

## **EirGrid progresses 400kV power line projects to next phase**

April 8, 2009 – Following a review of all project documentation, including consultants' studies, reports and consultation feedback, EirGrid has nominated one preferred route corridor for each 400kV power line project for further study.

Detailed studies will now focus on Route Corridor 3B, for the Meath-Cavan line and Route Corridor A for the Cavan-Tyrone line.

Each preferred route corridor strikes the best balance between the competing priorities of community concerns, environmental issues and the technical aspects of the project.

Tomás Mahony, EirGrid senior project engineer, said: "To get to this point, EirGrid carried out studies to assess the feasibility of line routes within each corridor. These line routes will now be taken forward to the next phase of project development, involving discussions with landowners as a priority, further studies and stakeholder engagement.

"No decisions can be made on the final line routes until all studies have been completed. EirGrid will review its position regarding the best solutions for the projects, based on the outcome of this work.

"Once all relevant studies, including those associated with the Environmental Impact Statement are complete, EirGrid will bring the preferred final line routes to An Bord Pleanála. An Bord Pleanála is the independent statutory body that will ultimately decide if the project can go forward."

Landowners along these line routes will be contacted in the coming months. Discussions with these landowners will help EirGrid and landowners understand the issues and benefits that relate to the projects. These discussions are very important as they will enable the landowners to suggest possible mitigation options that may be available. EirGrid is also asking people to contact its local Information Centres to have further input into the project before any final decision is made.

A year-long study by independent experts, PB Power, published in February 2009 confirmed overhead power lines are the most secure and cost effective way to provide this vital new infrastructure.

PB Power's report establishes that there would be huge technical issues involved in putting this project underground. Underground cables of this capacity and this length have never been used anywhere else in the world.

The Report also found the estimated costs for underground cables would be much more expensive than going overhead - €588 million, compared with €81million. Electricity customers will have to pay for the power lines through their bills.

People can make appointments to meet the project team in person or get further information by contacting EirGrid on lo-call 1890 25 26 90 or visit [www.eirgrid.com](http://www.eirgrid.com)

**-ENDS-**

For further information Eimear Fitzpatrick on 01 7098001 or 087 413 9387

- **Possible candidate corridor A** - Indicative line route A connects with the NIE proposal east of Clontibret. From this point the line route traverses the N2 north of Annayalla and proceeds to cross the R183 west of the village of Doohamlat. The line route continues in a south-easterly direction and crosses the R180 northwest of Lough Egish. The route then crosses the R181 between Lough Egish and Shantonagh to circumvent Shantonagh Lough. It then crosses the R178 approximately 3 kilometers east of Shercock to navigate around the lakes at Northlands and to cross the Cavan County Boundary. Once the route crosses the County Boundary along the R162 it travels in a southerly direction to finally cross the R165 and navigate towards the proposed 400kV substation to the west of Kingscourt Co. Cavan.
- **Possible candidate corridor 3B** - Route Line Option 3 follows the existing 400kV power line from Woodland Substation for approximately 3km in a northerly direction staying approximately 5km to the east of the town of Trim. It runs approximately 6km west of the Hill of Tara and approximately 1km west of the townland of Bective. It runs in a due north direction through the townland of Philpotstown and runs east of the Village of Dunderry. It crosses the N51 in the townland of Irishtown. It runs approximately 5km west of Navan and approximately 1.5km east of the village of Bohermeen. It crosses the N3 near Finnegans Crossroads. It runs approximately 7km east of Kells and splits into two options 3A and 3B in the townlands of Red Island and Clongill. Route Line Option 3B runs in north eastern direction and crosses the N52 near Raffin Cross. It runs approximately 1.5km west of the town of Nobber. From the townland of Altmush it runs in a northerly direction approximately 1km west of the village of Kilmainhamwood towards the proposed substation study area.