

**Monday 7 September 2009**

**EirGrid tells council planning application to be lodged before year end**

EirGrid has told a meeting of Monaghan County Council that it plans to submit a planning application for the Meath – Tyrone 400kV Interconnection Development project before the end of the year.

Tomás Mahony, EirGrid Project Engineer, today told a meeting of the Council that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was nearing completion and that an application to the Strategic Infrastructure Board of An Bord Pleanála would then follow.

EirGrid was asked by councillors to provide an update on the project at its September Council Meeting.

Mr Mahony said the project was reaching the end of its third phase, which began in April with the start of landowner consultations following the announcement of a preferred route corridor. Since then EirGrid has engaged with numerous landowners, and other stakeholders, as well as publishing further reports and a community update brochure.

The council was told by EirGrid Transmission specialist Bernard O' Reilly that the requirement for the project could be summarised by four As: The increasing Age of the existing transmission network; energy Availability issues; Ireland's Alternative energy strategy; and the Attractiveness of the north-east region for inward investment.

Mr Mahony added that transmission lines in the region were between 27 and 49 years old. He said the overall investment in the region under EirGrid's Grid25 programme is €300 million. This includes 240 km of upgrades to the existing network to maximise use of existing corridors and the reinforcement of 110 kV networks supplying Cavan and Monaghan.

He told the council that once the planning application is lodged, submissions can be made by stakeholders to An Bord Pleanála for a period of six weeks. An Bord Pleanála may then decide to hold an Oral Hearing before making a decision on the project.

**-ENDS-**

For further information please contact Eimear Fitzpatrick on 01 709 8001 or 087 413 9387

**Notes to editors**

- EirGrid's project team is available on the phone at 1890 25 26 90, Mondays to Fridays from 9am to 5pm. The email address is [meathcavanpower@eirgrid.com](mailto:meathcavanpower@eirgrid.com) or [cavantyroneinterconnector@eirgrid.com](mailto:cavantyroneinterconnector@eirgrid.com).
- Face-to-face meetings can be held at any venue or at the EirGrid information centres in Navan, open Tuesdays from 1pm until 7pm, and Carrickmacross, open Wednesdays from 1pm until 7pm.