

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2006

NOTICE OF DIRECT PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA IN RESPECT OF A STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

County Fingal & County Meath

In accordance with Section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006, EirGrid plc, gives notice of its intention to make an application for approval to An Bord Pleanála in relation to a proposed high voltage direct current (HVDC) East West Interconnector between Ireland & Great Britain.

The proposed development will consist of the following;

- (i) 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. The circuit will consist of two power cables installed at a depth of 1.5m to 3m within a route corridor 50m wide. The power cables will each be up to 150mm in diameter and weight 50kg/m approximately. A fibre optic cable will also be installed primarily to control the operation of the interconnector.
- (ii) 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 in the following townlands:
Townlands in County Fingal; Rush, Whitestown, Rogerstown, Balleally East, Balleally West, Newhaggard, Corduff Common, Corduffhall, Corduff (part of Coldwinters), Thomondtown, Richardstown, Gracedieu, Roscall, Mainscourt, Grange, Ballyboghil, Murragh, Westpalstown, Leastown, Oldtown, Wyanstown, Browns Cross, Cottrelstown, Nutstown, Wyestown, Ballymadun and Glebe.
Townlands in County Meath: Rath, Cookstown, Hammondstown, Crickstown, Kilbrew, Loughlinstown, Bodeen, Cabinhill, Flemingtown, Twentypark, Lagore Little, Brownstown, Ballymore, Bradystown, Elgarstown, Curkeen, Commons, Wilkinstown, Powderlough, Raynestown, Rathregan, Portan, Ribstown and Woodland.
The underground cable section from Rush to Woodland will be 44.2km in length and will consist of two power cables installed in ducts laid in a trench approximately 1.2m deep and 1.0m wide. The trench will also contain a third duct which will contain a fibre optic cable to primarily control the operation of the Interconnector. Lengths of underground power cable will be joined along the route at distances of 500m to 700m approximately apart in underground joint pits. Each joint pit will be up to 3m wide, 15m long and 2m deep.
- (iii) A Converter station located adjacent to an existing ESB 400kV substation in the townland of Woodland in County Meath. The converter station will consist of a building to house converter valves, a converter reactor and switch gear. Ancillary buildings to house amenities, control room, store room, workshop, office, meeting room and medium voltage switch gear. The maximum height of any building on site will be 24m. The converter station compound will also contain the following outdoor high voltage equipment: converter transformer, AC filter capacitors and reactors, AC switchyard, AC tail station, diesel generator, auxiliary transformer, AC current and voltage transducers and the station earthing system.

- (iv) A new 400kV cable bay is to be constructed in the existing ESB Woodland 400kV Station in the townland of Woodland. The cable bay consists of the following high voltage switchgear: electrical disconnects, a circuit breaker, current transformers, voltage transformers and surge arrestors and will connect the station's busbar with the new converter station via an underground electric cable.

Outlines of the converter station, underground land cable route corridor and marine cable route corridor will be shown on maps and drawings submitted with the application.

An Environmental Report and landscaping details will be submitted with the application.

The planning application may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee during public opening hours for a period of seven weeks commencing on Tuesday 25th November 2008 at the following locations:

The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1
The Offices of Fingal County Council, Main St., Swords, Co. Dublin and Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.
The Offices of Meath County Council, County Hall Navan, Co. Meath.

The application may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website:
www.eirgrideastwestinterconnector.ie

EirGrid invite submissions or observations which may be made only to An Bord Pleanála ('the Board') 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the above mentioned period of seven weeks relating to –

- (i) the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development, and
- (ii) the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be received by the Board not later than 5.30p.m. on Thursday 22nd January 2009 and must include the following information:

- (i) the name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent,
- (ii) the subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- (iii) the reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full.

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board.

The Board may in respect of an application for approval decide to –

- (a)
 - (i) approve the proposed development, or
 - (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its approval of the proposed development as so modified, or
 - (iii) approve, in part only the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind), or
- (b) refuse to approve the proposed development.

If there are any enquiries relating to the application process, these should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Section of An Bord Pleanála (Telephone: 01 8588100)

Signed on the behalf of EirGrid  Date 18/11/2008