

## **EIRGRID ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION PROCESS**

- After Open Days in coming week, further opportunities will be available to meet project team and experts
- People attending Open Days this week asked to co-operate on organisation for health and safety and so there is room for everyone.

EirGrid, which has announced proposals for two power line project in the North East, has today said that the public information and consultation process on the projects will continue until at least the end of March 2008. A preferred route will be announced in January as the initial phase, and then detailed consultation will continue until the end of March. No planning application will be lodged until the beginning of April.

EirGrid has asked people attending the Open Days on the proposed two projects to be aware of the fact that, while the venues have significant space, as is normal for any premises, they can only hold a limited number of people at one time. This is to ensure health and safety for all attending and also to enable people attending to have time to ask questions.

However, it is emphasised that further opportunities for groups and individuals are being organised over the coming weeks.

EirGrid is aware of the major interest in these projects and will be providing further opportunities in all of the three counties for people to seek information and to inform us of their views.

The new lines are needed because transmission lines in the region will reach full capacity in the near future. The lines will facilitate more competitive and reliable power, helping keep the north east region on a level playing field in its ability to attract and retain high tech industries. The lines will comply with all international standards and are of the same type as the two lines already in place between Moneypoint in Co Clare and Co Meath and, between Moneypoint and Co Kildare, which total 440km.

The open days are being held in:

- The Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan Town; 27 November, 3–8pm,
- Cabra Castle Hotel, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan; 28<sup>th</sup> November, 3-8pm,
- Old Darnley Lodge, Athboy, Co. Meath. 29 November, 3-8pm.

The two projects are :

- A new 400kV Interconnector between Cavan and Tyrone that will more than double the current power transfer capacity between the North and the South.

- A Woodland (Co Meath) to Kingscourt (Co Cavan) 400kV Power Line. This power line will reinforce the power system in the North East, facilitating competition and secure supplies of power for all customers.

People can contact the project on Lo-call: 1890 25 26 90, visit the website [www.EirGrid.com](http://www.EirGrid.com), or they can email Eirgrid at: [MeathCavanPower@eirgrid.com](mailto:MeathCavanPower@eirgrid.com) or [CavanTyroneInterconnector@eirgrid.com](mailto:CavanTyroneInterconnector@eirgrid.com)

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### **UNDERGROUND VERSUS OVERGROUND LINES**

These lines have to go over ground. Nowhere in the world are lines as long as these two lines (80km and 58km) put underground. The primary reason is because it takes too long to locate and repair faults on underground cables – weeks versus hours for over ground cables. Security of electricity supply over such a huge area of the North East means over ground lines are essential. Throughout Europe, 97% of lines like these are over ground. Only short stretches of powerlines in cities and built up areas, where there is literally no room for pylons, are laid underground.

Industries are attracted to a region for many reasons, one of them being a dependable supply of electricity. New industries locating in Ireland discuss with EirGrid the terms, conditions, security of supply and the quality of the power being delivered.

### **HEALTH CONCERNS**

People have concerns about health and Eirgrid is anxious to meet with people and ease those concerns in a straightforward manner, as well as dispel some of the myths associated with electricity transmission.

The fact is that extensive worldwide research, involving expenditure of over €440m, has found NO conclusive evidence that extremely low frequency (ELF) EMF's from power lines are harmful to public health. This research has been reviewed by international bodies including the WHO. It was also reviewed earlier this year by the Department for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

In March 2007, the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR) published a report entitled Health Effects of Electromagnetic Fields, compiled by an international expert group. This document is available on their website, [www.dcmnr.gov.ie](http://www.dcmnr.gov.ie). The conclusions were consistent with those of similar reviews conducted by authoritative national and international agencies. In relation to ELF EMF, the report clearly states that, "No adverse health effects have been established below the limits suggested by international guidelines."

EirGrid is satisfied from the totality of studies and the views of international authoritative agencies that the balance of evidence is that electric and magnetic fields do not have any adverse effect on health. (Information available at [www.eirgrid.com](http://www.eirgrid.com)).

The World Health Organisation (WHO) issued guidelines in 1998 that were adopted by EU in 1999. We comply with the guidelines. These guidelines are continually monitored and reviewed and they have not had to be changed. A study carried out by the World Health Organisation (WHO) EMF Task Group and concluded this year says that there are no substantive health issues related to ELF EMFs at levels generally encountered by members of the public.

For further information visit [www.eirgrid.com](http://www.eirgrid.com) or  
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