



***EirGrid responses to Rush Community's Council  
concerns regarding the East West Interconnector***

***August 2010***



## ***Introduction***

*Rush Community Council (RCC) and some local residents have concerns about health and safety regarding the East West Interconnector.*

*The purpose of this document is to address these concerns and provide accurate information to local residents.*

*The slides from RCC are those sent to us from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.*

*Since work commenced on the East West Interconnector, alternative routes have been discussed in detail including RCC's proposed alternative route through the estuary.*

*The route from north beach through Rush was considered the most appropriate route for connecting Ireland to Wales with undersea and underground cables, taking into account technical, engineering, environmental and cost factors.*

*Submissions were made to the independent planning authority, An Bord Pleanála. These submissions were heard and considered by the Bord before granting planning permission for the Interconnector.*



*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- What EIRGRID say about this project.

**Rush  
Community  
Council**  
Local Committee

“The East-West Interconnector will connect the Irish power system to the electricity grid in Britain through undersea and underground cables.”

“We (EIRGRID) are committed to keeping you **fully informed** about this project - especially if you live near our planned route. The construction phase will commence mid 2010 and full information about the works and any traffic management plans will be available on our website. ([www.eirgrid.com](http://www.eirgrid.com))”

“The Interconnector is on target for completion in 2012.”

All quotes obtained directly from [www.eirgrid.com](http://www.eirgrid.com) - <http://www.eirgrid.com/usa/en/projects/east-west-interconnector/>

Rush Community Council | Community Centre | Main Street | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01 845 345

## ***FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR***

A high level of consultation has taken place with the local community and local councillors, TDs and Senators, which first commenced in 2007.

We have communicated with over 3,000 stakeholders since 2007 through information days, meetings, telephone calls, letters, advertisements in local papers and leaflets.

There are a number ways to contact the project team: Lo call telephone information line, website and text updates.

EirGrid will continue to engage with all interested parties to minimise disruption during the construction phase and answer any questions people may have.



## Slide from Rush Community Council

**EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- Cable Emissions**

**Rush  
Community  
Council**  
Rush Community

EirGrid submission to An Bord Pleanála regarding cable emissions:

“The magnetic field from the cables will be a tiny fraction of the 40,000  $\mu$ T (figure should be 400 mT) limits recommended by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP, 1994) and the British National Radiological Protection Board for continuous public exposure to DC magnetic fields. The magnetic fields from the proposed cables would also be far too weak to affect pacemakers or other medical implants (ICNIRP, 1994).”

East West Interconnector Project  
Ireland Land Environmental Report Volume 2 Main Text P27F300-R1-02 November 2005

What the ICNIRP actually state on general public exposures is:

“Exposure limits. Based on scientific knowledge on the direct effects of static fields on humans, acute exposure<sup>1</sup> of the general public should not exceed 400 mT (any part of the body).”

ICNIRP Guidelines, Guidelines On Limits Of Exposure To Static Magnetic Fields  
1. Acute exposure: Contact that occurs once or for only a short time (up to 14 days) for humans.

Rush Community Council Limited | Community Centre | Main Street | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01 843 3309

## FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR

The exposure limits to static magnetic fields have been revised upwards since EirGrid’s planning application.

The limit on exposure of the general public has been raised to 400 mT – which is 10 times higher than the 1994 guidelines.

The ICNIRP guidelines of 1994 relating to exposure limits to static magnetic fields are more than 900 times greater than those from the interconnector cable and the revised guidelines of 2009 are 9000 times greater.

The static magnetic fields levels associated with the Interconnector are similar to the levels that we are constantly exposed to from the earth’s geomagnetic field.

Note: *Tesla (T)* is the international scientific unit of EMF measurement. 400 mT (milliTesla) is the same as 400,000  $\mu$ T (microTesla). The static magnetic field from the Interconnector cable is 43 $\mu$ T (micro Tesla).

# Comparison of static magnetic fields to other sources



Field Source	Magnetic Flux Density ( $\mu\text{T}$ )
MRI scanner	1,500,000 – 4,000,000
Electric railways*	<1,000
Battery-powered appliances	300-1,000
Earth's magnetic field (Ireland)	49
Directly over cable system (1 metre above ground level)	13*
At edge of route corridor	11.6
10 m from cable	0.6

\*For example, in Dublin's DART and LUAS suburban transportation systems

◆43  $\mu\text{T}$  on ground above cable system (ground level) – Over 9000 times below International health guidelines –ICNIRP 2009



*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector - Cable Emissions	
Rush Community Council	
Table 2. Limits of exposure* to static magnetic fields.	
Exposure characteristics	Magnetic flux density
Occupational <sup>b</sup>	
Exposure of head and of trunk	2T
Exposure of limbs <sup>c</sup>	8T
General public <sup>d</sup>	
Exposure of any part of the body	400 mT

\* ICNIRP (2010) recommends these limits should be viewed operationally as spatial peak exposure limits.  
<sup>b</sup> For specific work conditions, exposure up to 8 T can be justified, if the environment is controlled and appropriate work practices are implemented to control microwave-induced effects.  
<sup>c</sup> Reference information is available on which to base exposure limits beyond 8 T.  
<sup>d</sup> Because of potential indirect adverse effects, ICNIRP (2010) suggests that practical policies need to be implemented to prevent inadvertent harmful exposure of persons with implanted electronic medical devices and other cordless technology to static magnetic fields and charges from high voltage, which can lead to much less radiation levels such as 0.1 mT.

Rush Community Council (Rush) | Community Council | Rush | 100 | 2014-2019

**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

To explain the figures opposite:

2T = 2,000,000  $\mu$ T

8T = 8,000,000  $\mu$ T

**400 mT = 400,000  $\mu$ T** (ICNIRP new guidelines)

0.5 mT = 500  $\mu$ T

Earth's magnetic field = 49  $\mu$ T

**Interconnector = 43  $\mu$ T**



## Slide from Rush Community Council

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- Cable Emissions

Rush  
Community  
Council  
Local Community

Further quotes from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection documentation.

“ The fact that results for leukaemia based on proximity of homes to power lines are relatively consistent led the U.S. National Academy of Sciences Committee to conclude that children living near power lines appear to be at increased risk of leukaemia (NAS 1996). ”

“ Also, a study performed in Germany has been reported after the completion of the NAS review (Michaels et al. 1997). This was a case-control study on childhood leukaemia based on 129 cases and 328 controls. Exposure assessment comprised measurements of the magnetic field over 24hr in the child's bedroom at the residence where the child had been living for the longest period before the date of diagnosis. An elevated relative risk of 3.2 was observed for  $>0.2 \mu T$ . ”

GNRP Guidelines: Guidelines for limiting exposure to time-varying electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields  
Rush Community Council | Limerick | Connemara, Co. Gal. | Ballyvaughan | Galway | Co. Galway | Tel: 01 943 9540

## FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR

These quotes are not relevant as they do not relate to the type of electricity transmitted on the East West Interconnector.

The East West Interconnector emits static magnetic fields (DC) and therefore has no time varying elements.



*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- Cable Emissions

**Rush  
Community  
Council**  
EIRGRID Committee

- Abstract  
The electric power system produces extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields. Since 1979 there has been concern that these fields may be associated with cancer. Concern has concentrated on magnetic rather than electric fields and on childhood leukaemia in particular. A pooled analysis of nine studies that met specified quality criteria found that children living in homes with 24 hour average fields of  $\geq 0.4\mu\text{T}$  have twice the risk of leukaemia.

Childhood cancer in relation to distances from high voltage power lines in England and Wales  
Gerard Draper, Tim Murrell, Mary E. Kroll, John Swanson  
Oxford Childhood Cancer Research Group  
Article published by the British Medical Journal.

- EirGrid have stated emissions at 10m will be  $0.6\mu\text{T}$  (microtesla), we have no confirmation of  $0.4\mu\text{T}$  and  $0.2\mu\text{T}$  distances.

Rush Community Council Limited | Donaghadee Quay | Marlbrook | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01 842 5945

**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

This quote is not relevant as it does not relate to the type of electricity transmitted on the East West Interconnector.

The ICNIRP guidelines of 2009 are 9000 times greater than the magnetic field of the Interconnector, even standing directly over it.





*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- Cable Emissions

Rush  
Community  
Council  
Public Companies

- Due to the chosen cable route these emissions will intersect:
  - Residential properties
  - A large crèche
  - Rush National School
- These emissions expose our children to an unacceptable risk.
- Some families live within single digit meter distances of this cable and have children at Rush National School, they walk to and from school over this cable where emissions are as follows:
  - Ground level is - 43 $\mu$ T
  - 1m - 13 $\mu$ T
  - At the edge of the route corridor - 11.6 $\mu$ T

Rush Community Council Limited | Community Centre | Main Street | Rush | Co. Wick | Tel: 01 943 9040

**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

The interconnector will be compliant with national and international guidelines in relation to EMF exposure at all times. In fact, the international guidelines are more than 9000 times greater than the EMF from the Interconnector.

The static magnetic fields will be similar to the levels that we are constantly exposed to from the earth's geomagnetic field.



*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- Cable Emissions

Rush  
Community  
Council

How do EirGrid's ground level emissions compare with some of our near neighbours ground level standards for new installations:

Location / Project	Ground Level Emission ( $\mu$ T)
East-West Interconnector	43
Italy	3
Switzerland	1
Netherlands	0.4
Tuscany	0.2

East-West Interconnector | Community Council | Main Street | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01 856 1000

**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

This slide is not relevant as the figures do not relate to the type of electricity transmitted on the East West Interconnector.

The East West Interconnector emits static magnetic fields (DC) similar to the earth's naturally occurring magnetic field.



## FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR

The assessments by national and international health and scientific agencies of health and biological research on DC magnetic fields do not support the conclusion that the very small change that the cable system would make to the earth's background geomagnetic field would be of any health significance.

All exposures to the public would be far, far below levels recommended in health guidelines.

The ICNIRP guidelines of 2009 are 9000 times greater than the magnetic field of the Interconnector, even standing directly over it.

### Slide from Rush Community Council

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- The Precautionary Principle

Rush Community Council

International Commission for Electromagnetic Safety (ICES):

“The Precautionary Principle states, when there are indications of possible adverse effects, though they remain uncertain, the risks from doing nothing may be far greater than the risks of taking action to control those exposures. The Precautionary Principle shifts the burden of proof from those suspecting a risk to those who discount it.”

This statement has been repeated consistently in international scientific resolutions up to the present day as the consensus view of many concerned scientists and medical doctors. On April 2, 2009, the European Parliament **EMF Resolution of April 2, 2009** with stronger language than was included in earlier EP resolutions (1994 and 1999) recommending application of the Precautionary Principle. The new Resolution directs the member states to seek “in particular consideration of biological effects when assessing the potential health impact of electromagnetic radiation, especially given that some studies have found low frequency effects at levels well below the ICNIRP guidelines to reduce potential health problems by available solutions that regulate or reduce the spreading and amplitude modulation of the frequencies used for transmission.”

Site: [www.ices.org](http://www.ices.org)

Rush Community Council | 10001 | 10001 | 10001 | 10001 | 10001 | 10001 | 10001 | 10001



*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- The Precautionary Principle

**Rush  
Community  
Council**  
RUSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

What we asked and how EirGrid responded.

“ Given the supporting material for the Precautionary Principle why do Eirgrid feel this does not apply to the People of Rush, with particular reference to 0 – 12 year old children?? ”

“ The precautionary principle is invoked in areas where there is some reason to question whether a substance or exposure is harmful, either based on a biological rationale or based on some experimental or epidemiologic research which provides some evidence for concern. **There is no reason to believe that a small change in the earth's geomagnetic field would be harmful; therefore, there is no reason to invoke the precautionary principle.** ”

EIRGRID answer to Rush Community Council question document (RCC Question 3, 20)

Rush Community Council | Leath | Community Centre | Main Street | Rush | Co. Wick | Tel: 01 643 8383

**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

The interconnector will always operate well within the national and international guidelines at all times.

The ICNIRP guidelines of 2009 are more than 9000 times greater than the magnetic field of the Interconnector, even standing directly over it.



*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- Cable Safety – how much power?

**Rush Community Council**  
Local Committee

- How much power are we talking about less than 1 meter under our main street?  
The cable is 500MW +/- 200kV and crucially up to 2000 amps of current
- How does this compare?

Source	Capacity (MW)
East-West Interconnector (each cable)	500
Shannonbridge	125
Moneypoint	915
North Wall	268
Turlough Hill (pumped storage)	292
Huntstown	343

Rush Community Council (RCC) | Community Centre | Main Street | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01 455 0369

**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

1. The typical burial depth of the cables will be 1 metre, which is standard practice for electricity underground cables.
2. The table opposite refers to Power Generating Stations. The cable through Rush will transmit 500 MW which is similar to the capacity of other underground cables in Dublin:
  - Inchicore Irishtown - 593 MW
  - Carrickmines Irishtown - 593 MW
  - Finglas – North Wall - 332 MW



## FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR

The information opposite is inaccurate.

The cable will always be at least 1 metre deep contained within a heavy duty plastic duct which is surrounded by different layers of protection, which include, lean mix concrete, protective tiles, and plastic warning tapes.

Care should be taken when operating in the vicinity of any electricity lines or cables as with other services such as gas. This is why a number of protective measures are put in place by the Health & Safety Authority, ESB & EirGrid, Bord Gais and local councils.

### The protective measures are as follows:

1. Identify where it is safe to work. No excavation should commence until all precautions as outlined in the HSA Code of Practice are undertaken.
2. A road opening licence must be requested before digging a public road, this would indicate the location of electricity cables.
3. There is a statutory duty under the health and safety legislation to carry out a service search before digging.
4. A free “dial before you dig” service is available
5. Contact must be made with the statutory utility provider (Bord Gais, ESB, the County Council or EirGrid).
6. Yellow warning tape 300mm below the surface indicates the presence of the cable
7. Red and yellow heavy duty protection tiles are placed above the cables which are covered by concrete.
8. Both the warning tape and protection tiles clearly identify the EirGrid and the asset owner and the presence of high voltage cables.
9. Lean mix concrete is used to cover and protect the cables, underneath which is red heavy duty electrical ducting which surrounds the cable.

The impact of pneumatic drill to breach the concrete surround around the cables would be such that the cable insulation would fail causing a fault which would disconnect the cable prior to the cable being exposed.

### Slide from Rush Community Council

**EIRGRID East-West Interconnector**  
- Cable Safety – how much protection?

**Rush Community Council**  
EirGrid Community

- The cable trench depth is to be approximately 1 – 1.2m which puts the cable core depth at approximately 700 – 900mm.
- The cables protective layer of plastic sheet, tiles and lean mix concrete starts at 300mm below the surface: this means there is a maximum of 300mm of protection around the cable - approximately the length of an A4 page.
- EirGrid's drawings actually only show approximately 100mm of protection – one third of the length of an A4 page
- How quickly would a pneumatic drill on an excavator slice through this?

Rush Community Council, Local | Community Centre | Mill Street | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01 903 9943



## Slide from Rush Community Council

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- Cable Safety – how much protection?

**Rush  
Community  
Council**  
Rush Community Council

- Can anything else break through this protective barrier?
- A report commissioned by EirGrid would suggest that even the root structure of trees can damage the cable's protective barrier.

“ It should be noted that, in operation, both OHL (overhead lines) and UGC (underground cables) would require a swathe to be kept permanently clear of trees. For the UGC this swathe would be to obviate cable damage due to root growth.”

PS Power report commissioned by EirGrid for the Carverry to Carrigrohane 400kV Transmission Circuit Comparison C-1 High Voltage Transmission Option: Above Ground Overhead And Underground, And Direct Current Interconnector

- It should be noted that not only has the current route many trees, more are planned – in particular for Main Street.

Rush Community Council Limited | Corporate Centre | Main Street | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01-842 2342

## FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR

Care should be taken when operating in the vicinity of any electricity lines or cables as with other services such as gas.

This is why a number of protective measures are put in place by the Health & Safety Authority, ESB & EirGrid, Bord Gais and local councils.

The previous slide details the protective measures and safety precautions when working with electricity.

As the cable is installed in public roads, there will be no trees planted directly above the cable.

Hedgerows and trees adjacent to the public road will not pose a problem.



## **FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

### ***Slide from Rush Community Council***

<p>EIRGRID East-West Interconnector - Cable Safety – risk of accident?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EirGrid have stated that for accidental damage from digging or drilling equipment to occur all safety protocols and warnings would have to be ignored and this is unlikely.</li><li>• However the ESB are currently running advertisements on radio warning people of the serious danger of accidental damage to underground cables.</li><li>• Does risk increase on streets that already have fresh water, sewage, electricity, telecoms, gas and other services?</li><li>• Is this an acceptable hazard to our community and integrity of this power supply?</li></ul>	<p><b>Rush Community Council</b> <small>Local Community Council</small></p>
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Rush Community Council Limited | Gowranck Circle | The Shed | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01 836 1143

Care should be taken when operating in the vicinity of any electricity lines or cables and any underground services such as gas and water.

This is why a number of protective measures are put in place by the Health & Safety Authority, ESB & EirGrid, Bord Gais and local councils.

See [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie) code of practice for underground services.

There are underground cables in many towns and cities around Ireland. There is no risk to any existing underground services (sewage, water etc) adjacent to underground electricity cables.







*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- Cable Safety

**Rush  
Community  
Council**  
Electricity Consultative

Study On The Comparative Merits Of Overhead Electricity  
Transmission Lines Versus Underground Cables by Golder  
Associates – EcoFys for the DCENR, May 2008

- Recent technology – Limited international experience – No relation to existing conventional networks in Ireland
- UGC 10 times greater outage rates than OHL
- Exposure to EMF higher directly above an UGC than an OHL
- Prevention by extra looped cables, steel pipes covering, coverage by ferromagnetic material, deeper trenches, avoiding population centres.

Rush Community Council Limited | Community Centre | Main Street | Rush | Co. Wick | Tel: 01 845 8248

**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

The Ecofys study looked specifically at underground cables for use as an integral part of the transmission system.

The East West Interconnector is connecting two separate transmission systems and involves a long a sub sea crossing.

There are many such interconnectors operating worldwide using HVDC technology.

The ICNIRP guidelines of 2009 are more than 9000 times greater than the magnetic field of the Interconnector, even standing directly over it.



*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- Route selection criteria

**Rush  
Community  
Council**  
Rush Community Council

- PB Power report commissioned by EirGrid for the Cavan-Tyrone and Meath-Cavan 400kv Transmission Circuits  
Comparison Of High Voltage Transmission Options: Alternating Current Overhead And Underground, And Direct Current Underground.

**7.3.2 Strategic Cable Routing Criteria**  
Avoid, if possible:

- Compact settlements (a grouping that forms a small community, not including isolated houses or ribbon development)
- Areas of known settlement development planning

PB Power 030054 - Report - Final 11Feb20 issued.doc

- The current Fingal County Council Development Plan has provided for increased residential development and residential density along the proposed route through Rush.

Rush Community Council (Incorporated) | Development | Members | Rush | Co. Duibh | Tel: 01 606 6993

**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

While EirGrid has endeavoured to avoid urban areas where possible to minimise temporary traffic disruption during the installation phase, the marine landing point of Rush North Beach meant that it was not possible to avoid Rush.

High voltage underground cables are common place in residential areas of Dublin, urban towns and cities in Ireland and internationally.

The East West Interconnector cable will not restrict development in Rush.



## *Slide from Rush Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- Ratoath re-route – Why?

**Rush  
Community  
Council**  
Meath County Council

- What considerations applied to the substantial re-routing around Ratoath?
- Why did Eirgrid not consider Rush applicable for the same considerations?

Meath County Council requested a route change in favour of less trafficked local roads which now form part of the approved route.

Source: EirGrid - EirGrid Responses to RCU Questions 02-07-2010.pdf

- Can our public representatives request a similar a route change for Rush?

Rush Community Council Limited | Corribank, Carlin | Vaux Street | Rush | Co. Dubh | Tel: 01 832 0547

## **FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

In route selection, EirGrid endeavoured to minimise traffic disruptions to communities where possible during the installation phase of the Interconnector.

The marine landing point of Rush North Beach meant that it was not possible to avoid Rush. While in Meath it was possible to avoid the urban areas of Ashbourne and Ratoath.

EirGrid agreed to this route alteration during the consultation phase because the alternative route proposed by the Council had previously been assessed and was only discounted on the criteria that road closures were to be avoided where possible.



*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- Cable Route

Rush  
Community  
Council

HVDC Routing Projects

- Moyle 500MW HVDC Interconnector, Northern Ireland to Scotland – no mention, avoids population centres.
- SwePol 600MW ABB Interconnector, Sweden to Poland – no mention, avoids population centres.
- ABB projects referenced by Eirgrid as being relative to Rush and the East-West Interconnector
  - EstLink (Estonia to Finland)
  - BorWin1 (offshore wind farm to the outskirts of Diele, Germany)
- These samples provided by Eirgrid bare no resemblance to the Rush route.

Rush Community Council Limited | Connelley Court | Mill Street | Rush | Co. Down | Tel: 01843 9219

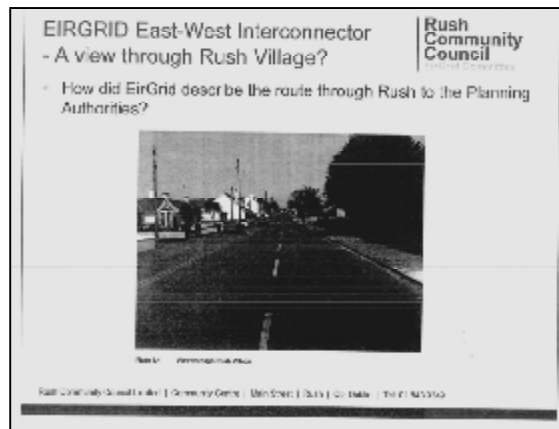
**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

The ability to avoid urban areas varies from project to project.

There are underground electricity cables in all urban areas worldwide.

The interconnector is safe in line with the national and international guidelines in relation to exposure to EMFs.

*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*



**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

The route of the cable through Rush was shown using Ordnance Survey Ireland Mapping and appropriately described in the Environmental Report.



*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- A view through Rush Village?

**Rush  
Community  
Council**  
EirGrid Committee

- Eirgrid also did their traffic counts on Channel Road, neglecting:
  - Far heavier general traffic volumes on R128 – Main Street
  - Heavy goods and agricultural vehicles for Rush and Skerries due to low bridge at Skerries train station
  - Up to 80 buses a day serving Rush, Skerries and Balbriggan on routes 33, 33A and 33X

Rush Community Council (Limerick) | Community Centre | 40-42 Main St | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01 842 0540

**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

Works on main street are for a length of 350 metres.

Works will progress at a rate of approximately 30 to 50 metres per day.

The traffic management plan will be developed and approved in consultation with Fingal County Council.



## Slide from Rush Community Council

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- EirGrid misrepresentation of WHO

Rush  
Community  
Council

- The statements (excerpts)  
"...No evidence has been found that these that these fields are harmful at the proximity and levels associated with this project. This view is shared by respected national and international authoritative organisations, including the World Health Organisation (WHO)..." Eirgrid Communication signed by Messrs John Fitzgerald and Sean Meagher.
- However, what the WHO actually state is "There is inadequate evidence in humans for the carcinogenicity of static electric or magnetic fields and extremely low-frequency electric fields."
- The questions:  
Do Eirgrid concede the obvious misrepresentation of the WHO's statements? Why has this misrepresentation occurred? Have Eirgrid used similar misrepresentation in communications to Government, Local Government & Council, Planning and Health & Safety Authorities?

Rush Community Council | Online | Community Office | Main Street | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01 430 0949

## FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR

EirGrid's intent is to convey to the public and agencies (including Government, Local Government & Council, Planning and Health & Safety Authorities) that the World Health Organisation concluded that there was not sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in either human or animal studies in relation to static EMF, at levels in the range of naturally-occurring fields.

The World Health Organisation report on static fields, makes it clear that only high-field exposures, such as those produced by MRIs, were targeted for further research.





## Slide from Rush Community Council

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- EirGrid misrepresentation of WHO

**Rush Community Council**  
Local Committee

- Eirgrid's answer (excerpt):  
“No, EirGrid recognises that our statements do not exactly match the scientific conclusions of World Health Organization's (WHO) expert panel. This discrepancy was not an attempt to misrepresent the WHO's conclusions, but rather to paraphrase the WHO's statements in "plain English" and provide a clear, bottom-line summary of the WHO conclusions. EirGrid understands concern about any misrepresentations of the WHO's conclusions and apologises for any confusion.”
- Communication with Eirgrid regarding the above answer:  
When you replace "inadequate evidence" with "no evidence" and attribute this quote to an organisation like the WHO you are indeed misrepresenting them. The statement "inadequate evidence" is already in plain English and this incredibly poor attempt to evade this issue only serves to summarise how you operate. We placed this question first because it was an opportunity for Eirgrid to recognise fault and make appropriate reparation. If as a company you cannot address a simple issue like this misrepresentation what faith are we as a community to have in your ability to address more serious problems or issues presently and into the future?

Rush Community Council Limited | Community Centre | Main Street | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01 843 2945

## FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR

The interconnector is safe in line with the national and international guidelines in relation to exposure to EMFs.

The ICNIRP guidelines of 2009 are more than 9000 times greater than the magnetic field of the Interconnector, even standing directly over it.

The static magnetic fields levels associated with the Interconnector are similar to the levels that we are constantly exposed to from the earth's natural magnetic field.



## *Slide from Rush Community Council*

**EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- EirGrid and William H. Bailey**

**Rush  
Community  
Council**  
EirGrid Committee

- US based consultant hired by EirGrid to advocate on behalf of their projects
- Has appeared at meetings and hearings on EirGrid's behalf
- Provided submissions for East-West and North-South Interconnectors
- Being paid by Eirgrid he is not in a position to provide impartial information or arbitration to resolve issues
- Until legislation is addressed to provide equally for both arguments it would seem that the only logical solution is to disregard the information provided.
- We also believe that advocates should be limited to engaging in one project only. The prospect of repeat business is to the further detriment of impartiality and could lead to entrenched positions.

Rush Community Council (rcc) | Community Centre | Main Street | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01 832 8338

## **FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

Dr Bailey is one of a number of consultants employed by EirGrid when certain expertise is required on occasions.

Dr. Bailey is a research scientist and consultant with more than 25 years experience in the evaluation of scientific research for scientific, governmental, and private organisations relating to potential health and safety effects of direct current static electric and magnetic fields (EMF) as well as alternating current (AC) EMF.

Dr Bailey has served as an advisor to international agencies including the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), and the World Health Organization (WHO) .



*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*

**EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- EirGrid Conduct**

**Rush  
Community  
Council**  
Local Committee

- Can you please let me know how many visits Sean Meagher\* has made to Rush National School where he gave talks directly to the Children. Also, can you let me know if he went to any other schools which are not on the Eirgrid cable routes?  
\*Sean Meagher - Eirgrid East-West Interconnector Project Manager

🗨️ In response to your specific question regarding Sean Meagher, through Engineers Ireland, he has been involved in this programme for many years and has given talks on engineering to many primary and secondary schools through the STEPS programme.🗨️  
Valerie Hedlin - EirGrid Senior Communications Specialist

- Engineers Ireland were asked to verify this and responded that as far as they are aware Sean Meagher has only visited Rush National School.

Rush Community Council Limited | Community Centre | Main Street | Rush | Co. Dubh | Tel: 01-843 6342

**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

This statement is incorrect.

Sean Meagher has given talks to several primary and secondary schools in Leinster as part of the Engineers Ireland ‘Steps to Engineering’ Programme.

Engineers Ireland can confirm this.



## Slide from Rush Community Council

<p><b>EIRGRID East-West Interconnector</b> - Cancelled way-leave vote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Scheduled Wayleave vote on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Vote postponed by County Manager pending legal advice.</li><li>- Both County Manager and Senior Council Officials have stated to RCC that they are determined that this cable will proceed through Rush – why?</li><li>- On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of July a local councillor requested information from the County Council on Monday's vote and was told it was cancelled as EirGrid had withdrawn their request for way-leave and would pursue their objective via Statutory Powers.</li><li>- This apparently happened at a meeting with Council Officials some days earlier, June 25<sup>th</sup>, although the Council failed to notify Councillors or RCC of this meeting and action.</li><li>- Does this type of action leave our Council open to the negative criticisms and allegations that have been levelled at council, planning and development authorities in the past?</li></ul>	<p><b>Rush Community Council</b> <small>Local Committee</small></p>
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Rush Community Council (RCC) - Community Centre | Main Street | Rush | Co. Dublin | T: 01 845 0395

## FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR

Consultation has taken place with the local community, local councillors, TDs, Senators and Fingal County Council in relation to the East West Interconnector since 2007.

Submissions, including those from Fingal County Council, elected representatives, RCC, were made and considered by An Bord Pleanála in detail before the decision was made to grant planning permission for the existing route from Rush North Beach to Woodland, Co. Meath.

The Commission for Energy Regulation has consented, pursuant to the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999, to the exercise by EirGrid of certain statutory powers contained in the Electricity (Supply) Acts.

These powers will be relied on by EirGrid during the construction of the Interconnector.



## *Slide from Rush Community Council*

**EIRGRID East-West Interconnector**

**- The solution**

**Rush Community Council**  
EirGrid Committee

- The current cable route is as follows; landing at North Beach Rush and on to Kilbush Lane, Skerries Road, Main Street, Sandy Road, Channel Road and on to Balleally parallel to Rogerstown Estuary.
- We are recommending the route use Rogerstown Estuary to land cables away from residential properties.
- This solution has the support of our Community.

Rush Community Council | Community Centre | Main Street | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01892 3040

## **FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

A number of alternative routes were considered by EirGrid in the route selection process, including routes through Rogerstown Estuary which has the following designations; Natura 2000/SPA/SAC/NHA.

This proposed alternative route was submitted to An Bord Pleanála during the planning application consultation period and discussed in detail during the Oral hearing.

The approved route went through a rigorous planning process and was endorsed by An Bord Pleanála, Fingal County Council, National Parks & Wildlife, Dept of Environment etc.

An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for the route through Rush from North Beach.

Installation of the cable in Wales is 50% complete and has commenced in Ireland in July.



*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- Route selection

**Rush  
Community  
Council**  
EIRGRID Committee

“In terms of installation methods North Beach provides for the simplest and most economical installation”

“Technically North Beach was considered the least difficult of all the landfalls studied”

Source: Statement of Richard Brown, JP, County Cllr to Diel Hearing of An Bord Pleanála ‘Offshore Route Selection and Consideration of Alternatives’

Therefore: cost considerations given precedence over the health and safety of our community.

Rush Community Council, Limited | Community Centre | Iron Street | Rush | Co. Down | Tel: 01 949 9944

**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

Rush North Beach is the most environmentally sustainable, economical and practical for linking to the UK electricity transmission network in North Wales.

The interconnector is safe in line with the national and international guidelines in relation to exposure to EMFs.



## *Slide from Rush Community Council*

EIRGRID East-West Interconnector  
- Route selection/Environmental Issues

Rush  
Community  
Council  
SPORD Committee

- Natural Heritage Designations: SACs, SPAs, etc
- Implications from a planning perspective

“This does not mean that development is precluded but it does mean that a proposed development that could have a significant impact on a designated site must be considered carefully ... Development can proceed when the planning authority is satisfied that the proposal is compatible with the aim of protecting these sites, and is in accordance with the relevant legislation.”

Source: <https://www.fingaloco.ie/Planning/Conservation/Heritage/NaturalHeritageDesignations/>

- Considerations: current sewage works taking place in Rogerstown Estuary without issue.

Rush Community Council Limited | Community Centre | Walk Street | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01 843 8048

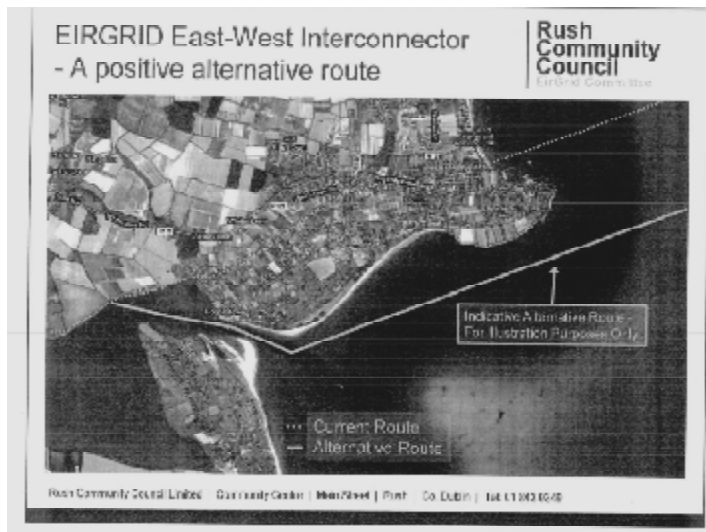
## **FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

EU Regulations governing Natura 2000 sites set down that any project having a significantly negative effect on a site may only be authorised in the “absence of alternative solutions” and then only if it is justified for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature.

Rush North Beach is a viable route which has gone through full public consultation, and has been granted planning permission from An Bord Pleanála.



*Slide from Rush  
Community Council*



**FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

A number of alternative routes were considered by EirGrid in the route selection process, including routes through the Estuary.

This proposed alternative route was submitted to An Bord Pleanála, during the planning application consultation period and discussed in detail during the Oral hearing.

The approved route went through a rigorous planning process and was endorsed by An Bord Pleanála, Fingal County Council, National Parks & Wildlife, Dept of Environment etc.

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### *Slide from Rush Community Council*

**EIRGRID East-West Interconnector**  
- The Key Issues

**Rush  
Community  
Council**  
EirGrid Committee

- There is serious doubt about the safety of this cable and the long term health risks associated with a high voltage cable running through the heart of our Community.
- What level of risk should we accept our children be exposed to?
- There is growing public anger at EirGrid and Fingal County Council for its treatment of Rush.
- Eirgrid have not been above reproach in their dealings with our Community – trust does not exist. There is no faith in their ability to deal honestly with our Community in addressing concerns.
- There is a viable alternative – it is not too late to reroute!
- Rush is not against this project, it is against the chosen route.

Rush Community Council Limited | Community Centre | Main Street | Rush | Co. Dublin | Tel: 01853 3340

## **FACTS ABOUT THE INTERCONNECTOR**

EirGrid is a state owned company, mandated to develop an interconnector to Britain by 2012 for the people of Ireland.

We would not be developing this interconnector if there were any health risks to anyone along the route.

The ICNIRP guidelines of 2009 are more than 9000 times greater than the magnetic field of the Interconnector.

EirGrid has provided information and responded to queries at all times in an honest and direct way.

This Interconnector is critically important for the development of renewable energy in Ireland, ensuring access to a secure energy supply, facilitating more competition in the electricity market, and reducing Ireland's dependence on imported fossil fuels.



*More detailed answers to these questions are available on the project website:*

<http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/east-westinterconnector/projectactivity/>

*You can also contact the East West Interconnector Project Team on:*

**Telephone:** 1890 36 46 56

**Email:** [eastwestinterconnector@eirgrid.com](mailto:eastwestinterconnector@eirgrid.com)

