



The current. The future.

North South Interconnector

What's happening now? Winter/Spring Update 2018

EirGrid is responsible for the safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity – now and into the future.

We develop, manage and operate the electricity transmission grid. The grid brings power from where it is generated to where it is needed throughout Ireland.

The North South Interconnector is a new 400 kV overhead line that will connect the electricity grids in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

This project is essential to make sure that Ireland has the power it needs for a thriving economy; bringing a brighter future to farms, homes and businesses. It will help to improve the efficiency of the electricity system which ultimately means reducing costs for electricity consumers.

At EirGrid we work closely with the community and landowners, particularly those who may be directly affected by our projects. We want you to have the latest news on our projects, to hear your feedback and respond to any concerns.

The North South Interconnector has now received planning permission in Northern Ireland

The decision followed the Planning Appeals Commission's Public Inquiry, which was held in February 2017.

We fully understand that this is an important announcement for local communities and landowners in both Ireland and Northern Ireland. With this in mind, EirGrid will be working closely with local people to help them fully understand what this means and to look at how we now progress the project from here.

Land Access and What that Really Means

When it comes to building the interconnector, construction sites can be accessed without any enabling works or further development and so planning permission for these access routes is not a legal requirement.

We identified these access routes so that they could be considered by An Bord Pleanála in the context of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The EIA formed part of An Bord Pleanála's overall assessment of our planning application which was approved in full.

There is no condition in An Bord Pleanála's planning consent stating that access to private land is to be by agreement with the county councils.

One of the conditions of the planning permission from An Bord Pleanála is that we need to agree a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) with the local planning authorities. We will do this before construction begins and, as part of this, we also have to consult with some statutory agencies.

The CEMP includes agreeing things like short-term road closures, phasing of construction works and how concrete will be taken to the sites. However, it does not mean that we need approval from the county councils to access private lands or to use the identified access routes.

Any queries or concerns you might have can be answered by our agriculture liaison officers who are happy to meet you at any time.

ESB issues tender notice for works relating to the North South Interconnector

Our partners on the project are ESB who are responsible for construction of the North South Interconnector. In September 2017, ESB published a tender notice for the detailed design and supply of the towers. A second tender is due to issue in the coming weeks for the construction works.

A minimum of eight to nine months has been set aside to complete each procurement process, identify a contractor and agree contracts.

No construction works will be carried out on the North South Interconnector during this time. As the project is currently the subject of governmental reviews, this procurement process can be cancelled at any time if necessary.

The High Court upholds An Bord Pleanála's decision and highlights EirGrid's consultation as 'meaningful' and 'effective'

An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for the North South Interconnector in December 2016. This decision was subject to a number of challenges in the High Court, all of which were dismissed. The judge reviewed EirGrid's 'Public and Landowner Consultation Report' which was submitted as part of the planning application and said that the *"information was provided in [an] accessible manner; consultation was invited; that consultation was meaningful, and it was effective."*

Supporting the community, landowners and people living nearby the North South Interconnector

All landowners who host the infrastructure will be compensated.

In addition, since 2012, the Government has recommended that we should provide a direct benefit to surrounding communities when we build new transmission infrastructure. In response, we have created two initiatives: the Community Fund and Proximity Payments. These benefit individuals and communities who are closest to new transmission infrastructure.

We're building a more efficient, more effective and more economic electricity network to benefit everyone; now and in the future.

Our engagement team has two new members

Our Agricultural Liaison team is growing with two new members to the team. Aidan Naughton and Liam Wynne will work closely with John Boylan, Agricultural Liaison Officer, and Grainne Duffy, Community Liaison Officer.

Aidan Naughton	North west region	086 172 0156
Liam Wynne	North east region	087 226 1804
John Boylan	Midlands & north east region	085 877 2957
Grainne Duffy	Community Liaison Officer	085 887 4798

Please don't hesitate to make contact with the team should you have any questions about the North South Interconnector Project.



Carrickmacross Office - EirGrid's new office at **Unit 2, The Avenue, Ardee Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan**, is open every Monday between 10am and 4pm, or by appointment on any other day.

Drop in to meet the team in the office on the day, we would be delighted to meet you and answer any questions that you have. Alternatively you can call the office on +353 (0)42 966 34 04 or +353 (0)42 966 34 00.