

# Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2011

## NOTICE OF DIRECT PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN BORD

### PLEANÁLA IN RESPECT OF A STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

#### Laois and Kilkenny County Councils

In accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as inserted by the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act, 2006 and amended by the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act, 2010 and the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2011, EirGrid plc, with the consent and approval of the Electricity Supply Board, gives notice of its intention to make an application to An Bord Pleanála for approval of proposed electricity transmission infrastructure, and associated works in the townlands of Orchard Lower, Kyle, Coolnabacky, Money Lower, Loughteog, Garrigen (E.D. Timogue), Esker, Ballygormill South, Cremoran, Baurree, Rathenduff Big, Ballinaclogh Lower, Ballinaclogh Upper, Garryglass, Clarraracum, Boleybeg, Knockardagar, Aghnacross, Boleydawn, Cloghoge and Ironmills or Kilrush in Co. Laois and the townlands of Loughill, Ballyoskill, Ballynalacken, Ballymartin, Tinnalintan, Srleagh, Rathduff, Moatpark, Ballyragget, Donaghmore, Connally, Foulkerrath, Shanganny, Swiftsheath, Tulloglass, Garagara, Mohil, Ballyriffin, Bullockhill, Kilmademoge, Dunmotepark, Radesstown South, Radesstown North, Kyleroe, Brownstown, Kingsland (E.D. Kilkenny), Archergrath, Cellarstown West, Leggetstrath East, Cellarstown Lower, Cellarstown Upper, Higginstown, Templemartin (E.D. Clara), Rathbourn or Rathenmore and Scart (E.D. Dunbell) in Co. Kilkenny.

The proposed Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement Project consists of 8 no. interrelated elements as follows:

- (i) A new 400/110kV GIS substation comprising the construction of a new 400/110kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation at Coolnabacky and Esker townlands, north of Timahoe, Co. Laois. This substation, in a site area of approx. 7.6 hectares, will consist of: 2 no. Gas Insulated (GIS) substation buildings one operated at 400kV (building dimensions 64m x 15.5m x 13m) and the other operated at 110kV (building dimensions approx. 50m x 11.5m x 12.5m) within a 98m x 117m compound secured by a 2.6m high palisade fence; a 400kV gantry and associated line equipment required to divert the 400kV overhead lines into the 400kV GIS station; 2 no. 400/110kV, 500MVA transformers and 2 no. shunt reactors which will be positioned in transformer bunds between the two substation buildings; associated development including 8 no. separate sedimentation/attenuation ponds (average area 110m<sup>2</sup>); vehicular access to the substation is via a modification to the existing private road including the existing access point; foul holding tank; and all other ancillary site works.
- (ii) A new connection to the proposed Coolnabacky substation from the existing Moneypoint - Dunstown 400kV line by way of a 400kV overhead line in 2 no. new single circuit spans (approx. 280m and 295m respectively) connecting to approx. 1.2km of 400kV double circuit line which brings the 400kV circuits to the proposed gantry in Coolnabacky 400/110kV substation. The proposal includes: 2 no. new 400kV single circuit angle masts of heights up to approx. 37.3m and 32.3m; 2 no. new 400kV double circuit angle masts both up to approx. 55.5m in height; and 3 no. new 400kV intermediate masts all up to approx. 57.8m in height. An existing 400kV intermediate mast on the existing 400kV line and approx. 150m of existing 400kV overhead line between the two connection points to the Moneypoint - Dunstown 400kV line will be removed.
- (iii) A new connection to the proposed Coolnabacky substation from the existing Athy - Portlaoise 110kV line by replacing 2 no. existing intermediate polesets with 2 no. lattice steel line/cable interface masts both approx. 21m in height (both these structures are contained within the proposed Coolnabacky substation site adjacent to the proposed site compound). Short lengths of underground cable (approx. 100m and 190m in length) will connect the new line/cable interface masts into the 110kV building within the proposed Coolnabacky compound. Approximately 150m of existing overhead line will be removed between the 2 no. line/cable interface masts.
- (iv) A new 110kV / 38kV / MV substation in Moatpark, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny in a site area of approx. 1.5 hectares constructed adjacent to the existing 38kV / MV Ballyragget substation. The proposed 110kV GIS substation (approx. dimensions 50m x 11.5m by 12m high) will be in a compound of 61m x 70m plan area secured by a 2.6m high palisade fence. The compound will also include: a 38kV / MV GIS substation building (approx. dimensions 24.5m x 8m by 7m high); 1 no. 31.5MVA 110/38kV transformer and 1 no. 5MVA 38/20kV transformer positioned in transformer bunds between the substation buildings; a new access road (60m long) from an existing entrance to the substation; 2 no. lightning masts each approx. 14m in height; associated development of a septic tank and percolation area, soakaway pits and all other ancillary site works.
- (v) A new 110kV overhead line between the proposed Ballyragget substation and the proposed Coolnabacky substation consisting of approx. 26km of overhead line and 2 no. short lengths of cable at the approach to the proposed Ballyragget and Coolnabacky substations. The overhead line will consist of 143 no. double wood polesets up to a maximum height of approx. 22m and 17 no. lattice steel angle masts up to a maximum height of approx. 25m supporting three electrical conductors and two earthwires. Approx. 160m of underground cable connects the proposed Ballyragget 110kV building to a proposed line/cable interface mast within the Ballyragget substation site and approx. 190m of underground cable connects the proposed Coolnabacky 110kV building to the line/cable interface mast adjacent to the proposed Coolnabacky substation.
- (vi) An upgrade to the existing Ballyragget - Kilkenny 110kV overhead line consisting of the replacement of all the structures along the existing line with similar structures along the same alignment except for the first 670m out of Ballyragget substation and the first 275m out of Kilkenny substation which are required to be realigned as well as upgraded. The development comprises approx. 21.9km of overhead line and 2 no. short lengths of cable at Ballyragget and Kilkenny substations. The overhead line will consist of 90 no. double wood polesets up to a maximum height of approx. 22m and 14 no. lattice steel angle masts up to a maximum height of approx. 25m supporting three electrical conductors. Approx. 215m of underground cable connects the proposed Ballyragget 110kV building to a proposed line/cable interface mast and approx. 50m of underground cable connects the line/cable interface mast to the electrical equipment in Kilkenny substation.
- (vii) A new bay in the existing Kilkenny 110kV substation of dimensions measuring approx. 20m x 6m x 5m high consisting of the installation of outdoor air insulated equipment including, circuit breaker, disconnects and instrument transformers mounted on concrete plinths; the removal of the existing end mast; and all other ancillary site works..
- (viii) Modifications to existing Athy - Portlaoise 110kV line comprising the replacement of existing structures along a portion of the existing Athy - Portlaoise 110kV line from the proposed Coolnabacky substation south-eastwards towards Athy for approx. 2.3km and from the proposed Coolnabacky substation north-westward towards Portlaoise for approx. 1.3km. The replacement structures, which will be of a generally similar form and character to those existing, will be fitted with earthwire. 1 no. existing poleset structure will be replaced with a lattice steel angle mast. The proposed replacement overhead line will thereby consist of 17 no. double wood polesets up to a maximum height of approx. 22m and 2 no. lattice steel angle masts up to a maximum height of approx. 25m.

The application for approval includes all associated and ancillary site works.

An Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development. The planning application, Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement 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 1st February 2013 at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, and,
- The Offices of Laois County Council, Aras an Chontae Portlaoise, Co. Laois, and,
- The Offices of Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny.

The application may also be viewed/downloaded at the following website: <http://www.eirgridlaoisilkenny.ie>

Submissions or observations 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 in the area concerned, and
- (ii) the likely effects on the environment or adverse effects on the integrity of a European site, of the proposed development, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of 50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Board not later than 5.30p.m. on

21st March 2013 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 under Section 182B to:

- (a) approve the proposed development,
  - (b) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its approval and grant approval in respect of the proposed development as so modified,
  - (c) approve, in part only, the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind), or
  - (d) refuse to approve the proposed development;
- and may attach to an approval under (a), (b), or (c) above such conditions as it considers appropriate.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Section of An Bord Pleanála (Telephone: 01 8588100).

A person may question the validity of any such decision of the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rule of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Publications - Judicial Review Notice on the Board's website [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie) or on the Citizens Information Service website [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)