



Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP) Guidance Document

January 2024

1. Disclaimer

While all reasonable care has been taken to prepare this document, and the accompanying Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP) dataset, we can make no guarantee to the quality, accuracy and completeness of the information herein. We do not accept responsibility for any loss associated with the use of this information. Use of these documents and the information they contain is at the user's own risk.

Information in these documents does not amount to a recommendation as regards to any possible investment. Before taking a business decision based on the content of these NDP documents, we advise that interested parties seek separate and independent opinion in relation to the matters covered by these documents.

Information in these documents with reference to completion dates (Capital Approval (CA), Project Agreement (PA) and Energisation (EI) Dates) has been prepared with all reasonable care and diligence. All and any dates have been estimated and are indicative and subject to change.

2. Introduction

Our Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP) is simply the most ambitious programme of works ever undertaken on the transmission system in Ireland. The Q4-23 NDP includes 358 projects for completion from now until 2030, which will connect significant volumes of offshore and onshore wind, solar and conventional generation. This work will also reinforce the power system and implement Shaping Our Electricity Future to support the future economic and social development of our country.

EirGrid is required to publish quarterly updates on the progress of all its transmission infrastructure projects as set out in CRU/20/154, the CRU’s PR5 Regulatory Framework, Incentives and Reporting Decision Paper. Publication of the NDP forms part of our enhanced reporting obligation under the regulators decision CRU/20/154. Project dates and timelines provided in the NDP are based on an unconstrained scenario and are, therefore, indicative in nature and subject to change for a variety of reasons. EirGrid is focused on completing reinforcements which give us most benefit and have the highest degree of deliverability.

The objective of the NDP is to deliver on the [EirGrid Group Strategy to](#) transform the power system by 2030 in accordance with the [Climate Action Plan 2024](#). We do this by providing a clear and transparent programme over multiple years which maximises the amount of project related work that can take place to reinforce the system, connect customers and ensure the required level of maintenance of the transmission system while ensuring a safe and secure system.

A summary of milestones achieved to date and the unconstrained NDP forecast up to 2025 is included in the table below:

	Actual Outturn			Forecast (As per unconstrained NDP)	
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
CA	50	63	44	58	3
PA	47	28	36	87	57
EI	18	23	25	22	96

CA - Capital Approval/GW3; PA - Project Agreement/GW6; EI - Energisation (Data correct as of December 2023)

3. EirGrid's Role

EirGrid, in its role as Transmission System Operator (TSO) for Ireland, is responsible for operating, planning, and developing Ireland's electricity transmission grid. EirGrid has been mandated to operate, develop, and own Ireland's offshore grid.

Within the context of the NDP, our focus is on completing reinforcements which give the country the most benefit while also having the highest degree of deliverability. In addition, we aim to deliver demand and renewable customer connections which support economic and social development while meeting government targets.

4. Purpose of the NDP

The NDP publication provides a quarterly status update on the three major project milestones of EirGrid Capital Approval, Project Agreement with ESB and Energisation for 358 projects.

EirGrid has recently concluded its review of the Firm Access methodology as requested by the SEM committee and CRU in the SEM Committee Decision Paper [SEM-23-004](#). As a result, the link between FAQ release and reinforcement completion has changed. Generators who were previously associated with the completion of the ATR projects will now receive their FAQ according to where they are located in the transmission network, as per a schedule of agreed dates and subject to the completion of existing standard conditions. These dates are independent of the reinforcement completion dates noted in the NDP.

Generator customers will continue to receive contract specific communications from their SO but will no longer receive ATR completion date change communications from their SO.

5. Key Challenges and Dependencies

There are significant challenges associated with delivering complex infrastructure projects. For clarity and transparency, we set out here a number of key challenges and dependencies which have the potential to impact on the delivery of NDP. EirGrid continues to engage with all stakeholders and customers to maximise the delivery of grid infrastructure while minimising the impact of challenges.

Transmission Outages

The majority of system reinforcements and customer connections to the transmission system require an outage to complete the work and energise the equipment. The duration of these outages varies depending on the project. In practice this means that outages are required to connect the Onshore and Offshore Wind, Solar, System Reinforcements, Conventional Generators and Demand Customers up to 2030 and beyond.

The sequencing and delivery of electricity transmission infrastructure is very complex as it involves incorporating multiple interacting outages, where prioritisation decisions may be required. EirGrid has published an [Outage Prioritisation guidance document](#) which sets out the general basis employed by EirGrid in fulfilling this statutory mandate. The approach to the provision of outages must be completed in accordance with the [Operating Security Standards](#) (OSS). All outages are scheduled on the basis that the OSS are not breached for any outage or combination of outages which may be required to complete specific projects.

The delivery and completion of NDP is dependent in part upon the provision of outages. The Energisation timelines provided in NDP are therefore subject to change where the underlying circumstances change. When deciding on outage prioritisation, EirGrid will consider and seek to balance its licence and statutory obligations with customers' requirements, cognisant of security of supply issues, the need to transform the power system, our Climate Action Plan targets, and other relevant factors. Priority has been given to works that align with delivering on our EirGrid Group Strategy to transform the power system by 2030.

NDP Timelines

Project dates and timelines provided in the NDP are based on an unconstrained scenario and are, therefore, indicative in nature and subject to change for a variety of reasons. EirGrid is focused on completing reinforcements which give us most benefit and have the highest degree of deliverability.

Customer connection programmes are provided to us by our customers and incorporated into the NDP. Customer timelines are also subject to change for a variety of reasons, and we are focused on working with our customers to deliver renewable and demand connections which support economic and social development while meeting government targets.

EirGrid has included placeholder projects in the NDP for future ECP (Enduring Connection Policy) connection projects ECP2.2/ECP2.3. These placeholders are an estimated quantity of projects and are expected to change. The timelines have been derived for the expected issuance dates of connection offers along with estimations of validity periods per placeholder. The overall timelines from expected offer execution are based on standard lead time projections and are not project specific timelines.

When a connection offer is executed, a placeholder will be assigned. An EirGrid project manager will work with the customer to develop a detailed project schedule.

Statutory and Regulatory Consents

The development of projects in the NDP is subject to standard statutory and regulatory approval and consents. In developing the NDP EirGrid has used its experience and judgement to forecast project timelines. The completion of our projects to these timelines is subject to our projects receiving the necessary statutory approvals and consents required to proceed.

6. Framework for Grid Development (Six Step Process)

The Framework for Grid Development is a six-step process for all EirGrid Grid Development projects which integrates the technical development of a project with ongoing engagement with communities, landowners and other stakeholders, as well as environmental and social impact assessments.



The Framework has regard to EirGrid’s statutory obligations under legislation, and key policy documents which govern EirGrid’s activities and processes in respect of the development of the electricity transmission grid. It also incorporates EirGrid’s three strategy statements from ‘Ireland’s Grid Development Strategy’:

- Inclusive consultation with local communities and stakeholders will be central to our approach
- We will consider all practical technology options
- We will optimise the existing grid to minimise the need for new infrastructure

The Framework provides structured governance points throughout the process, called Gateways.

EirGrid’s Framework comprises six steps from concept to completion.

Each Step has an associated Gateway, which functions as a formal governance checkpoint. The Gateways generally occur at the end of a Step and sanction the project moving into the subsequent Step. The exception to this is in Step 5 - where the Gateway occurs prior to entering the statutory planning process, and Step 6 - where one Gateway occurs prior to Project Agreement and a second Gateway (GW7) occurs at Project Close-out.

