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## North South Interconnector

### What's happening now? Summer 2019 Update

#### ESB awards framework contract for North South Interconnector

EirGrid, as Transmission System Operator, was responsible for obtaining planning permission for the North South Interconnector, while ESB Networks is responsible for the detailed design and construction of the project. It is also our role to monitor what ESB is doing to ensure that it is in accordance with EirGrid's plan.

Following a public tender process, ESB Networks has awarded a framework contract for the design, test and supply of pylons for the interconnector. The design and testing part of the contract will commence shortly, but the main part of the contract will not commence until the planning process in Northern Ireland is complete.

ESB is also in discussions with Meath, Cavan and Monaghan county councils and other statutory agencies to agree on certain aspects of the detailed design.

#### Update on the status of the planning approval in Ireland

Planning approval for the North South Interconnector in Ireland was granted by An Bord Pleanála in December 2016. The approval faced a number of legal challenges, the last of which was dismissed by the Supreme Court in February 2019. This ruling means that the North South Interconnector has cleared all of the planning and legal hurdles in Ireland and can proceed to construction.

#### Update on the status of the planning consent in Northern Ireland

Planning approval was granted in January 2018. However, in February 2019, the planning approval was withdrawn due to a legal challenge that argued that approval could not be granted in the absence of the Infrastructure Minister. The application has now returned to the Department for Infrastructure for re-consideration and we are hopeful that the Department can make a decision in the coming months.



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## North South Interconnector Benefits

The North South Interconnector will bring important benefits to Meath, Cavan and Monaghan. It will improve security of electricity supply in the area, something that is of paramount importance for local communities and businesses and to attract inward investment. This will enable job creation and economic development in the North East.

At a national level, the project is one of the most important components in Ireland's strategy for meeting our climate change commitments and is highlighted as such in the government's recent Climate Action Plan 2019. This is primarily because it will increase interconnection with Northern Ireland and facilitate the connection of renewable energy across the island of Ireland. And, finally, the North South Interconnector will result in all-island savings of more than €20 million per annum when put into service.

## Community Fund

In 2012, the Government issued a policy statement that promoted the building of community gain considerations into energy infrastructure projects. In accordance with this policy a North South Interconnector Community Fund to the value of €10m will be established. This will include proximity payments for homeowners within 200m of the project and a community gain fund. The community gain fund will support community led projects which deliver long lasting benefits to the communities adjacent to the line. Further information on Community Funds and Proximity Payments is available on our website.

## On the ground and here to help

We will continue to engage with landowners and keep them informed as the project progresses. All of the access routes for construction, over 500 in total, were identified as part of the planning process. Landowners were provided with maps and aerial photographs showing where these pass through their lands. At this stage we don't envisage making any changes to the access routes, however, if any landowners would like to suggest alternatives or modifications we are happy to discuss. Landowners directly impacted by the project have a legal right to financial compensation and this will be discussed with them in advance of construction commencing.

Our agricultural liaison officers are on the ground and available to answer your questions. You can find contact details for them below. We are here to help.

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### Carrickmacross contact details:

**Opening hours: Mondays between 10am and 4pm (excluding public holidays)**

**Phone:** +353 (0)42 966 34 04 or

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Unit 2, The Avenue, Ardee Road, Carrickmacross,  
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### Agricultural Liaison Officers contact details:

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