

Mr. Peter Carey, Manager,  
Laois County Council,  
Áras an Chontae,  
Portlaoise,  
Co. Laois

24<sup>th</sup> January 2013

**Reference: Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement Project Application (SID)**

Dear Mr. Carey,

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, Carrigeen (E.D. Timogue), Esker, Ballygormill South, Cremorgan, Baunree, Raheenduff Big, Ballinaclogh Lower, Ballinaclogh Upper, Garryglass, Clarbarracum, Boleybeg, Knockardagur, Aghnacross, Boleybawn, Cloghoge and Ironmills or Kilrush in Co. Laois and the townlands of Loughill, Ballyoskill, Ballynalacken, Ballymartin, Tinnalintan, Sraleagh, Rathduff, Moatpark, Ballyragget, Donaghmore, Connahy, Foulksrath, Shanganny, Swiftsheath, Tullowglass, Gragara, Mohil, Ballyrafton, Bullockhill, Kilmademoge, Dunmorepark, Radestown South, Radestown North, Kyleroe, Brownstown, Kingsland (E.D. Kilkenny), Archersrath, Cellarstown West, Leggetsrath East, Cellarstown Lower, Cellarstown Upper, Higginstown, Templemartin (E.D. Clara), Rathbourn or Ratheenmore and Scart (E.D. Dunbell) in Co. Kilkenny.

The application, a copy of which is enclosed for your consideration, is comprised of three parts:

**Statutory Particulars** – includes the application form, copies of the site and newspaper notices, the drawings and schedules, the list of prescribed bodies consulted and letters of consent.

**Planning Report** – this report provides some background to the project and sets the proposal in its policy and environmental context. The report also gives a description of the study area and of the alternatives considered.

**Environmental Report** – this report assesses the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed development and proposes mitigation measures where appropriate.

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 uprate 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 uprated. 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.

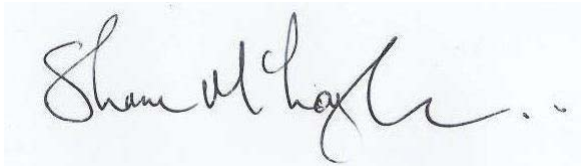
The application for approval includes all associated and ancillary site works

To this end five hard copies and three electronic copies of the planning application and associated documentation are provided herewith.

Copies of the planning application and reports should be made available to members of the public during your opening hours of 09.30-16.00 for a period of 7 weeks commencing on **1<sup>st</sup> February 2013**.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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**Shane McLoughney**  
**ESB International**

**ESB International**, Stephen Court, 18–21 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland.

**Tel:** +353 (0) 1 703 8000 **Fax:** +353 (0) 1 703 8088 **Email:** [marketing@esbi.ie](mailto:marketing@esbi.ie) **Web:** [www.esbi.ie](http://www.esbi.ie)

Mr. Joe Crockett, Manager,  
Kilkenny County Council,  
County Hall,  
John Street,  
Kilkenny,  
Co. Kilkenny.

24<sup>th</sup> January 2013

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ESB International is a trading name of ESBI Engineering & Facility Management Limited.

**Directors:** Gerry Tallon, John Redmond, Michael O'Brien, Oliver Brogan.

**Registered Office:** Stephen Court, 18–21 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland.

**Registered in Ireland No.** 155249



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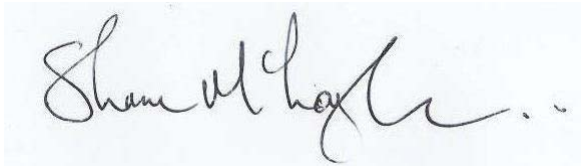
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**Shane McLoughney**  
**ESB International**