

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

Your ref: 11.VC0035

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012

**Re: Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement Project**

Dear Sirs,

The Electricity Supply Board (hereinafter referred to as the 'ESB') of 27 Lower Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2, was constituted by the Electricity Supply Act 1927. ESB is the licensed Transmission System Owner for Ireland pursuant to Section 14 of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999.

EirGrid plc is a public limited company established pursuant to Regulation 34 of the European Communities (Internal Market in Electricity) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No 445/2000) and is the licensed Transmission System Operator for Ireland pursuant to Section 14 of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999. Pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(a) of S.I. No 445/2000, EirGrid plc has the exclusive function to operate and ensure the maintenance of and, if necessary, develop a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient electricity transmission system.

Pursuant to Regulation 18.1(a) of S.I. No. 445/2000, ESB and EirGrid are required to enter into an agreement for the purpose of enabling EirGrid as Transmission System Operator discharge its functions under S.I. No 445/2000. On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006 ESB and EirGrid accordingly entered into this agreement, known as the Infrastructure Agreement.

Pursuant to clause 7.6 of the Infrastructure Agreement, all activities connected with seeking and obtaining planning permission/approval (if needed) and any other consents required by the Transmission System Operator to discharge its functions as such shall be the sole responsibility of the Transmission System Operator, i.e. EirGrid plc.

ESB is obliged under the legislation and the Infrastructure Agreement cited above to facilitate EirGrid's planning intentions in the furtherance of its functions as Transmission System Operator. In order therefore not to impede the discharge by EirGrid of those functions, ESB, as the licensed Transmission System Owner and the person with sufficient legal interest in the property the subject matter of the attached application for the purposes of the Planning and

Development Act 2000 (as amended), hereby conveys its consent to the making by EirGrid of this application for planning permission/approval which EirGrid considers necessary.

In the interest of clarity, ESB must nonetheless draw to the attention of the Planning Authority that this consent does not relate to the merits or any aspect of this application by EirGrid as ESB may not have had sight of this application prior to the issue of this letter, and separate submissions in respect of planning issues may be made if requested by the Planning Authority or if necessary in ESB's view.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several vertical, wavy lines that resemble the letters 'J', 'R', and 'D' intertwined. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

**JOHN REDMOND**  
**SECRETARY**