

North-South 400kV Interconnection Development Community Update Newsletter – December 2013



The Project

EirGrid and Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) are jointly planning a major cross-border electricity transmission scheme. This scheme is a 400kV overhead line linking the 400kV substation in Woodland, County Meath with a planned substation in Turleenan, County Tyrone and will provide a second high-capacity electricity transmission line between Ireland and Northern Ireland. EirGrid will shortly apply for planning approval for that part of the scheme located in Ireland called the North-South 400kV Interconnection Development.

What has happened recently?

In July 2013 EirGrid published its "Preferred Project Solution Report". This was then followed by an eight-week period of public consultation during which time EirGrid invited stakeholders to provide feedback on the topics covered in the report and for their views on issues and environmental topics to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will accompany the application for planning approval.

Numerous requests were received from stakeholders, mostly from landowners, for changes to the line design. These have been assessed in accordance with the criteria set out in the "Preferred Project Solution Report" and many have been accommodated. Where appropriate, this has resulted in a change to the line design.

What is happening now?

EirGrid has now published its proposed final line route which alignment will form the basis of an application for planning approval which will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála. This takes account of the changes arising from the modifications requests. Landowners will receive maps showing how the proposal affects their landholdings.

Maps showing the proposed final line route are also available for viewing by all stakeholders on the project website at www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/NorthSouth400kVInterconnectionDevelopment

EirGrid has asked An Bord Pleanála to provide a scoping opinion on what topics should be addressed in the EIS. This is a formal process which requires An Bord Pleanála to review the proposal as set out in the Preferred Project Solution Report and to seek input from relevant prescribed bodies on what should be included in the EIS.

It is expected that following receipt of the EIS scoping opinion from An Bord Pleanála EirGrid will be in a position to submit the EIS and the application for planning approval in early 2014.

Before the application is submitted EirGrid will place planning notices in national and local newspapers to inform the public of its intention to do so. These notices will also advise of the locations and times when the application can be inspected. Members of the public and landowners may make submissions directly to An Bord Pleanála during this same period.

An Bord Pleanála is the competent authority that will complete the Environmental Impact Assessment and determine the outcome of the planning application.

For further information on the project, you may contact us in the following ways:

Write: c/o EirGrid NS Project Manager, Block 2, Floor, 2, West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland

Phone: Lo-call 1890 25 26 90 **Email:** northsouth@eirgrid.com

Website: <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kVinterconnectiondevelopment>

Make an appointment to visit us at our local information centres which are available by appointment:

Navan

10a Kennedy House, Kennedy Road,
Navan, Co. Meath.

Carrickmacross

Carrickmacross Workhouse, Shercock Road,
Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.

Kingscourt

Dun A Ri House Hotel, Station Road,
Kingscourt, Co. Cavan.