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Mr. Ian Lumley
Planning Department
An Taisce The National Trust for Ireland
Tailors' Hall
Back Lane
Dublin 8

13 July 2010

Re: Consultation on a proposed new 110kV Transmission Circuit in County Cork

Dear Mr. Lumley,

I am writing to you on behalf of EirGrid, the state-owned independent electricity Transmission System Operator and Market Operator in Ireland, to engage you in the consultation process for a proposed new 110kV electricity circuit connecting the existing Clashavoon 220kV substation, which is located North-East of Macroom, to the existing Dunmanway 110kV substation, located on the outskirts of Dunmanway town.

It is EirGrid's role to develop quality connection, transmission and market services to electricity generators, suppliers and customers. In this capacity, EirGrid is proposing this new 110kV circuit which involves the construction of a new 110kV transmission circuit and the required works in both existing substations.

This initial consultation is aimed at presenting the study area and identifying the constraints therein. Further consultation will take place as the project proceeds.

The proposed development is required to address two identified transmission network problems in South West Cork:

☐ **Security of Electricity Supply**

Currently the electricity supply in South West Cork is maintained by two 110kV transmission lines, the Dunmanway – Macroom 110 kV line and the Bandon – Raffeen 110kV line. During routine maintenance of either line, the subsequent loss of the other line would mean that South West Cork would lose its electricity supply and leave the towns of Bandon, Ballylickey, Dunmanway and the extended areas around them, without power.

☐ **Facilitate Connection of Renewable Generation**

There is a significant amount of renewable generation connected or seeking to connect in South West Cork. The current transmission network configuration and capacity is not capable of accommodating the connection of this amount of renewable generation.

It is vital that new electricity infrastructure is built to ensure that the region meets the standards required of a safe and secure electricity system.

The attached A2 map (ref. PE687-D193-003-001-000) is a 'Constraints Map' and shows the project study area. The study area is defined as the broad geographical area within which potential route corridors can be identified. It is approximately 560km² in area (20km x 28km).

EirGrid have engaged the services of a specialist planning and environmental consultancy company (AOS Planning) to assist in the preparation of detailed environmental reports. A preliminary report is currently being prepared by AOS Planning and some consultation may already have commenced to feed into this report.

A mandatory pre-application consultation meeting with An Bord Pleanála took place on May 13th 2010. An Bord Pleanála advised that its preliminary view was that the project was "strategic" and as such an application would be made directly to An Bord Pleanála. We will be meeting An Bord Pleanála again once an emerging preferred route corridor has been identified and An Bord Pleanála will confirm at that stage if the project is "strategic".

We would now welcome your initial views/comments on the study area for the proposed project so that they can be incorporated at this early stage into the route selection process. The project team intend to commence identifying possible route corridors in early August 2010 and would therefore appreciate that any comments be returned by the end of July 2010.

Should you have any queries or require further information on any aspect of the proposed development please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Elaine Hannan,
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Clashavoon – Dunmanway 110kV Project,
ESB International,
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Little Island,
Co. Cork.