing ESB Woodland 400kV Station in the townland of Woodland, Co. Meath.

The converter stations, underground land cable route corridor and marine cable route corridor are shown on maps and drawings submitted with this application. An Environmental Report and landscaping details are also included.

Furthermore, the environmental reports for the British marine and land sections of the development are also enclosed as requested by the board in pre consultation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Meagher", is written over a horizontal line.

Sean Meagher  
Project Manager - Ireland  
East West Interconnector